



*Communities*  
of DeKalb County

# The Dry Creek Com

By Louise Frazier

History is taken from written records mostly, but it can also be events and knowledge from your lifetime. We have used both in writing this history what we know about Dry Creek Community and what we have researched, we hope to be true.

From artifacts found in this Valley, we know that the natives of Dry Creek were Native Indians.

According to history, Will T. Hale's book "History of DeKalb County," the Indian boundary crossed Dry Creek somewhere in the Wilder Hollow. The Indian grave sites are on the Indian Grave Point Hill above the Cathcart Cemetery on the Will Allen Cathcart Property, now owned by his daughter, Jeanette C. France.

The earliest recorded settler in Dry Creek on the upper part was Ebenezer Snow who married Nancy Anderson and reared nine children. He was thought to be a brother of Mr. Snow who lived on the lower part of the Valley and served in the Civil War.

## LAND

The land of the Dry Creek Valley drops down from high hills to form the valley, and out from the valley are hollows leading out onto other hills and valleys where many well-to-do farmers have lived for many generations. These people have lived self-sufficient lifestyles, believed in themselves, and were happy and satisfied with the quiet peaceful life.

The greatest assets of the valley are its fertile soil and the Dry Creek Stream which supplied needed water for the families. Dry Creek is known for its big springs for drinking and cooking purposes. When heavy rains come, there is an abundance of "Wet Weather Springs" gushing from between the rocks on the hillsides. Perishable foods such as milk and butter were kept in the springs. The fertile rolling countryside makes the land ideal for raising cattle, horses, sheep and goats. Among the smaller animals in the woods and streams are beavers, minks, muskrats, weasels, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons and skunks. Many of these animals were hunted for food and trapped for their skins. Groundhogs are abundant and

served as food for many families.

Today, the deer population is plentiful and wild turkeys cover the hillside. Both are used for food. The hunters visit the Dry Creek Valley for deer and turkeys.

The cardinals, mocking birds, house wrens, blue jays, eastern bluebirds, purple finches, yellow finches, wood thrush, red-headed woodpeckers, sparrows, chickadees, and humming birds are common in the valley.

Farm land covers thousands of acres of rich fertile soil. Several farmers planted the hills in corn, made wooden sleds and, with gentle mules, harvested abundant crops. In the early years, twenties and thirties, corn was the leading crop. Every family planted large vegetable gardens for family food and canning purposes.

In the fifties and sixties, tobacco was the big cash crop. Everyone had a big field of Burley tobacco which brought in good money in the fall.

Some soybeans were planted, but it was not a leading crop. McKinnley Jones put in soybeans for a few farmers for several years. At present time, most farmers grow hay for their cattle.

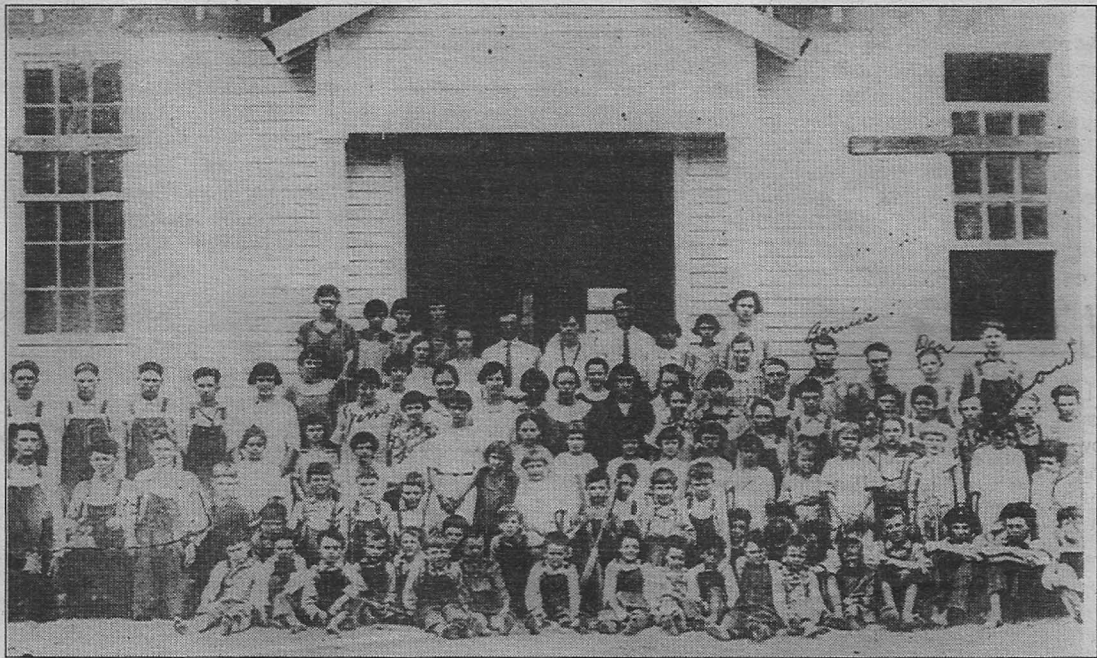
Currently, several families in the valley continue to grow vegetable gardens and enjoy their harvest using the canning preservation method. At the lower end of the valley, Michael "Moose" Nokes has a garden, Rob and Nora Harvey have a garden, Dr. Bruno Frazier and Dr. Barbara Frazier planted vegetables at the Louise Frazier Farm, Jeanette France, Roscoe and Pauline Frazier, Larry and Cherie Yoder are equally big gardeners. There may be others on up the valley.

In the forties and fifties, almost every farm had a big wheat crop. The Wheat Thrasher and laborers who followed it would harvest the wheat in the fall. A portion of the wheat paid for the harvesting. A large amount of the wheat was taken, ground into flour and put in storage for the farmers to use during the winter months.

## ALONG DRY CREEK ROAD

According to the Register of Deeds Office, there are 5,600 acres of land in the Dry Creek Community. The Valley is a long strip of

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**Dry Creek Elementary School (1928)**  
**Three teachers: Jeff Cripps, Luther Fuson and Barbara Reeder**

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rich fertile farmland with many hollows extended on both sides of the main Dry Creek Road. There is a stream of water in each of the hollows which flow into the main Dry Creek Stream.

Big time farmers lived along the main road and most of them had "Share-Croppers" living on these farms. They would plant and harvest the crops for the farmers. They were furnished a house in which to live, a nice garden spot, and they were paid cash for any extra job.

We remember those who lived on Dry Creek Road, early thirties, Jack and Helen Calhoun Smithson, Dr. Bob Fuson and family, Will Vandergriff, Walter Vandergriff, John Ayers and children, Lucian and Ocie Cathcart, Lona Haas Frazier and son, Roy Frazier, Ben and Mairene Vandagriff, Tassie Cathcart, Houston and Hattie C. Cripps, Horace and Macon Hubbard, Shealie and Estie Parsley, Valter and Verna Fuston and Orville Byford.

Down the road that ran on the creek side of the Ben Vandagriff

farm lived the Thomas family. Miss Ada was a very sweet lady who worked hard for her large family.

The Ben Vandagriff farm was formerly owned by Shealie Rhody and family. This is where the Rhody Family grew up. The Rhody land joined the Jim Frazier land.

The Jim and Lona Frazier farm was eventually divided among his five children: Roy, Gertrude, Anna Rhea, Nettie Jim and Woodrow. On this farm is where Woodrow and Louise Frazier later reared their children, John, Joe, Judy, Peggy, Deborah, Kathy and Lisa. This farm is directly across the creek from the W.O. Womack and Son Grocery.

Off the main Dry Creek Road, Horace and Jennie Robinson and Floyd and Macon Robinson lived on a farm.

At the bottom of the hill on the Dry Creek-Pea Ridge Road was a large farm belonging to Roy Griffin and Gertie Hill Fuson Griffin. This was the old home place of Gertie Hill.



June Bug School from 1949 - 1950 with Ms. Louise Frazier as teacher.



The old bridge at Dry Creek with W.O. Womack's house, barn and store in the background.

Larry and Cherie Yoder now live at the Cripps Mill. The Mill has been built into a beautiful brick building. The Yoders are from Michigan. They also own the Shealie Parsley property. The Parsley house has been renovated and is used as a guest house for the Yoder children and friends.

It is remembered that Sid and Martha Cripps lived on Aunt Tassie Cathcart's farm for years.

At the lower end of the Dry Creek Road, off Highway 70, these families currently live on the main road: James Hale, Georgia Hawker, Randy Hawker, Mike and Becky Nokes and family, Joyce Hendrixson, Wayne A. Sr. and Leslie Storey, Jim Cripps, Dwight Cripps, Joe Ayers, Derrick Hale and daughter, Rob and Nora Harvey, Anthony and Jamie Wright and family, Roger and Kathy Hendrix, Jared Hendrix, and Louise Frazier. Just across the bridge in the Womack House live Steve and Deb Davis.

Living on up the main road are Todd and Barbara Frazier Nuckels and sons Sam, Chris and William, Larry and Cheri Yoder (Cripps Mill), and Albert Bruno and Jeri Frazier and sons Andrew and Ryan (Daniel Moser Home).

Doug Frazier's son, Rosco and wife, Pauline Thomas Frazier, cur-

rently lives on their farm along the right side and at the bottom of Mill Hill Road. Here they reared their children, Wanda and Linda. This family is well known for their gardening and farming skills. Pauline provides a great service as a produce vendor at the DeKalb County Farmers Market. She has picked and provided blackberries, blueberries and strawberries to her neighbors for many years.

At the foot of Old Mill Hill Road, going right over the bridge and at the foot of Pea Ridge Road is a large farm where George and Lillian Cathcart lived for many years and until they died. Mrs. Lillian was a master at crocheting and completed beautiful dresser scarves, pillow cases and many other beautiful items.

