

# A MEMORIAL FOR JOSEPH DANIEL DICKSON

By Maxine (Burrow) Holloway

*Dickson  
2007*

One evening - in 1993 - at a Community Meeting held at the Fire Station Community Building in Hiwasse, Arkansas, Clifford Sooter, a fireman and lifetime resident of the area, stated that he would like to see a Memorial erected in honor of Joseph Daniel Dickson from whom so many in the area are descended but nothing was visible around the town to honor his memory.

Joseph Daniel Dickson was an early settler in this north central area of Benton County for whom the present town of Hiwasse was originally named - and the Township still today bears his name. The budding town was officially named Dickson on August 7, 1871 when the Postal Department accepted the name for a Post Office and John E. Drake became its first Postmaster. Records indicate that the community had been called Big Springs previously but the Postal Department would not accept that name as there was already a Big Springs Post Office in Arkansas and so it came to be named for its most prominent citizen. After much discussion at the Community Meeting, it was voted to raise the money for a Memorial Marker for Joseph Daniel Dickson - and several people agreed to work on the project.

The money was raised and on one cold January day a group of us did the physical work on the Memorial near the Hiwasse Fire Station. It had been voted to put the Marker there, as we were afraid that if we put it where the Town really started, it would be destroyed by the widening of Highway 72 - as we had already lost the old Town Well, when Highway 279 was widened - leaving not a trace of where the early towns people got their water.



**Working on Joseph Daniel Dickson's Memorial on a Cold Winter Day**  
Kneeling in Front: Loren Holloway. Left to Right: George Cowgur, Clifford Sooter, Maxine Holloway, Norma Funk, Larry Weihe, and Bob Allen.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENEVA HAMILTON



**The Joseph Daniel Dickson Memorial**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELDWIN EDWARDS

Glee Funk brought his tractor with a post hole auger and dug a hole for the concrete base and we cleaned it out with shovels. Norma Funk, Clifford Sooter, and Yours Truly went to the Orndorf Monument Company in Bentonville and ordered the Monument, and specified the wording which was to be engraved on it.

Raymond Bequette donated the flag pole and some of the folks sanded and painted it. A concrete block was poured - with a sleeve set in the concrete to hold the flag pole. I was told it was no easy task getting the pole into the sleeve!

I wrote the Governor of Arkansas, Jim Guy Tucker, and requested, and received, an Arkansas Flag that had been flown over Arkansas's Capitol Building on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1993 to be used in the Dedication Ceremony. My son Loren was visiting with a man from the Woodmen of America Insurance Company who when informed of our project, donated the United States Flag for our cause.

On Sunday afternoon, February 6, 1994, about 200 people gathered to see and hear the Dedication Ceremony. The United States and Arkansas Flags were raised on the recently erected flag pole at the base of the Memorial Plaque by Loren Holloway, the Town's Fire Chief and Bob Allen - which was followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Larry Weihe, Pastor of the Nazarene Church of Hiwasse, gave the Invocation. Clifford Sooter spoke about Joseph Dickson and told some of the early history of the area. George Cowger, acting as emcee for the Dedication, said in part; "This is a reminder that this was once the Town of Dickson and these are our roots - and I'm proud of it!"

## JOSEPH DANIEL DICKSON MEMORIAL [Cont'd]

Dodie Evans, Editor of the Gravette News Herald, was introduced and gave the Dedication Address. He stated in part; "You here today exhibit the same values that Joseph Dickson and his family possessed when they started this community; Dreams, Courage, and Values - as shown in your Fire Department, your Churches, and your support of our Schools, and Benton County. If Joseph Dickson were here today he would say you were doing a good job and keep up the good work."

After the ceremony, the Dickson relatives posed for a picture by the Fire Station and pictures were taken of the entire group which attended the dedication. Later, refreshments were served in the Community Center and the folks spent the rest of the afternoon visiting together and identifying their relationships to Joseph D. Dickson. (My sister-in-law was married to Jim Turner, who was the son of Rachel Caroline (Dickson) Turner.)

