

Trent
part 1

FLASHBACK

W. J. Lemke, editor

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THE TRENTS - WASHINGTON COUNTY PIONEERS

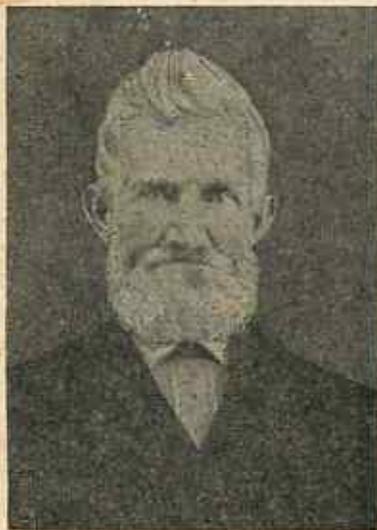
by W. J. Lemke

Some 25 years ago, before I became indoctrinated with Washington County's romantic history, a friend drove me to the top of Kessler Mountain, in the Cato Springs community southwest of Fayetteville. I recall my surprise at finding the mountain-top perfectly level, with a 2-story stone house in the center, and with a magnificent view of Fayetteville.

I met Miss Sarah Trent of Dallas, Texas, whose summer home this Kessler Mountain retreat was. Later I learned a part of the story of the Trents, who were among the first settlers in Our County, having located at Farmington in 1828. Still later, I read frequent references to Josiah Trent in church histories, diaries, and old letters. Then, when each fall I enjoyed the flaming maples in our City Park and along Park Avenue and learned that they had been planted by Albert L. Trent, Josiah's son, I decided that the history of this pioneer family ought to be recorded.

A letter to Miss Bess M. Trent of the Hockaday School in Dallas, brought me most of the information that follows — from the papers left by her cousin, Miss Sarah B. Trent. Also, Miss Trent sent Our Society the photographs of Josiah and Sarah Trent reproduced on this page, and an old print of the Fayetteville Female Seminary and a photograph of Miss Lucretia Foster, principal of the Seminary. How the picture of Miss Foster came into Miss Trent's possession is related in her letter on the next page.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Rev. Josiah Trent
1802 - 1877

Mrs. Sallie Trent
1813 - 1885



Dear Mr. Lemke:

I know that my grandfather, the Rev. Josiah Trent, with a slave boy, pitched a tent in 1828 in what is now Farmington. I have been told that he gave 40 or 60 acres to Mr. Kinnibrugh to induce him to settle near him. Later the Woolsey family settled a little northeast of him. He married Miss Sarah. They had eleven children. One died in infancy. There were only three sons. Each was named for Methodist preachers. My father was given three names, Albert Lively Wright. He later dropped the Wright and was known as A. L. Trent. He said he supposed he would have had more names if there had been more preachers among his fathers acquaintances. Their home was the stopping place for preachers. My father laughingly said that he was grown before he knew there were any pieces of chicken but drumsticks.

My father had no sons. Uncle Mack, who was a cripple after the war, never married. Uncle Wesley Clarke, Cousin Sarah's father, had five daughters and only one son. Cousin Sarah's family lived in Cincinnati. Her mother was a Severs. Mrs. Shields was her aunt. I have heard her talk of the Oates, the Parks, etc. She had a wonderfully interesting story of the musician, Dolgaruki. My father lived for a time with his brother Clarke's family. He worked some in his general store and went to school. He played a horn in Professor Welch's band. He never heard a band that he thought could compare. It was grand!

Miss Helen Severs went to the Fayetteville Female Seminary. She was very fond of Mrs. Lucretia Foster Smith. Mrs. Smith gave her her picture in an antique frame, which she cherished. In her latter years she gave it to Cousin Sarah, who was the teacher of the next generation, of the family. She passed it on to me because I was the teacher of the next generation. I am sending it to you for your historical society. Also, an old picture of the Seminary.

You asked about my father's developing City Park in Fayetteville. Forty years or more ago, my father thought Fayetteville should have a park. He offered to give the city a certain acreage around the "Big Spring" east of town, and what he called later, "City Park", north of town. He put the deeds in escrow. At the end of five years, I believe, nothing had been done to make a park. My father could not give up the idea. He could ill afford to do it but he had the grounds landscaped. He worked as hard cultivating the trees, shrubs and flowers as one would who was going to have a strawberry crop worth thousands of dollars. The citizens of Fayetteville enjoyed having picnics in the park. My father also ran a swimming pool for a number of years, until the State Board of Health said he would have to have a cement pool. He could not afford this. When some interested citizens built the new pool, the landscaped part of the park was made into a trailer camp and the former beauty lost.