Jo Dean Cathcart, of Snow Hill, now owns the farm. Stephen and Vickie White, of Murfreesboro, spend their weekends at the farmhouse.

#### HOLLOWS

For more than one hundred years, the Upper Dry Creek Valley was home to several families. After her husband died, Bettie Herndon returned to her mother's home on Dry Creek to rear her four children. She lived there until her death. Other families living in this area were Martha Crips, Her-

shal Braswell, Sam Patterson, John Lee Snow, a Baptist preacher, Oscar Snow, Evie Snow, Valter Snow and Valter Fuston. Orvil Byford owned a farm and lived at the beginning of this hollow. The children of early settlers attended the George School.

The Vickers Hollow was above the Daniel Moser Property. At one time, there was a road leading to Smithville. Some families living in this hollow were Floyce Vickers, Bob Lee Frazier, Bruce Smithson, Doug Frazier, and Henry and Novella Stanley.

There is an old rough road to the right of Mill Cave that meanders up several hundred feet and opens up to some beautiful fields and hillsides. This area was probably known as the Fox Hollow since it traverses directly by the Fox Cave. There was a period in history when several family homesteads were located in this area. Families known to have lived in this hollow and worked this land were Harvey Moser (Miller), William Moser and the Elledge family.

Just off the main Dry Creek Road, the Horace Hubbard family owned a nice farm at the beginning of the Cubbins Hollow. It has been sold to Dr. Barbara Frazier and husband Todd Nuckels, of Flo-

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rence, Al. Todd, Barbara and boys have restored the farmhouse and use it as a country home.

In the thirties and forties, a very interesting "old" lady lived in the Cubbins Hollow. Amanda J. Atnip Denton was known to Dry Creek Residents as "Ma Denton." She was a sister of Rev. G. H. Atnip, long time pastor at several Baptist churches in DeKalb County. When he was an evangelist, Ma Denton traveled with him and was known to "exhort" him by shouting "encouragements" while he was preaching. She was also known to have high principles in regard to the proper way young ladies should dress and act. She was quick to "reprimand" young girls when she deemed it necessary. Everyone loved "Ma Denton." Her children were Will, Nelly, and Mary.

Other families living in the Cubbins Hollow were Charlie and Maude Cubbins, Bill and Nettie Cubbins, Brack and Pearl White, Charles and Alma White, George and Mattie Cubbins, and Marvin Hathaway. In later years (1949-50), Connie and Georgia Cubbins and daughter, Joyce, moved to the Cubbins Hollow.

A nice farm was located at the entrance of the Wilder Hollow. This was the home of Will Allen and Martha Cathcart and daughter, Jeanette. Others living in the hollow were Lon and Mattie Cripps, Dave and Mai Stephens, A. B. Fra-

zier, Tony and Lela Allen, Acie and Mattie Joines, Hobart and John and Maude Cripps Families. In the late forties, Roy and Claudie Frazier and family moved to the Lon Cripps Farm. Bruno Frazier now owns the Dave Stephens and A.B. Frazier Farm.

Just off the Pea Ridge hill road, near the Dry Creek Elementary School, lived two families, Jeff and Cynthia Cripps, Willie and Ethel Owens and children Edwin, Carlene, Georgia and Donald. Later, Walter and Wilma Cubbins owned the Owens farm where they reared their children, Rita and Sandra, and lived for many years.

During World War II, Mattie Davis Joines went to work in Detroit, earned and saved her money, returned home and bought the Shelle Vickers Farm near the entrance of the Frazier Hollow. She and husband, Acie, lived there until they died. Others living in the Frazier Hollow were their son and wife, Robert and Johnnie Joines and Bobby, the McGinnis Family, and the Homer and Laura Frazier Family.

On up in the Frazier Hollow on the left side of the road lived Jim Roy and Audrey Frazier where they reared their children, Richard, Sherry, David and Randall.

In Possum Hollow, during the twenties, thirties and forties, there were families living on every farm. There were the Hunt Family, Bob and Effie Lee Fuston, and Robert and Vena Fuston and son, Bob



**Visitors to the Indian Creek Grave Point on Dry Creek in 1913** — Henry Haas and wife Lela Haas, unknown, Virgil Banks, John Haas, Charlie Haas, Jim Frazier and son Roy Frazier.



The Dry Creek Baptist Church across from stream near W. O. Womack store.

Earl. Others were the Charlie Tramel and George Tramel Families, Howard and Addie Bailif, Charlie Floyd Bailif, Roscoe and Elsie Tramel and son, Kenneth, William Tramel and family, Alvie and Fannie Mullican and son, Garry, Alvie and Lovell Taylor, Johnny S. Tramel, Paul and Jessie Bailif, the Ike Hale and Ike Pack Families. Others may have lived further up the hollow on the road leading up to the Snow Hill Community. Most of these families are dead. Living in this hollow now are Helen Vandagriff Burt, Faye Elrod, Nonnie Tramel, Gary and Betty Mullican, Riley and Peggy Tramel, Todd Davis, and Barry and Barbara Poss.

In the Vandergriff Hollow, many families owned nice farms on which to rear their children. The land was cleared of bush and trees so the farmers had more acres to cultivate. Families living in this hollow were John and Parthene Vandagriff and family, Alvie and Altie Vandergriff, the Bill Davis', Roy and Virgil Davis, Christopher and Mary Denton Vandagriff and children: Gracie, Elmer, Calvin, Virgil, Alvie, Anna Belle; Charlie and Delia Vandergriff and family, John and Ruth Vandergriff and Annette, Ed and Mary Barrett and Betty Jane, and John Barrett. Later, families living in this hollow included Jimmy and Lou Ann Midgett & family, Kenny and Jan-

ice Edge, Jimmy and Judy Kimbrell and Monica, Reed and Sonya Edge and children, the Kenneth Clayton family. Several other new land owners have since moved in from other areas of the country.

Off the Dry Creek Road on Vandergriff Road resided Floyd and Mae Vandegriff who owned a farm and lived there with their children, Helen, Audrey and Joe.

In the Cathcart Hollow, in the early years before World War II, there were many well-to-do farmers who reared their children in this hollow. These families were Virgil and Sally B. Taylor, Bill and Nettie Cubbins, the Bob Davis, Les Vandagriff, Tal Davis and T. J. Farler families.

Today, we know that there are very few families living there. Jack Pitman lives in the Virgil Taylor Farm. Merle Harris, a retired DeKalb retired teacher, and her family built a new dwelling house. Others may have since moved in and now living on up the hollow.

#### ROADS

For many years, the roads in the community were impassable, rough, narrow gravel roads that were mostly in the creek. When heavy rains fell, the mail carrier could not deliver mail.

In the summer of 1959, the Dry Creek Valley got its first paved road. Clyde Martin, Sr. and his employees built the road beginning at the lower end near Highway 70

and ending just above the current church.

In recent years, DeKalb County Road Supervisor, Kenny Edge and his employees, repaved the road to accommodate the current traffic pattern which has greatly increased over the years.

#### MILITARY

Some brave young men from the Dry Creek Community answered the call from the United States Government and served in the Military Forces. Some were drafted, others volunteered. Among them were John Ayers, Spanish American War; Edward and Edsel Frazier, U. S. Army, World War II; Charles Athol Ervin, U.S. Army, World War II; Alvie Mullican, U.S. Navy, World War II; Carl Cripps, U.S. Navy, World War II; Solon Taylor, U.S. Army, World War II; Woodrow W. Frazier, U.S. Navy, World War II; Jim Roy Frazier, U.S. Navy, World War II; Joe Ronald Frazier, U.S. Army, Vietnam; Gary Cripps, U.S. Army, Vietnam; James "Butch" Thomason, U.S. Army, Vietnam; Hoyt Lee Fuston, U.S. Navy, World War II; Edsel Allen Fuston, U.S. Marine Corp, World War II; Willie Owens, U.S. Army, World War I; Henry Buchanan Frazier, U.S. Army, Civil War; Joe Brown Farler, U.S. Army, World War II; James E. Farler, U.S. Army, World War II; Roscoe Frazier, U. S.

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Army; Loyce Frazier, U.S. Arm, Vietnam.

Some of these soldiers were overseas for as long as three years. Many had wives and children at home who were left alone which made a hardship for the families.

Many of the maneuvers (practice wars) in Middle Tennessee in 1943 were held in the Dry Creek Valley. The soldiers would move in the large bottom land, pitch tents on the hills, park army jeeps in barns or wherever they could find cover to spend the night.

Housewives in the community prepared many country ham breakfasts for the troops. Scrambled eggs and gravy with hot biscuits, butter, homemade jam and gallons of hot coffee were served to the men, many who were far from their homes and loved ones.

After a hot breakfast, they began their make-belief war.

Because of an abundance of water and many large barns and hillsides on which to camp, the valley was suitable for these maneuvers.

The Dry Creek people welcomed the soldiers. They were kind and friendly. Regardless of crops, the maneuvers were enacted up and down the farmland of the valley.

## DURING THE YEARS WHEN.....

Dry Creek Community did not have a grocery store; the area had some "rolling groceries" or peddlers.

In the early forties, we remember a very nice young man from the Short Mountain Community, a Mr. Keaton (Thomas D.) who came to the valley with his big truck of groceries. He was married to Wilma Hibdon, who later married Allen Hooper. Housewives would sell eggs and chickens to the peddler to pay for groceries such as sugar, coffee, and other needed food supplies. At a very young age, Mr. Keaton became ill and died.

Another peddler who visited the valley every week was Stratton Malone, who lived near Liberty. He was the main Peddler until W. O. Womack put in his grocery store.