Now for some of the history of Joseph Daniel Dickson. He was born December 19, 1806, near Shelbyville, Tennessee, the third child of Ezekiel and Mary (Mc Kisick) Dickson. His Grandfather was General Joseph Dickson of Revolutionary War fame, who was born circa 1740, and was said to be from the Dickson Clan of Scotland. The Dicksons first settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Joseph's father, Ezekiel Dickson, was born February 1, 1782 in Lincoln County (Now Gaston County), North Carolina. His mother, Mary "Polly" Mc Kisick, the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Mc Kisick who also served in the Revolutionary War as a Captain of Dragoons and Colonel in the North Carolina Militia, was also born in Lincoln County, North Carolina on October 20, 1780 - where the Dicksons and Mc Kisicks were neighbors. Ezekiel and Polly were married there on September 25, 1802. (Ezekiel's brother, John Dickson, also married Mary's older sister, Margaret Mc Kisick and later Mary's brother Daniel Mc Kisick Jr., married Ezekiel's niece, Margaret Henderson!)

Ezekiel and Polly Dickson came to Tennessee in 1803 and remained there where most of their nine children were born - until the fall of 1835 - when they and at least three of their sons; Joseph Daniel, Ezekiel John Alcorn, and William T., along with part of the Mc Kisick family, migrated to Benton County, Arkansas. Ezekiel died May 14, 1858 and he and Polly are buried on Osage Creek, south of Bentonville.



### Raising the Flags at the Dickson Memorial

Fire Chief Loren Holloway and Fireman Bob Allen raise the Flags. (U.S. Flag donated by Woodman of America Insurance Co. Arkansas Flag donated by the Governor of Arkansas.)



**Descendants of Joseph Daniel Dickson Pose Behind His Memorial on 6 February 1994**

Little Girls in Front: Ashley Meek, Tandi Edelman. Lower Row, Left to Right: Emma (Woods) Galyean, Marthelle Harman, Katherine (Woods) Russell, Betty Almindinger, Oliver Cowgur, Margurette Cowgur, Lillie Ethel (Turner) Wirth, Ida Mae Ellis, Mildred Davis, Cress Davis, Bernarda Hager, Hulene Eby, Norma Place, and Lindsey Woods. Upper Row, Left to Right: Margie (Swank) Nichols, Billie (Douglas) Keith, George Cowgur, William H. Choate, Ed Galyean, Alfred S. Dickson, Paula Jo (Keith) Hutchinson, Betsey (Keith) Meek.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENEVA HAMILTON



**Crowd At Dedication Ceremony of Memorial for Joseph Daniel Dickson (Feb. 6, 1994)**

## JOSEPH DANIEL DICKSON MEMORIAL [Cont'd]



Joseph Daniel Dickson

PHOTO COURTESY OF BERNARDA HAGER

Joseph Daniel Dickson's first marriage was to Martha Jane Hastings. Their son, Joseph M. Dickson was born December 7, 1841 and died in 1863 while serving as a Confederate Soldier in the Civil War. Joseph Daniel later married Rachel Caroline Mc Daniel. Joseph and Rachel had Nine children: Sarah Jane, (Born: 1849), married Thomas R. Roughton; James W. (Born 19 July 1851), married Lucinda F. Latty; Mary Ellen (Born: 25 Feb. 1858), married Andrew Jackson Callis; Margaret Elizabeth, married William E. Turner; Rachel Caroline (Born: 23 March 1858), married James M. Turner; Martha I. (Born: 1861), married James D. Allen; Caledonia Matilda (Born: 1863), married Wesley Brown Brewer; Nannie Daniel (Born: 1865), married Samuel Oyler; and Henry, who died as an infant.



Children of Joseph Daniel Dickson and Rachel Caroline (Mc Daniel) Dickson

Front Row, Left to right: Sarah Jane (Dickson) Roughton; James Wilson Dickson; Mary Ellen (Dickson) Callis; Margaret Elizabeth (Dickson) Turner. Back Row, Left to Right: Rachel Caroline (Dickson) Turner, Martha Isabella (Dickson) Allen; Caledonia Matilda (Dickson) Brewer; Nannie Daniel (Dickson) Oyler.