Something like 2,000 maple trees were planted by my father. The oldest are the ones on Park Avenue. I heard him say many times before his death, "If I have nothing else left to my memory, I will have my trees."

Miss Bess M. Trent,
Hockaday School, Dallas, Texas

The following information is from Mrs. H. L. Rose, great-granddaughter of Josiah Trent, Washington County pioneer. She lives in Hawaii. Her address is: 99009 Kaupili Place, Aiea, T.H.

Simmie Trent Cutler married Hubert Lee Rose, 1906

Children

Hubert Lee Rose Jr.

b. Sept. 12, 1907, in Muskogee, I.T.

m. Mary Edna Cates, June 12, 1936, in Los Angeles, Calif.

Their children:

Dustin Bickness, b. Sept. 3, 1939, in Los Angeles

Laura Lee, b. Dec. 21, 1940, in Los Angeles

Evelyn Lee Rose

b. Feb. 21, 1910, in Muskogee, Okla.

m. Theodore R. Rhea, Aug. 7, 1936, in Honolulu

(He was born Feb. 27, 1902, in Colorado)

Their children:

Theodore R. Jr. (Tim), b. June 17, 1940, Honolulu

Douglas Cutler, b. March 6, 1943, in Honolulu

Kathleen Dale, b. Feb. 26, 1946, in Honolulu

ARKANSAS WESTERN RAILROAD

On January 10, 1853, the Governor approved an act of the legislature incorporating the Arkansas Western Railroad Company. The incorporators were prominent citizens of northwest Arkansas. They were:

David Walker	James Sutton	James H. Stirman
Charles W. Dean	Thomas J. Pollard	A. M. Wilson
J. P. Neal	A. E. Greenwood	John Smith
A. W. Dinsmore	Samuel Woods	John Drennen
P. Pennywit	John Henry	A. Wallace
Henry Wilcox	John Rogers	W. B. Sutton
Charles B. Johnson	Samuel H. Rutherford	Mitchell Sparks

The Company's purpose was to "build and operate a railroad from Fort Smith by way of Van Buren thence to such point on the Missouri line by way of Fayetteville and Bentonville". The office of the Company was to be in Fayetteville and all business was to be transacted there.

The capital stock was fixed at \$500,000 -- 20,000 shares at \$25 each. The following persons were appointed Commissioners for the purpose of receiving subscriptions to stock of said corporation:

Fayetteville -- Joseph L. Dickson, P. R. Smith, Wm. R. Quarles, W. L. Wilson, and L. B. Cunningham

Bentonville -- J. T. Craig, J. H. Hobbs, James A. Dickson, C. D. Taliaferro, C. C. Waters, and John Gilbreath

Van Buren -- P. H. White, E. B. Bishop, Joseph P. Marean, A. J. Ward, Charles G. Scott, and D. C. Chilton

Fort Smith -- Charles B. Johnson, C. L. Griffith, John F. Wheeler, Joseph Bennett, R. S. Pulliam, S. F. Clark, and F. Canady

The Severs

Charles Jackson Severs married Basima Thermuthis Ballard in 1834

Children

Mary (Shields) - 6 children
Frederic - married Annie Anderson; 5 children
Basima (Simmie), my mother - married Wesley Clarke Trent, on
August 18, 1858; 6 children
Helen - born Sept. 23, 1844; died Oct. 10, 1918
married Robb; no children
Ellen (Oates) - died Oct. 31, 1868; no children
Emma (Stark) - born Nov. 14, 1862; 4 children

Betty Wickett came to Grandpa Severs soon after the War
between the States. She was an 11 or 12-year-old girl,
part Cherokee, part white.

Charles Jackson Severs was born Nov. 16, 1811, near Knoxville, Tenn.
He came to Arkansas in 1833. Married Basima Ballard 1834. He died
Sept. 4, 1888, at Pleasant Retreat, his plantation home near Cincinnati,
Arkansas.