As far as medical services, Dr. John Van Hoosier made house calls to people in the country who were too sick to leave their homes to seek medical attention. Lona B. Haas Frazier, in the absence of a doctor, was known to deliver babies (10 or 11) for one family and others. Dr. Hoosier gave her much praise as the "Mid-Wife of Dry Creek." She was a very kind and



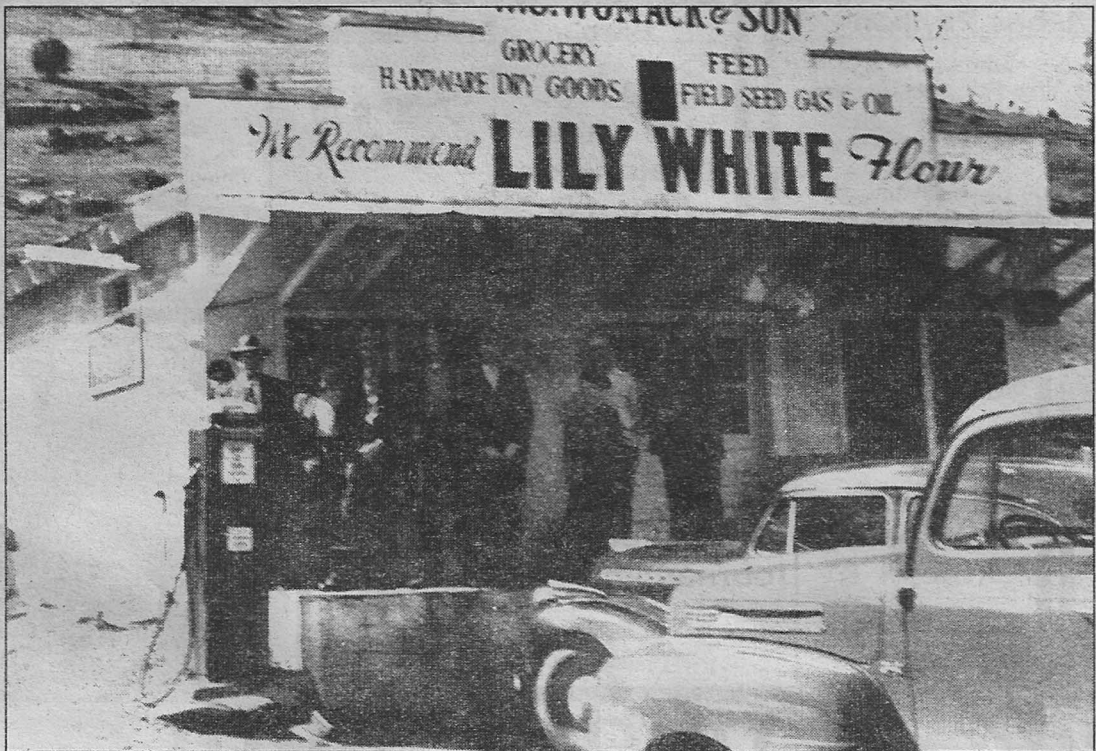
W.O. Womack's and Sons Store – F Owens, Odell Johnson, Dave Stephen

generous lady who loved God's creatures.

## GROCERY STORES

Dry Creek has had several good grocery stores.

Near the Cripps' Mill, there was a Patterson Grocery Store where families living nearby did their



W.O. Womack's and Sons Store – Pictured are Will Allen Cathcart, John A. Stephens, R. D. Davis, minister, Edwin Owens, Odell Johnson, Dave Stephens, Jimmy Womack, Robert Fuston, Jr. and W.O. Womack.



shopping for items such as coffee, sugar, and salt.

Kent Cathcart owned and operated a grocery store on what is now the Jimmy Womack Farm which stocked groceries for the community (in earlier years).

In the nineteen thirties and forties, Floyd "Rat" Cripps and his wife, Macon Cripps, had a nice grocery store on the old Dry Creek Road across from the Bill Davis Farm. On Saturdays, there were standing room only, because the Dry Creek Families would rest from the week's work and go to the only store in the valley to get an ice cold Coca-Cola for 5c and purchase needed groceries for the coming week. This was at the lower end of the Valley.

In 1947, an outstanding citizen, W. O. Womack, went into the grocery business in a building near his home. It was named the "W. O. Womack and Son Grocery." Farmers and residents living in the community welcomed the grocery store. Orien Womack was a kind and gentle person who allowed farmers to have credit from the beginning of the crop year until harvest. The Womack Grocery was probably the largest and best stocked grocery store in the Dry Creek Community. People from adjoining communities could be

seen shopping at this country store which also sold gas and oil. His store was stocked with most everything the farmers needed such as all types of groceries including milk and milk products, hardware, dry goods, Lily White Flour, feed for animals, field seed and fertilizer. Also available, for the ladies, were many sewing supplies and a selection of fabric.

A popular gathering place for the farmers on cold winter days was around the Womack Grocery "pot belly stove". It gave warmth from the elements as well as a place for many tall tales to be exchanged. It was also a place to share and receive the latest news of family and friends. It was common to find children setting on the fringe listening with great interest to the tales being told. In the summer time, coke boxes were used to set on while drinking a cold drink with peanuts. It wasn't unheard of for children in the community to raid their parent's hen houses for eggs and to also scourer the ditches for coke bottles to sell at the store to pay for their favorite treats.

W. O.'s wife, Pauline Cathcart Womack, was such a great help in the store and worked daily by her husband's side. It was known by



**W.O. Womack's and Sons Store** -- Pictured are Will Allen Cathcart, John A. Stephens, R. D. Davis, Edwin Owens, Odell Johnson, Dave Stephens, Jimmy Womack, Robert Fuston, Jr. and W.O. Womack.

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locals that, if required, Mrs. Pauline would keep the store open until 10:00pm, then go to her house and prepare the family meal. It was not unusual for her to begin the day with people already waiting to make their purchases. Many times they would be knocking on the door of their house to let them know of their waiting. There were no set business hours. Neighbors and friends who were recipients of such kindness from this lady are forever appreciative and remember her with love and respect.

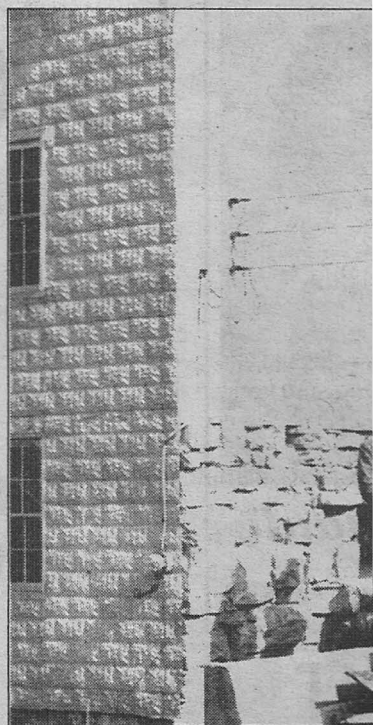
W. O. was a farmer who had many chores to take care of every day. At a very early age, he taught his son, Jimmy, what farm life was all about. The Womack's daughter, Brenda, became an educator and taught school in Athens, West Virginia. Brenda frequently returns to the Valley for visits with friends and relatives who continue to live in this community.

Due to Mr. W. O.'s health, the Womack Store closed in 1964 and the family moved to Smithville. Jimmy continued to take care of the Womack Property until his parents passed and continues to do so today.

Around 1949, Gordon H. Turner, roving reporter for The Nashville Tennessean, visited Dry Creek and wrote an interesting ar-

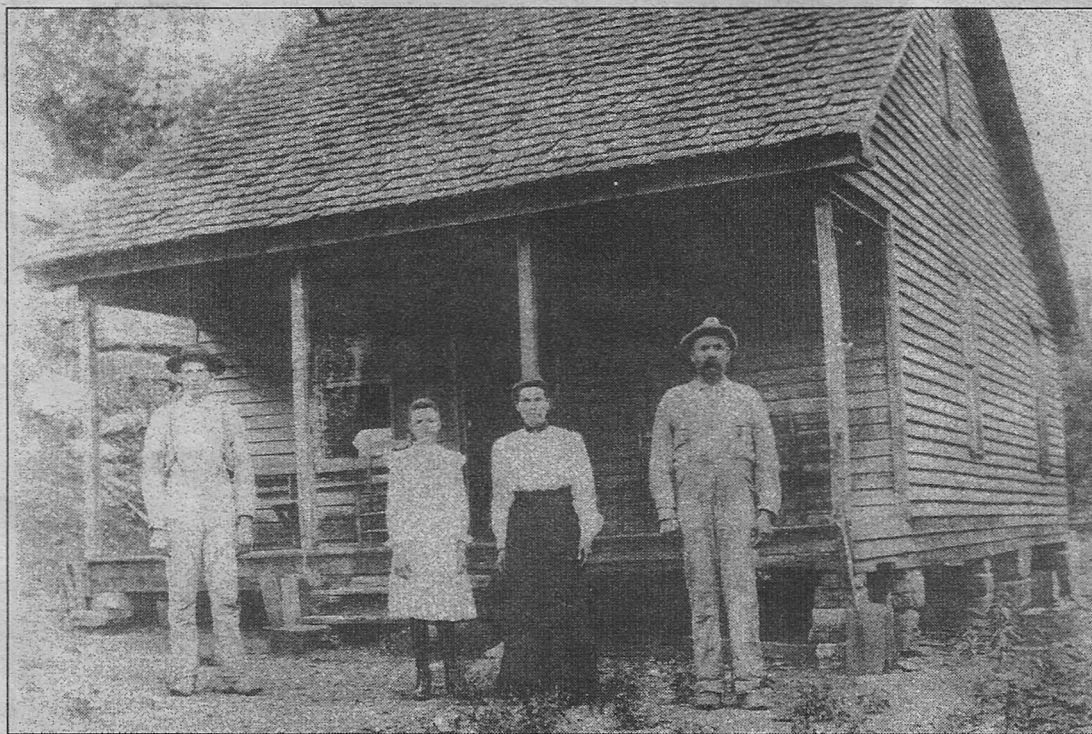
ticle entitled, "Romantic Dry Creek Steeped in Primitive Beauty, History." In this article he talked about the prosperous friendly people, who lived somewhat off the beaten path, in the beautiful Dry Creek Valley in southwest DeKalb County. The only merchant in the area's center, W. O. Womack, had invited Turner to visit Dry Creek Community to see its beauty and learn about historic places. That day, Gordon Turner, W.O. Womack, Will Allen Cathcart, and a few more Dry Creek neighbors visited the historic Cripps Mill and made a picture of the mill which appeared in the Tennessean. In the article, Mr. Turner wrote about the farms were never sold but were handed down within families. He also stated that the water-mill was the oldest water-powered device in this section of Tennessee. He quoted these signs appearing in the community, "Trade at Home," and "Help Your Community."