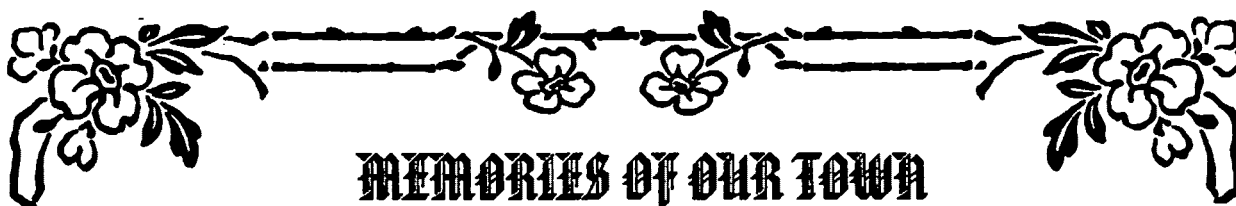
Joseph Daniel Dickson served as Benton County Clerk from 1848 to 1852 and was favorably reported on by the people of Benton County. Joseph is often confused with his uncle John B. Dickson who served as the First Benton County Clerk from 1836 to 1842. It is noted that Gideon Pace, Benton County's First Sheriff, was married to Joseph's aunt, Nancy W. (Dickson) Pace; that his wife's relative, Henry Hastings, was the First Benton County Treasurer, and the First Benton County Surveyor was Alexander Mc Kissick - another relative. Thus Joseph Daniel was the second generation of a family very much involved in Benton County government.

A story was written about a Baptist Preacher, who was also a Newspaper Editor from Little Rock, who came to Dickson on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 1871, to preach and listen to the "singing" held at the church on that date. As was common in those days, the preacher was invited to the home of one of the church members for dinner. This church member had four daughters. The preacher was served a dinner of venison, vegetables, and dumplings which was cooked in a "big Pot" hung in the fireplace. The preacher returned to Little Rock and reported the meal in his newspaper: "It was a feast, fit for a king".

The family of whose hospitality the Baptist Editor enjoyed was none other than Joseph Daniel Dickson, the namesake of the town. One of the Davis Sisters has this article and brought it to me along with Dickson Family genealogy to help me write the story of their Great grandfather for the *Hiwasse History Book*.

Joseph Daniel Dickson died on August 10, 1882 and Rachel Caroline died October 3, 1895. They are buried in the Daniels Cemetery northwest of Hiwasse.

- Maxine Holloway -



In Memory of Joseph D. Dickson  
A few words I want to put down  
In 1871 these memories he started  
When he gave us Dickson Town.

So folks, pass on the local history of  
A place which was a booming town  
Where children used to laugh and play  
And Dickson roots were first put down.

The town had school, postoffice, and store  
For 28 years Dickson was its only Name  
Then in 1899, the railroad came to town  
And from Dickson to Hiwasse it became.

Thanks for the memories of Dickson  
Then Hiwasse was the name they gave  
We expect with more of today's progress  
Our Town will soon go to its grave.

■ By Maxine Holloway -

You are still our honored founder  
Of the place we all hold very dear  
It's giving away to modern progress  
Leaving nothing but memories I fear.



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**SOME TIDBITS ABOUT STEPHEN COLLIS JONES**

*The Shelby Daily Star, April 12, 1939 –*

**S. Collis Jones is Reported Very Ill**

S. Collis Jones, formerly of Shelby, is reported to be seriously ill at the home of a son, John Jones, in Pineville. Little hope for his recovery is held, it is learned.

Mr. Jones is well known to a host of friends in Cleveland County where he is regarded as an authority on family and county history. Notice has been sent to his six children: S. G. (Casey) Jones, police officer at Hickory, John Jones at Pineville, Lawrence at Kannapolis, Hall at Casar, Mrs. Hilda Jones or Oakboro and Mrs. Nancy Pressley of Monroe.