Wesley Clarke Trent married Basima Severs, 1858

Children

Mary Helen (Thomas) - born June 30, 1860; 8 children
Emma Eveline (Cutler) - born Nov. 14, 1862;
died March 15, 1921; 3 children
Sarah (Bessie) Basima - born Aug. 24, 1866;
died Sept. 24, 1950; never married
Charles Josiah (married Mary Simpson); born Nov. 20, 1868
4 children died Mar. 17, 1920
Martha Ellen (Pat) - born Sept. 25, 1871
died Apr. 13, 1946; never married
Laura Sultana (Parkinson) - born Feb. 4, 1874
Emma Eveline

Emma Eveline Trent married King Roscoe Cutler, 1881

born Feb. 4, 1850
died May 31, 1907

Children

Clarke Coleman, b. July 27, 1882; d. Oct. 12, 1940
Child - Dorothy, b. July 28, 1906
Simmie (Basima), b. Nov. 8, 1885;
married Hubert Lee Rose, June 21, 1906
H.L. Rose b. Oct. 12, 1874; d. Jan. 8, 1935
Roscoe Cutler, b. Nov. 8, 1885; d. Feb. 21, 1941

Foster daughter, Ellen (Wallace) - b. July 27, 1876
married Nov. 27, 1895

Josiah Trent married Sarah Wolsey, 1830

Children

Matilda (Mrs. Paden) - no children
Wesley Clarke (my father)
He was born Dec. 16, 1834; died Nov. 6, 1919
He married 1858 Basima (Simmie) Severs (my mother)
She was born Oct. 18, 1841; died Nov. 5, 1915
Mary (Mrs. McGee)
Martha (Mrs. Banks)
Sarah (Mrs. Conner)
McKendree (cripple - Civil War)
Melitia - an invalid; died in childhood
Asbury
Sultana - teacher; never married
Louisa (Mrs. W. Smith)
Albert

The Ballards

Sir John Ballard, one of William the Conquerors knights in Normandy, came with William on his invasion of England in 1066. He was an Englishman ever afterwards. A descendant came to the United States in Colonial days and settled in South Carolina.

<u>Thomas Ballard</u>	married	<u>Martha White</u>
b. Sept. 13, 1777		b. So. Carolina Nov. 2, 1782
d. Nov. 10, 1854		d. Oct. 12, 1872

(My grandmother Severs' father)

Children

Walter
Thomas - born Oct. 8, 1804
Lewis
Alexander
Basima (my Grandmother) - married C.J. Severs
She was born Dec. 14, 1811
She died Sept. 14, 1881
Frederic
Nancy
Martha
Mary
Amelia
William
John

(The family notes that follow are from the papers of the late Miss Sarah B. Trent. -- ED)

THE TRENTS

The Trents first came to America early in the 18th century, from western England, and settled in Virginia. My great-great-grandfather Trent lived in Virginia. He fought in the French and Indian War and later in the Revolutionary War. He had 12 sons and one daughter. At one period in the Revolutionary War, he and all 12 of his sons fought together. Later some of his sons -- six or possibly seven -- were killed in battle.

My great-grandfather was one that survived. He married a Miss Lloyd (of Welsh stock) in Virginia. I am not certain about the number of their children, as my grandfather was only 8 when his mother died. His father, a frail old man, died a short time afterward in Georgia, where he had gone to see one of his sons -- Edward, I think was his name.

Grandpa stayed there until he was about 17, then went west to find two of his brothers -- one in Mississippi, the other in Louisiana. He did not find them, but he was employed by some French surveyors who were making a special or final survey in the Louisiana Territory, sold earlier (1803) to the United States. Grandpa had malaria and found it necessary to live in a higher altitude. He moved into south Arkansas in the 1820's but later (1828) went to the Ozark region, took up land from the U.S. government (Arkansas was still a Territory), built a home, and married Miss Sarah Wolsey in 1830. They reared a family of eleven children. My grandparents, Josiah and Sarah Trent, were devout Christians. As such they were pioneers in a section that was benefited by their work and influence.

Wolseys (my paternal grandmother)

Samuel Wolsey married Matilda Thompson

Children

William - had children
 Josiah
 Sarah - married Josiah Trent
 Mack - had children
 Jane (Woodruff) - had children
 Gilbert - 2 children
 James - had children
 Lurana - never married
 Henry - 3 or 4 children
 Louisa - never married
 Green - died young
 Wesley - 2 children
 Elizabeth (David) - had children

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Wolseys were English and are said to have been of the same family as Cardinal Thomas Wolsey in England. They came to this country in colonial days, settling first in Virginia, then in Kentucky, and came to Arkansas Territory in 1830.

(Editor's note: The name is spelled Woolsey on the tombstones in the family cemetery 1 mile north of Farmington.)