During the forties, fifties, and sixties, Alton Close drove a milk truck in this area. Many farmers had a herd of milk cows which they milked twice daily. The milk was stored in large milk cans overnight and ready for pick-up in the morning time. This brought in added cash for the farmers, but the labor was hard on the families, especially the children who did



**Cripps' Mill** – Rev. R.D. Davis, W.O. Stephens and Odell Johnson.

much of the milking. In some cases, the milk had to be brought out of the hollows to the main Dry Creek Road for Mr. Close to pick up. Children of the present generation asked what happened when families went on vacation; they were shocked to hear that most farm families didn't go on vacations mainly due to never ending



**Daniel P. Moser (1856 - 1924) and wife Eliza Snow (1858 - 1933). Son Alva (born 1884) and daughter Macon (born 1894) at their home on Dry Creek about 1903.**

daily chores, like milking.

## **SOCIAL LIFE**

Social life in the Dry Creek Valley was centered around the church and schools.

Before the thirties, transportation was mostly by foot, a few horse and buggies, and wagons drawn by mules and horses.

In the summer time, area children looked forward to Vacation Bible School at church, and planned Sunday school picnics. The monthly meetings of the W.M.U., which were held in the member's homes, were all-day events involving delicious meals. Attendance was always around twenty to thirty people (husbands were invited as well).

During the "Great Depression," money was scarce. The schools had to plan events to make money; two of these were "Pie Suppers" and "Candy Drawings." These events were held at the schools and entire communities attended.

"Quilting Parties" were held in some of the homes. A housewife would piece a quilt, put it in a frame and invite neighbors to come help quilt. Sometimes there would be as many as eight ladies, four to each side, quilting on one quilt. By four in the afternoon, the quilt would be finished. Of course, these ladies were talented quilters. The "hostess" for the day

would serve delicious food at the noon hour. Neighbors loved each other and were always there when they were needed.

Family picnics were enjoyed at the Frazier Hollow and Cripps' Mill Caves.

In the earlier years, families living in the Dry Creek Community enjoyed visiting their neighbors. Housewives were good cooks who enjoyed preparing and cooking a good dinner, inviting friends into their homes and spending the day taking pictures and having fellowship one with another. They shared their happiness and their sorrows. Life was wonderful in the beautiful Dry Creek Valley.

## **LUMBER MILLS**

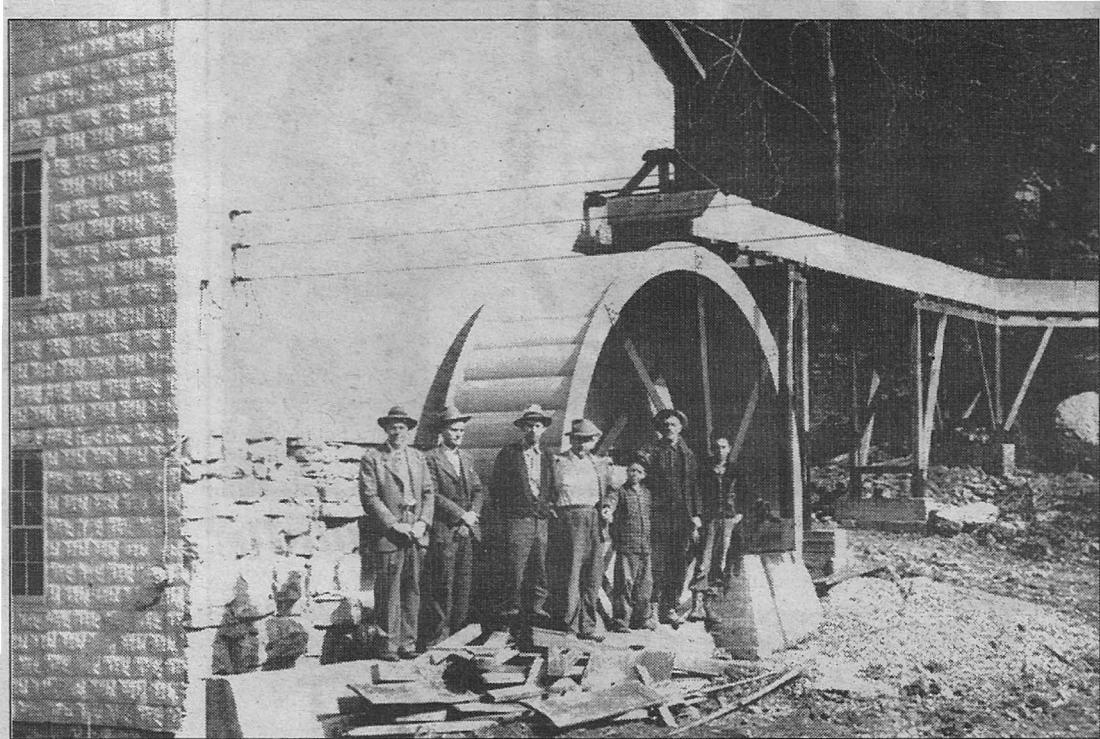
Lumber mills were located at several locations throughout the Dry Creek Valley.

In the Cubbins Hollow, Brack White and Bill Cubbins owned and operated a sawmill where many thousand board feet of lumber were sold each year.

Palace Crips and son, Austin Crips, owned and operated a sawmill up the Valley near the Crips old home place.

John A. Stevens and Austin Crips operated a mill in the Wilder Hollow and in the Frazier Hollow.

There was, at an earlier time, a sawmill in operation at the lower



**Cripps' Mill** -- Rev. R.D. Davis, W.O. Womack, Will Allen Cathcart, Robert Fuston, Jr., Jimmy Womack, Dave Stephens and Odell Johnson.

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end of Dry Creek near the Lucuis Cathcart Property.

Beech, hickory, and oak trees were used to cut the lumber. Few cherry trees, if any, were used for lumber.

## EDUCATION

People living in the Dry Creek Community have always desired a good education for their children. Public schools were located in central locations throughout the valley.

At the head of Dry Creek where the Butternut Valley Nature Center is now located, there was the George School where several families lived and this was the school for their children to attend.

Near the Cripps Mill, there was a small log building, the Mill School, which had school only two or three months of the year. The children studied the basic subjects of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

According to Tommy Webb, DeKalb County Historian, the Church School, the Mill School, the George School, and the Possum Hollow School were combined in 1928, to make Dry Creek School which had three teachers who were Jeff Crips, Luther Fuson, and Barbara Reeder. Possum Hollow School later reopened.

The Dry Creek Elementary School was located on the Ballinger Property with the Dry Creek Stream flowing nearby. This was the

largest school in the valley. In the late twenties, this school had grades one through eight and first and second year high school with four teachers. Luther Fuson of Smithville taught mathematics in the high school.

Other teachers who taught at Dry Creek Elementary were Jeff Cripps, Wilma Moss, Barbara Reeder, Louise Frazier, Annette Frazier Bass Jordan, Lois Vandagriff, and Sara Frances Herman.

Kenny Edge remembers that one of his last teachers was Jim Ed Rice of Smithville. The school was consolidated with Dowelltown and Liberty Elementary Schools in the 1954 school year.

Possum Hollow School was located in Possum Hollow. Woodrow W. Frazier taught his first year at this school in 1932-1933. In the early forties, Will Allen Cathcart taught at the Possum Hollow School. He rode a mule to the school.

June Bug Elementary School was located on the lower end of the Valley near the John Ayers property. Ruth Yates, of Dowelltown, taught here several years. In 1949, just after the 1948 Christmas break, this school was consolidated with Dowelltown Elementary School. Louise K. Frazier was the teacher at June Bug during the 1948-1949 school year. At this time, there is no public school in the

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Dry Creek Community.

In the upper Dry Creek Valley, there is the Butternut Valley Nature Center which consists of about one thousand acres of land. This was home to several families who lived there in the 1800's up to the 1960's. Some of the families enjoying a quiet peaceful life in this area were John Lee Snow, a preacher, his son, Oscar Snow and daughter, Evie Snow, the Hershall Braswell family, the Betty Hershall family and the Martha Crips family. Their houses have been restored and now serve as teaching centers at the Butternut Valley School.

A lifelong educator, Helga Thompson, enjoys teaching at Butternut Valley. The Center provides students and teachers of DeKalb County Schools with activities that meet with the Tennessee Curriculum Standard.