Prior to the death of another son, Ed Jones of Durham, who was killed by an automobile about a year ago, there were seven children, each with a birthday on a different day of the week.

*The Shelby Daily Star, May 6, 1939 –*

**COLLIS JONES PASSES AT 81 – Well known Cleveland County Man died at Pineville Today**

Stephen Collis Jones, 81 year old native of the county, writer, genealogist, historian and philosopher, died at the home of a son, John Jones of Pineville, just before noon today after a serious illness of about two weeks.

Funeral services for Mr. Jones will be held at the home of his son in Pineville on Sunday afternoon, and a short service will be held in Shelby at Sunset cemetery where interment will take place in late afternoon. The Rev. C. O. Greene, pastor of the Pineville Baptist church, will be in charge of final rites.

NATIVE OF COUNTY – A native of the county, Mr. Jones was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Judson Jones. He lived most of his life in Cleveland and Rutherford counties, but part of his youth was



keep them and then for my Executors to sell them and divide the price of them equally between my beloved wife Rachel Dickson , my daughter Mary Dickson, my daughter Nancy Jane Dickson my daughter Rachel Katherine Dickson and my son Edward Davis Dickson, and I give unto my beloved wife all of my geese.

and lastly if there is any left after settling all my debts to be equally divided between by beloved wife Rachel Dickson my daughter Mary Dickson my daughter Rachel Katherine Dickson and my daughter Nancy Jane Dickson my daughter Rachel Katherine and my son Edward Davis Dickson.

and I hereby make and ordain my wife Rachel Dickson and my son-in-law Harden Knowland Executors of this my last will and testament in witness where of, I the said Thomas Dickson have to this my Last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Thomas Dickson (seal)

( Executors sworn)

Signed, sealed and published and declared by the said Thomas Dickson the testator as his last will and testament in the presence of us who were present at the time of signing and sealing thereof

Thomas Wilson, Jurat  
Robert Dickson Jurat

Page 2  
Thomas Dickson  
Will

Filed at August Court 1844

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*Dickson family*

From files at NC Archives....contributed by Libby Anthony

In the name of God amen. I Thomas Dickson of the County of Cleveland and state of North Carolina being of sound and perfect mind and memory(blessed be God) do this 17th day of June 1844 make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following, that is to say...

1st I give and bequeath to my son John Dickson forty dollars out of the hundred dollar note that I have on him and the balance of the said hundred dollar note to my daughter Easter Dickson

2nd I give and bequeath to my son Andrew Dickson ten dollars.

3rd I give and bequeath to my daughter Letty now wife of Teeter Beam ten dollars.

4th I give and bequeath to my daughter Roseannah now wife of Nicholas J. Tucker ten dollars.

5th I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth now wife of Hardin Knowland ten dollars.

6th I give and bequeath to my son Gilbreath Dickson the notes I have in my possession against him and a note of thirty dollars that I have on Henry Dickson.

7th I give and bequeath unto my nephew Thomas Dickson son of Oliver Dickson ten dollars. my daughter Sarah and my daughter Jane I have given their share what I allow them.

8th I give and bequeath unto Robert Dickson the note I have on him of twenty dollars.

9th I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Rachel Dickson all the household and kitchen furniture of every named kind and description all of my horses of every description all of my cattle, all of my hoggs all of my sheep, my waggon and gears all of the farming utensils of every name kind and description. All of my books provided always that she is to divide the afore mentioned property at any time she thinks proper equally between herself, my daughter Mary Dickson, my daughter Nancy Jane Dickson, my daughter Rachel Katherine Dickson and my son Edward D. Dickson or at the expiration of her widowhood, and I also give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Rachel Dickson the plantation that I now live on and all my land thats adjoining during her natural lifetime or widowhood and at the expiration of either of the afore mentioned times I give unto my son Edward Davis Dickson the afore mentioned plantation and all my land thats adjoining and I also give unto my beloved wife Rachel Dickson my negro Jackson and Sinda and my negro girl named Hannah as long as she thinks proper or wishes to