School bus drivers in the

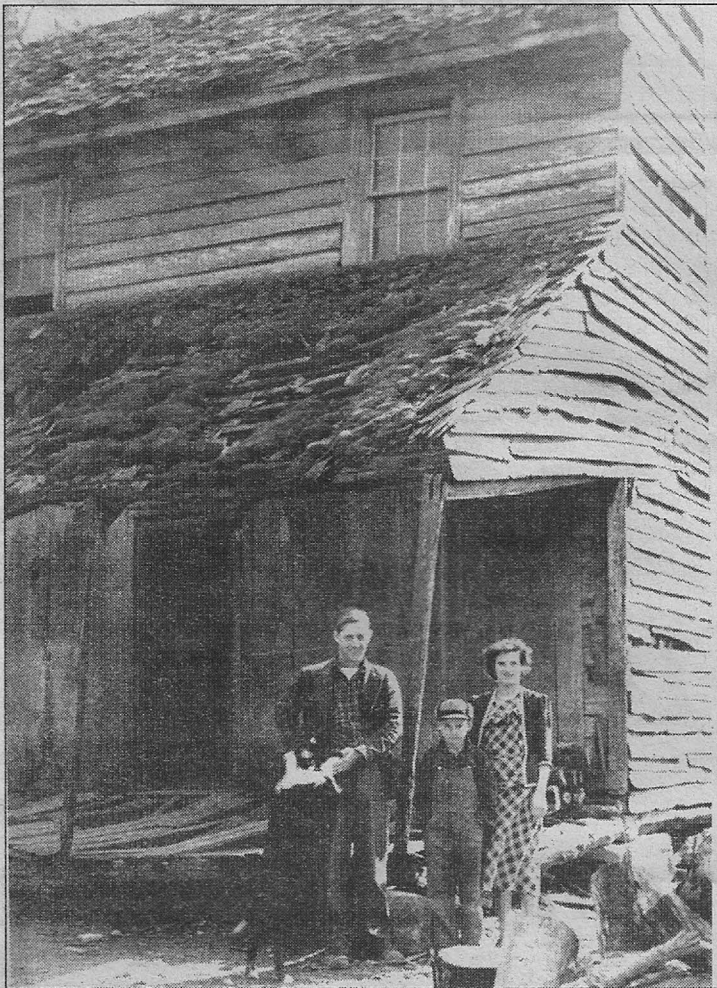
valley were Lucius and Gertie Stephens, Joe Howard Elledge, Charles Elledge Davis, Clifford "Big Dog" Gibbs, Carl Gibbs, Walter Cubbins and Roscoe Frazier.

## CHURCH

Dry Creek Baptist Church is the only "spiritual lighthouse" for the people who live in this beautiful valley.

Grime's History of Middle Tennessee Baptists says that The Dry Creek Baptist Church was organized "near a straw stack in Dr. J. A. Fuson's lot," the year was 1888. J. M. Stewart and J. H. Vickers organized this church. In the year of 1880, thirteen members from Pistol's Church organized a church known as the Round Hill Church, located at the head of Dry Creek.

By mutual agreement, in 1889, the Round Hill Church with forty-nine members and the Dry Creek Baptist Church united its members and became one, Dry Creek Bap-



**"DUCK" PARSLEY HOUSE** -- Mother of Shelia Parsley - Aunt "Duck" Parsley, son, Shelie, and wife, Estee. Claude Stanley and wife, Aileen Parsley Stanley and son, Howard lived in the home located near Cripps' Mill.



**JANE VANDAGRIFF FIRST RHYTHM BAND AT DRY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1949 - 1950** -- Front row: Teddy Edge, unknown, Joyce Hendrixson, Judy Frazier. Back row: Joe R. Frazier, Kenny Edge, Bob E. Fuston and John L. Frazier.

tist Church.

In 1989, the Dry Creek Baptist Church celebrated its one hundredth anniversary.

A nice church building was erected midway between the two churches on some land belonging to Nix and Tassie Cathcart near the W. O. Womack store place. In January, 1928, this building was destroyed by a storm. The church was rebuilt on some land belonging to Lona Belle Frazier, which was more convenient to the public.

During the pastorate of Rev. Alfred Pistole, the present church was built. Bro. Pistole made a contract with the church to build a new church building using any usable material from the old church. He preached the first sermon in the new building in November, 1950.

Early pastors were J. M. Stewart, William Simpson, J. H. Davis, J. H. Grime, Stephen Robinson, P. Carney, W. R. Whitlock, James Davenport, G. H. Atnip, J. H. Carroll, J. H. Ramsey, M. T. Crips, Grady Craddock, Clay Boss, J. H. Harvey, J. H. Taylor, Enzo Mathis, Joe Bush, Alton Neville, Bill Owen, Gary Akins, David Carden and Mike Gay.

Out of this church, God has called several ministers, namely: J. W. Davis, M. T. Crips, Walter Cathcart, Kenneth Mason Tramel, Donald Owens, and Grady Crook. Brown Cubbins and David Frazier

were called to preach after they left the Dry Creek Church.

In 2001, the church asked "one of its own," the Rev. Donald Owens, to come help the church as the Interim Pastor. Later, he accepted the pastorate and currently remains pastor of the church.

Under his leadership, the Dry Creek Baptist Church has added six new Sunday School Rooms, two Bathrooms and a nursery, a new Fellowship Hall with a commercial kitchen, expanded the old auditorium for greater seating capacity, the choir loft was enlarged and a new baptistry was installed.

On Wednesdays, a full meal is cooked and served to an average of near one hundred people. Bible study, Children and Youth Programs Youth follows the dinner.

Each Sunday, Dry Creek Church continues Sunday school, morning and evening worship services.

Dry Creek Baptist Church annual events are "Homecoming," Revivals, Vacation Bible school, Easter daybreak service followed by country breakfast, Sunday service and special evening service with Crucifixion, special Memorial Day service, Thanksgiving service with meal, and Christmas "Birth of Christ" Play.

#### **RURAL MAIL DELIVERY**

Rural mail carriers for the Dry Creek Community were Andy Estes, Oscar Davis, Albert and

Lois Bass of Liberty, Joe Howard Elledge of Dowelltown, and Rusty Caplinger of Smithville.

There was a post office, Youngblood, many years ago located in the Middle of the Dry Creek Valley. The early mail carriers had a difficult time delivering mail because the road meandered over rock, dirt and many times right through the creek bed.

Andy Estes was the mailman who traveled by foot to carry the mail from Dowelltown to Youngblood because the rough conditions made the road impassible.

K. C. Cathcart was the postmaster at The Youngblood Post office.

Youngblood Post Office opened April 17, 1899, and closed March 15, 1904.

#### **THE DRY CREEK STREAM**

The Dry Creek Stream has been a valuable asset to the Dry Creek Valley. For many years there was an abundance of fish in the stream. Families relied on the stream for fish to eat.

Harmful debris has entered into the Dry Creek Stream and killed the fish. The water is used in watering cattle and livestock.

This stream of water has always served as a swimming pool for the children living in this area. There is a series of "slick rocks" near the Frazier Farm that children have enjoyed and are still making it



# Dry Creek

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their favorite place to slip, slide and swim.

Dry Creek Baptist Church baptized their members in the stream for over one-hundred years and continues to do so upon request. Many other churches use the creek for baptisms.

It has been home to the wild ducks and the large wading bird with long legs and a long straight bill, the Crane. They can be seen at dusk flying high over the water. Dry Creek residents love the "honk" of the Cranes.

## TREES

There are many different types of trees growing in this area. Near the farms, many families have an orchard including apple, pear, peach and cherry trees for their fruit. Growing in and around the wooded areas are wild plum, mulberry, and persimmon trees.

A variety of Oak trees along with Ash, Beech, Boxelder, Cedar, Elm, Hackberry, Yellow-Popular, Maple, Sourwood, and Hophornbeam trees are common on the

hillsides and the valley floor. Along the creek banks are many beautiful Sycamore and Weeping Willow trees.

Dogwood, redbud, and locust are beautiful blooming trees that make springtime especially beautiful in the valley. Walnut and Hickory trees grow in this area; the nuts are used in food dishes.

In many areas, fruit bushes such as Blackberry, Elderberry, and Huckleberry grow in thick bunches over the hillsides. The berries are picked and used for canning purposes. Many ladies continue to use the same methods today as were used in years gone by when preserving jams and jellies.

## INTERESTING POINTS OF DRY CREEK

### MILL, MOVIES, VIDEOS

The Cripps' Mill is perhaps the most visited location in the Dry Creek area.

It is known that a man, Harvey Moser, was the "miller" at Cripps' Mill and he kept the Mill in operation during the Civil War. Harvey's son, Daniel Moser, was the



School at Possum Hollow

"miller" during the early nineteen-twenties.

Daniel Moser's daughter, Char-

lotte, married William Lee Edge, and he became the "miller." He was the "miller" in the thirties and forties and as long as the Mill stayed in operation. George Cathcart, husband of Lillian Edge, owned the mill in the forties and until it closed.

The Moser families lived on Pine Creek before moving to their home in the Dry Creek Community and located a short distance from Cripps' Mill. The Moser children attended the Mill School where they received most of their formal education.

For many years, the Cripps' Mill was the voting place for the Fourth District and people came to the Mill to vote.

Another interesting place to observe is on the road leading to the Frazier Hollow. On the Bobby Joines Property, there is a well-preserved log smokehouse built and used by the ancestors of Henry Buchanan Frazier.

The Dry Creek Community is known for having many caves. In the book, "Caves of Tennessee," by Thomas C. Barr, Jr., he writes about the Indian Grave Point Cave, the Frazier Hollow Cave, and mentions the Cripps' Mill Cave.

According to Mr. Barr, the Indian Grave Point Cave is the largest cave in DeKalb County and one of the largest in Tennessee. It is located on the Jimmy Womack

Farm. It is 125 feet above the floor of the Dry Creek Valley at an elevation of about 780 feet. There are pools of water in places which form small lakes. Dripping waterfalls inside the cave results in making it damp and muddy. The entrance is about 30 feet wide. There are four large rooms and at two places it drops to a low, wide crawl. The largest room is named "Cascade Dome." It is 120 feet long, 75 ft. wide and 120 ft high.

Near the entrance of the cave, two other parts branch off from the main passage. There is a lower passage of two deep pools of water. It is necessary to climb up a steep stone to reach the upper part of the cave extension. Near the top of the climb is a shallow pool 50 ft long and 30 ft wide. Rock formations surrounding the cave are limestone.

Boys and girls of this community have spent many hours exploring and enjoying this cave. Other notable groups visiting this cave include Vanderbilt University students who have spent many weekends scurrying up and down the rocks while observing the many beautiful stalactites, stalagmites and pools of water.

There have been many occasions when it was necessary to call in the local rescue squad due to individuals either being injured or

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## Offices

1807 ~ 1820

1884 -- 1908

March, 1888 -- July, 1888

1856 - 1905

1808 - present

1878 - 1904

Gladys)

1889 - 1904

1880 - 1883

1902 - 1904

1854 - 1860

1890 - 1904

rove

1848 - 1852

1833 - 1835

1847 - 1853, 1859 - 1866

1881 - 1890

1838 -- present

Hall

1850 - 1904

1900 - 1904

1898 - 1904

1853 - 1858

August, 1883

- September, 1883

1900 - 1903

1890 - 1904

lb County adopted the Rural system, thus eliminating many of st offices.

# Dry Creek

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lost in the cave. All were eventually found and carried out to safety.

Frazier Hollow Cave is located on the Bobby Joines Property on the North side of the hollow at an elevation of 640 ft. The entrance of the cave is 12 ft. wide and 4 ft. high. A stream of water flows out of a low passage. This cave can be explored inward to only about 100ft. The surrounding rock is limestone.

In his book, Mr. Barr made mention of the Cripps' Mill Cave. This cave has a large body of water at the entrance and can be explored a short distance on its right side. This cave served community residents as a picnic area for many years. There was a trout farm at this location in the mid 1970's, where the public could come and fish for trout. Joe and Nancy Casity and family owned and operated the farm at one time. Later, the Lunas were the owners of this farm for a short period of time.

On the Daniel Moser, Bernice and Nettie Jim Edge, Bruno Frazier Property, there is the Fox Cave which can be explored up to eight miles.

In the upper part of Dry Creek, in what was then Warren County, there are two caves where the Ebenezer Snow Family lived. Mr. Snow did not build a barn but cut a few poles and placed across the mouth of the caves which provided him with a stable for his horses. As late as the 1970's, the owner was using them to keep hogs.

There is one other large cave, The Goat Cave, located near the Mill. Its entrance is small. Huge rocks are near the entrance which is very dark. A light is needed to see inside this cave. After you climb upward and over the big rocks, there are large mounds of bat guano manure. Hundreds of bats live here.

At the bottom of the cave, there is a beautiful Spring of good water. The Shelie Parsley, Claude Stanley and Lloyd Stanley Families used the Spring Water for cooking and drinking.

Dry Creek Community is blessed to have several great artists who live and work in this area. Rob Harvey, who once had a big dairy farm is now a gifted pottery maker and has his Studio near his

home. At the Old Homer Frazier Farm, in the Frazier Hollow, live William and Sharon Kooienga both of whom are talented artists. William works with wood by making tables, benches, cutting boards, and other wooden craft items in his new studio near their log house. Sharon is a weaver and dyes fabric.

Because of its natural beauty and surroundings, the movie "I Walk the Line," starring Gregory Peck and Tuesday Weld was filmed on location at the farm of Valter and Vernie Fuston located at the upper part of Dry Creek.

On the Woodrow Frazier Property, Ray Stevens filmed his video, "Everything Is Beautiful." He had his piano setting on the wooden bridge over the Dry Creek Stream.

Children of the neighborhood sat on the gravel bar and in the shallow water and sang "Everything Is Beautiful" while Ray played the piano. Joe Ronald Frazier, II was one of the children singing.

## CEMETERIES

The Dry Creek Valley has some sacred grounds known as "graveyards" or cemeteries.

In the Upper Dry Creek Area, there is the George Cemetery. An odd thing about this cemetery is that the infants and children are buried on one side of the cemetery and the adults on the other side. Some of the names of those buried there are Estes, Stanley, George, and Hale.

On what used to be the Ballinger Property is the Cripps' Cemetery. This is the old homestead of Willie and Ethel Owens and later the Walter and Wilma Cubbins farm.

High on a hillside on the Will Allen Cathcart Farm is the Cathcart Cemetery where twenty-eight people are buried. People buried here include several members of the Cathcart, Cripps, Davis families and Tilman Joines.

Entering the Frazier Hollow Road to the right is the Frazier Cemetery. Buried here are John Larry Frazier and wife, Billie Ann Malone Frazier. James Buchanan and Elisa Davis Frazier, and James Henry Frazier, Jim and Lona Belle Haas Frazier, Maxie Washer (five year old daughter of Greely and Anna Rhea Frazier Washer), and infant twins of Roy and Claudie

# DeKalb County Schools (as of 1904)

**District 1**

Alexandria  
Upper Helton  
New Hope  
Alexandria Colored

**District 2**

Liberty  
Liberty Colored

**District 3**

Goggin House  
Adamson Branch  
Pea Ridge  
Green Hill  
Sweet Water  
Buckeye College,  
Colored

**District 4**

Possum Hollow  
Dry Creek  
Mill School  
George School

**District 5**

Blue Springs  
Mahathy Hill  
Pillow (Watkins)  
Oak Grove  
Center Frove  
Bluhm House

**District 6**

Alexander  
Gum Springs  
Antioch  
Savage Hill

**District 7**

Mountain View  
Jefferson  
Indian Mound  
New Hope

**District 8**

Caney Fork  
James House  
Lafever House  
Colored House

**District 9**

Atwell House  
Allen House  
West Point  
Walkers Chapel  
Pure Fountain College  
Bright Hill  
Reynolds College  
Cross Roads  
Elliott Seminary, Colored  
League Chapel, Colored

**District 10**

Cave Springs

Red Hill

**District 11**

New Helton

**District 12**

Pisgah  
Williams House

**District 13**

Four Corners

**District 14**

Sunny Point  
Rock Castle  
New House  
Laurel  
Crowder House

**District 15**

Temperance Hall  
Close School  
Cove Hollow  
Long Branch  
Temperance Hall,  
Colored

**District 16**

Coggin House  
Center hill  
Colored House  
Burton House

**District 17**

Walkers Creek  
Bethel

**District 18**

Second Creek  
New Union  
Mud College  
Atnip School

**District 19**

Dismal Creek

**District 20**

Eureka Academy  
Bishop College, Colored  
June Bug  
Snow Hill Colored  
Capling

**District 21**

Students Home  
Bildad  
Prosperity

**District 22**

Chestnut Grove  
Hurricane Creek  
Holmes Creek (Pack)  
Hale's Branch  
Citadel

Frazier are also buried here. On up the hill in the old part is the Henry Frazier Cemetery where many ancestors of the Frazier Family are buried. This is located on the hill southeast of the Robert and Johnnie, Bobby and Mary Joines house.

On the Rob and Nora Harvey Property at the top of a high hill is the Barnes Cemetery. Thomas Jefferson Haas, father of Henry Haas and Lona Haas Frazier, is buried here. Others buried here are L. Rhody, Lumey and Martha Rhody, Braswells, Fraziers, Elledges, Wilsons, Banks and Cripps. There are sixty or more graves marked, fieldstones are unmarked.

There are a few marked graves on the Todd and Barbara Frazier Nuckels Farm (Horace Hubbard/Braswell Cemetery) and on the Michael Nokes Property (Alton and Jennie Hubbard).

The people who once lived in the Dry Creek Valley and their ancestors rest in these graveyards. Their knowledge of this land and their way of life may remain unknown.

**DRY CREEK NATIVES**

Dry Creek natives who have made outstanding citizens and contributed much to their community, county, state, and nation are:

James B. (Joe) Frazier - U. S. Army, World War II - After his commanding officer was killed; he took charge of his company. He was awarded the Bronze and Silver Stars, and the Purple Heart. He was uneducated but brave.

Edsel Frazier - U. S. Postal Service Rural Route Mail Carrier, U.S. Army World War II, awarded Good Conduct Medal and the Bronze Star. Well known Nurseryman "Frazier Brothers Nursery"

Edward Frazier - U.S. Army, World War II, Awarded Good Conduct Medal and The Bronze Star. Well known Nurseryman "Frazier Brothers Nursery", Mayor of Smithville for several years.

Joe Brown Farler - U.S. Army, World War II, European Theater, World War II Victory Medal.

James E. Farler - U.S. Army(20 years), World War II, European Theater, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal.

Woodrow Wilson Frazier - Cumberland University, B.S. Degree from Middle Tennessee State University, served as Principal and taught 34 years in the DeKalb County School System, Volunteered U.S. Navy, served three years in both the Atlantic and Pacific transporting troops to war zones in Germany, Philippine Islands, and Japan.

Jim Roy Frazier - Very young boy swam into swollen Dry Creek Stream to cut wire fence and save a herd of cattle from drowning. Cattle swam safely to shore. U.S. Navy volunteer, served in Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Awarded several medals including the World War II - Victory Medal.

Paul Cripps - U.S. Army. Carnell Cripps - U.S. Army, World War II, in Germany - Awarded The Bronze Star.

Thomas "Nicky" Cripps - U.S. Navy. Served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater - Awarded Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

Willie Joe "Toby" Cripps - U.S.

# Dry Creek

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Army, World War II. Served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, awarded the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

Jim Robert Cripps - U.S. Navy, served in the Atlantic, World War II.

Carl Elledge Cripps - U.S. Navy, served in the South Pacific and New Caledonia. Farmer, worked for the public in hay hauling for many years.

Lonnie Allen Cripps - U.S. Navy, he served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, World War II.

Marshall Cripps - U.S. Army, he served in the African-European Theater, World War II.

Rosco Frazier - U. S. Army, Korean Conflict - Farmer

Brigham Charles Ayers - U. S. Army, Private E 2, Valdor Industries.

Joe Ronald Frazier - Alumnus M.T.S.U., U.S. Army (drafted), Vietnam War, member of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols, or LRRPs, special small four to six-man teams in the Vietnam War on highly dangerous special operations missions deep into enemy territory, awarded Bronze Star for bravery, Army Commendation Metal with "V" (Bronze Valor Device) for heroism.

Gary Cripps -U.S. Army, Vietnam (Wounded), awarded the Purple Heart at Camp Zama Japan, Silver Star for heroism. DeKalb County High School.

Henry Loyce Frazier - U.S. Army, Vietnam, Route Manager for Coca-Cola.

David Frazier - U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, Baptist Minister. Tool & Die. DeKalb County High School.

James Calvin "Butch" Thomason, U.S. Army, Vietnam (Casualty Date: 02/23/1968 - Age 20), awarded the Purple Heart post-mortem.

There were several people who lived in the Valley who were educators and biblical scholars: Nix Cathcart, father of George Cathcart, was probably a self-taught blacksmith who operated a shop near his home and shod horses. Felix Davis at one time taught school on Dry Creek, probably the Church School. He was well known as a good "grammar expert." He was a biblical scholar who could quote scripture from

memory. He was a brother of Bob Davis, Eliza Davis Frazier and Alice Davis Mitchell.

William Lee Edge, son-in-law of Daniel Moser (married to Charlotte Moser) was listed as a school teacher (in history book) at the George School.

Nettie Jim F. Edge - Youth Sunday School teacher, good Christian woman who led many young people to Christ. Nettie Jim was a naturalist and care taker of God's creatures, a lady of the land.

Vena Cripps Fuston - Graduated from Liberty High School. Operated Audio-Visuals for Follow-Through School Program in DeKalb County School System. Sunday school teacher.

Robert Fuston, Jr.- Farmer, well known for raising prized cattle.

Pauline C. Womack - Musician, Pianist at Dry Creek Baptist Church for many years. She and her husband, Orien, owned and operated W.O. Womack Store on Dry Creek for many years.

Lois Vandergriff - Cumberland University-Lebanon, Educator in DeKalb County School System, Hendersonville.

Lorene White Tittsworth - College, taught school and worked for years as Human Resource Agent, DeKalb County and at Tracy City where she retired.

Dr. Joyce Hendrixson - Educator, PHD, Instructor at Middle Tennessee State University.

Bertie Lou Fuston Hayes - Business College, Worked as Secretary in Washington, D.C.

Frances Fuston Frazier - Secretary for 4-H Office, Smithville, retired.

Charles Greely White - College, school teacher, elected and served as DeKalb General Sessions Judge from 1958 to 1966.

John A. Stephens - Operated a sawmill with Austin Cripps in the Frazier and Wilder Hollows. Surveyor of Roads.

Austin Cripps - Owner and operator of a sawmill. Good Christian man, Choir Director at Dry Creek Baptist Church.

Roy Vernon Frazier - Farmer (after his father died, he ran the farm for his Mother at a young age), carpenter, great story teller with a lively sense of humor, song leader in the early Dry Creek Baptist Church.

Jim Cripps - Gardener, good

cook, care taker of family and extended family. Jim is a warm and generous lady who has worked hard from a very young age.

Annette Frazier Bass Jordan - Educator, taught at the Dry Creek and Pea Ridge Elementary Schools, taught in the Cincinnati, Ohio School System until retirement.

Jack Frazier - Captain, Tennessee State Highway Patrol, Upper Cumberland Area and Montgomery County, retired, Clarksville.

Robert Joines - Supervisor, Valdor Industries, retired.

Joe Ayers - Farmer and faithful member of the Dry Creek Baptist Church. Joe always has a big smile and hug for his family and friends.

Jane Vandagriff - Pianist at Dry Creek Baptist Church for many years. Taught Piano lessons at Dry Creek, Mahathy Hill Elementary, in a music building at Smithville Elementary, at Gassaway Elementary School 1964-65, and at her Smithville home. Responsible for Rhythm Band at Dry Creek Elementary School 1949-50. Retired.

Will Allen Cathcart - Farmer, building contractor and Director of Caney Fork Electric Cooperative. He was a responsible leader in bringing electricity into Dry Creek and other rural areas in DeKalb County.

Walter Lee Cathcart - An ordained Baptist Minister and spent many years teaching at Cohn High School in Nashville.

Thomas W. Cathcart - Owned and operated large well-known furniture stores, first in Smithville then in Woodbury.

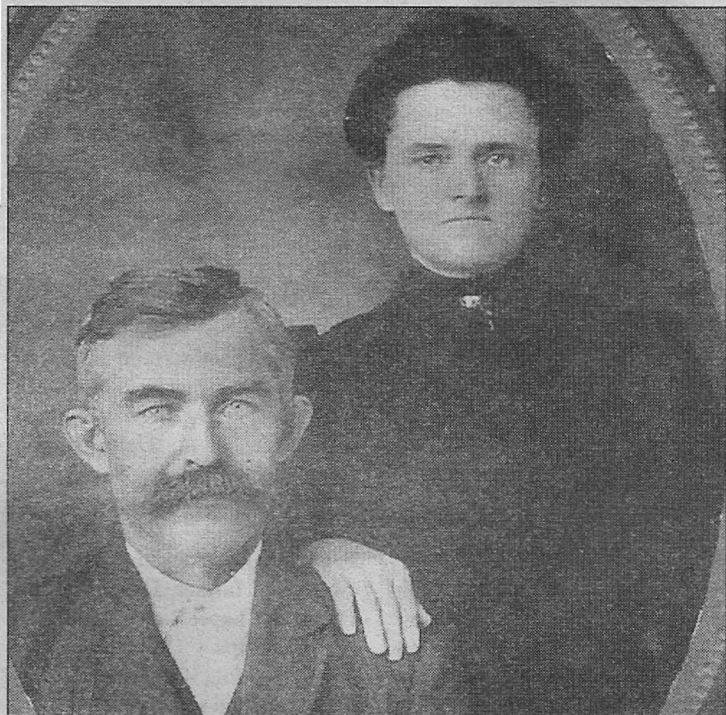
Jeanette C. France - Music teacher at her home in Smithville for many years. Jeanette has been a Director at Caney Fork Electric since the early 1990's. She also holds the office of Treasurer for Caney Fork Electric Cooperative.

Helen Vandergriff Burt - Liberty High School, DeKalb County School System employee, retired. Helen has been the Dry Creek Baptist Church Clerk for many years.

Audrey Vandergriff Frazier - Liberty High School, U.C.H.R.A. Smithville, retired.

Edwin Owens - Liberty High School, Kroger Food Store, retired.

Georgia Owens Hawker - Liber-



**George W. Denton and Amanda Atnip (1905)**

ty High School, Genesco Boot Company, Norvell, retired.

Carlene Owens Dickey - Liberty High School, devoted housewife, Arkansas

Ray Donald Owens - Called to ministry as a boy, Ordained Baptist Minister, Served over 60 years in God's Ministry. His service continues.

Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Alumnus Middle Tennessee State University. Thirty-eight years at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lebanon.

Kenneth Mason Tramel - Ordained Baptist Minister who served a God given ministry at Shop Springs Baptist Church until he recently retired. He was honored by Cumberland University, Lebanon, for his dedication to and work with students at Cumberland. He and his wife, Peggy, now live in Lebanon.

Jeanette Edge Thweatt - Liberty High School. DeKalb County Court Clerk's Office, DeKalb County Road Supervisor's Office.

Jimmy Womack - Well known farmer, has served on many important committees and boards which resulted in positive impact for DeKalb County residents, Rural Route Carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, retired.

John L. Frazier, B.A. Degree from Berry College, Rome, GA.

Graduate study at Ole Miss in Oxford, Miss. Physicist with NASA, Marshall Flight Center, Huntsville, AL for 39 years. Assistant Manager of Payload on several space shuttle flights and received many awards for his love, devotion and service to scientific matters.

Kenny Edge - Cumberland University. Kenny has been elected Road Supervisor for DeKalb County for the past 20 years. He is credited with making most of the old country dirt roads safer with chipping/paving which has made life easier and driving more comfortable for area residents. He is currently campaigning for re-election.

Ted Edge - Cumberland University, Lebanon, transferred to Tennessee Tech, Cookeville, B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering. Ted has worked many years for NASA, Marshall Flight Center, Huntsville, AL, where much of his worked has been dedicated to the success of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Tommy Crips - Liberty High School, farmer.

Bob Earl Fuston - Liberty High School, Carrier Industries, retired, Smithville.

Burnace Vandergriff - Liberty High School, farmer, Smithville City Recorder - retired.

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# Dry Creek

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Garry Mullican - Liberty High School, T. R.W., retired, Dry Creek.

Dwight Cripps - Liberty High School, T.R.W., retired, Dry Creek.

Betty Jane Barrett - Liberty High School, Lux Clock Company, Lebanon, Cracker Barrel. Retired.

Caroline Vandergriff Mullinax - M.T.S.U., Educator at DeKalb County West School, Retired.

Bobby Joines - Liberty High School, District 2 County Commissioner (representing voting precincts, Liberty, Dowelltown, and Snow Hill), Smithville Plant Manager, Valdor Industries, retired, Dry Creek.

Annette Vandergriff - Liberty High School, Memphis and Liberty, Retired.

James Richard Frazier - College Degree, Career -U.S. Government Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Sherry Frazier Williams - DeKalb County High School, U.S. Government -Environmental, Oak Ridge Facility.

Brenda Womack Whittinghill - B.S., M.T.S.U., Murfreesboro. Educator in Athens, West Va. Retired.

Judy F. Kimbrell - State of Tennessee, Nashville (fourteen years), Administration (twenty-seven years), retired. Musician (Piano).

Eddie Crips - DeKalb County High School, Insurance Agent/Manager with Farm Bureau Smithville, Tennessee, Little League Baseball Coach.

Peggy F. Thomas - Educator, Cooperative Education Coordinator at SECTA, Las Vegas, NV. The NACTE Outstanding Career and Technical Education Educator of the Year in 2005. Eastern Star Member.

Deborah F. Fuson - B.S. Degree, University of Central Arkansas, Certified Public Accountant - Auditor for Arkansas, Division of Audits. The UCA Accounting Department's 2001 Accounting Major of the Year.

Kathy Keyt F. Hendrix - Graduate of M.T.S.U., B.S., Master of Education, and E.D.S. Taught mathematics at DeKalb County High School for twenty years, Assistant Principal at DeKalb County High several years. Mrs. Hendrix was the first lady to be Principal of DeKalb County High School.

Eastern Star Member.

Lisa F. Cripps - B.S. and Master of Education from M.T.S.U. Began teaching at the DeKalb West School, Assistant Principal at Smithville Elementary School from 1999 - 2000. Presently teaches 8th Grade Science at DeKalb Middle School. Lisa was named the "Teacher of the Year" in 2007/08 in the DeKalb County School System. She was chosen the Upper Cumberland Regional Teacher of the Year in 2007/08. In December, 2009, she was initiated into Beta Theta, Delta Kappa Gamma, International Society for Key Women Teachers.

Jerald Cripps - DeKalb County High School, Tool and Die Specialist and farmer. Deacon at the Elizabeth Chapel Baptist Church.

Lynn Crips - DeKalb County High School, DeKalb County School System employee.

Thomas Randall Frazier - DeKalb County High School, Management - Coca-Cola Company in Dickson, Tennessee, Retired.

Linda Frazier Bush - DeKalb County High School, M.T.S.U., Doctorate in Education-Tennessee Technical University, Cookeville. Northside Elementary School, Guidance Counselor.

Donna Tramel - Educator, DeKalb County West School - Re-

tired, Alexandria.

Randy Hale - B.S. from Belmont University, Manager of baseball team, Metro Government Computers

Tammy Joines Crooks - DeKalb County High School, Banking, DeKalb Community Bank (Wilson Bank & Trust), Smithville.

Kevin Bandy - DeKalb County High School, Banking, DeKalb Bank, Alexandria. He is a grandson of Charlie Floyd Bailif, Possum Hollow.

Monica Kimbrell Reynolds - B.S., University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Manager, Bank of America, Banking Center at Sam Ridley Pkwy, Smyrna.

Michele Hendrix Kent - B.S. from M.T.S.U., R.N. and Nursing Practitioner from Tennessee State. Nursing Practitioner at the VA Memorial Hospital, Murfreesboro.

Dry Creek Natives (continued)  
Kristopher Matthew Cripps - DeKalb County High School, B.S. M.T.S.U. in Finance. UPS Corporation, Warranty Management.

Jared Hendrix - DeKalb County High School, B.S. from M.T.S.U., Doctor of Pharmacy from Mercer University, Atlanta, GA., Pharmacist.

Hannah Harvey - Corneal University, Registered Nurse at Vanderbilt University. Currently in Masters Program at Vanderbilt



The present-day Dry C



**Bro. Donald Owens, Pastor of Dry Creek Baptist Church**

University pursuing career as Nurse Practitioner. Residence in Joelton, Tennessee.

Sam Harvey - College of Charleston - Sociology Degree, Massage Therapy, Woodbury.

David Jordan Cripps - DeKalb County High School, Middle Tennessee Technology School, Tool and Die Maker at Murray Tool and Die in Gallatin, Tennessee.

Daniel Justin Cripps - DeKalb County High School, B.S. at M.T.S.U. in Biology/Chemistry, 3rd year at University of Tennessee Memphis pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Life in the Dry Creek Community has not always been easy. There have been hardships, draughts, as well as floods to endure, moun-

tains to climb, and goals to achieve, but according to historic records, life has been complete.

Families have reared children who have made outstanding citizens in their community and nation.

For generations, the natural resources of this area have helped sustain these people who had fortitude, love in their hearts, and faith for their tomorrows.

In conclusion, the Dry Creek Area has a most interesting history not found in many communities. There is much more that could be written. Look over the mistakes, and enjoy the history of a most beautiful and wonderful place to live, the Dry Creek Valley.





**The present-day Dry Creek Baptist Church**



Cripps' Mill 1903

# The Snow Hill Com

Snow Hill is probably the best-known landmark in DeKalb County. It got its name from Joseph Snow, who was born in 1771 in Delaware and moved to the foot of the hill in 1813. Snow lived in a two-room log house in a big curve of the old turnpike.

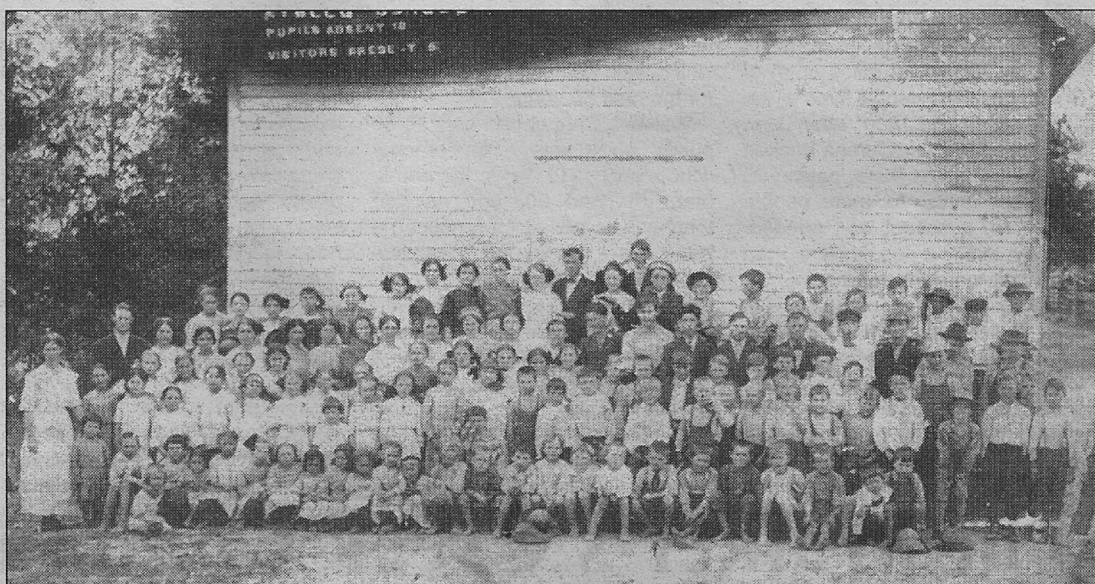
The land at the top of the hill was sparsely settled for many years. Thomas Bradford lived there by 1840, and by 1850, his son-in-law, Dr. John A. Evins was living there, along with his father, George Evins, born in Ireland. Dr. Evins served the nearby area, including Indian Creek, Holmes' Creek, Possum Hollow, etc. He was paid 50 cents for a house call. Dr. Evins' son, William (Bill) Evins and wife, Eliza Foutch lived with their family near the Snow's Hill Baptist Church. Their son, Edgar, established a store nearby around

1900. For a few years, the Blend Post Office was located there. Ms. Myrtie Goodson came to teach at the Snow Hill School, and later married Edgar Evins on the 7th day of the 7th month in 1907! They drove seven miles to Seven Springs, where they spent seven days on their honeymoon. They were living in Smithville in 1946 when their son, Joe L. Evins was elected to the first of 15 consecutive terms in the United States Congress.

Thomas Bradford, an early settler, is said to have had an inn at the sign of Two Cranes. Luke McDowell also had a tavern on Snow Hill. However, the best-known inn was the Beckwith Inn, owned by James Beckwith, (born in 1797 in Bristol, Connecticut) and his wife Rachel Roulstone, daughter of Tennessee's first printer. In 1843, they bought the



**Blend Store at Snow Hill about 1918**



**The Atwell School at Snow Hill, taken at about 1917 with teacher, Mrs. Alta Close (left).**

Cannady Tavern, owned by James Cannady, where Andrew Jackson often stopped on his way to Washington, D.C. They added to the tavern, had a front porch 90 feet long and a dining room that seated 60, with nice cherry and walnut furniture in the guestrooms. For many years before and after the Civil War, the Beckwith Inn was a favorite stopping place for wealthy Nashville families traveling to the Bon Air resort on Cumberland Mountain.

The John B. Atwell family left Virginia and, by 1860, lived near the top of Snow Hill and had established the Atwell School, where the present Community Center is. The Atwell School was where much of the Battle of Snow's Hill took place on April 2, 1863. The largest battle to take place in DeKalb County, it involved about 2,000 soldiers on

each side. Apparently neither side won; they both withdrew.

The Atwell School was still in use in 1904; in later years, the Snow Hill School was built and during the 1920's had two and three teachers at various times. Most families continued to move to the turnpike from surrounding areas, including the families of Sam Fish, the Taylors and Rhodys.

By 1884, the Snow Hill Methodist Church had been established, while Snow Hill Baptist Church was organized in 1897. Both churches had large cemeteries and are still active today.

A short time after the Civil War ended, some of the freed slaves located at the turnpike coming up the hill. Joseph Thomas, David Norman and others bought 110 acres and divided it. Joseph Thomas built a log house right on

the road, where his son-in-law, Leonard Sellars, later lived. It is presently occupied by the Michael Antoniak family. Several of the Sellars, Thomas and Norman family members are buried in a cemetery near the Antoniak barn. For a time, there was an African-American church nearby. But, most of the African-American families sold their land and moved to town by the 1920's.

Because it is near Smithville and DeKalb County High School, the area has grown considerably in recent years. There are residential subdivisions and Bert Driver's Nursery at the former DeKalb Drive-In Theater near the home of Driver's great-grandfather, Henry Hass. DeKalb Market is where Buren Wilson once had his sawmill, and several other businesses are just across the road.