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Choctaw
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Letter to the Editor

Moctaw NOV. 8-24-89 Choctaw Co. AL

Reader sends post offices' history

Dear Mr. Campbell,

I am writing in reply to your inquiry of Post Offices of the area. I live in the portion of Choctaw County that was, until 1847, a part of Sumter County. Tps. 14 and 15. I have been told that Mr. Will Brown, at one time, picked the mail up at Gaston, delivered it through the northern section to Thompkinsville.

Thomas P. Abernathy in "The South in the New Nation," writes that the mail in the year 1816 reached St. Stephens once a month via the route of the Nashville-Natchez Trace which crossed the Tennessee River by way of Florence at the foot of the Shoals and then passed southward through the Chickasaw and Choctaw country to Natchez.

According to Charlie Campbell McCall, the son of Judge Charles Edward McCall who was elected to the office of Probate Judge from Pelham in 1899, during this period of time the Butler mail carrier was called Major Ross. His wife "Miss Mattie" was the Post Mistress at Butler. Maj. Ross also set the type by hand for the printing of the old Choctaw Advocate, established and published by Judge Charles Edward McCall (1867-1941).

The Hurricane Creek Community was on the line between Alabama and Mississippi on the old road from Butler by way of Pushmataha, and from there to Hurricane Creek. And from Hurricane Creek to Causeyville, MS. and on into Meridian, MS. When Major Ross would take the mail from Butler he would go either in a buggy or ride horseback to Hurricane Creek. There he would be met by a mail carrier from Meridian bringing mail to come to Butler in exchange.

Choctaw County was very fortunate to have had so many outstanding people settle here. The military people in the War of 1812 saw great potentials in this section of the U.S. as they fought their many battles here. Some took their "Bounty Land" here.

John and Mary McCall, originally from the Highland of Scotland, migrated to South Carolina, then to Florida, and in 1838,

by way of the Tombigbee River, landing at Thompkins Bluff in Sumter County on to the village of Williams Crossroads - now known as Jachin, bringing with them there six sons, namely:

- Hugh McCall, the oldest, patented land in 1835-36 in Tps. 14 & 15, Range 2 West.

- Edward McCall, 1818-1888 - lived at William's Crossroads for many years and was a Deacon in the Clear Creek Baptist Church. He was the first Representative to the Legislature from Choctaw County in 1853 and again in the 1880's.

- Dr. Dugald McCall, 1820-1882 - who studied medicine at Louisville Medical Institute in Louisville, Kentucky.

- Dr. Duncan McCall, M.D., 1824-1840 - a graduate of Castleton Medical College in Castleton, Vermont in 1848.

- Dr. Daniel McCall, 1826-1897 - studied medicine at Atlanta Medical College in Atlanta, Georgia. He was graduated from this institution in 1859, returned to Choctaw County and established himself in company with Dr. Simeon Walton at old Desotoville. This was the first McCall at old Desotoville. In 1860, Dr. Daniel McCall married Nancy Elizabeth Thompson, daughter of Benjamin J. Thompson who lived at Desotoville.

- Judge Charles Campbell McCall, 1829-1900 - was elected to the office of Probate Judge of Choctaw County in the term 1893-1899.

I am indebted to Charlie Campbell McCall (Atty. Gen. of Alabama 1927-31) and to Daniel T. McCall, Jr. (retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama) and the son of Dr. Daniel Thompson McCall and Caroline Winston Bush of Mobile for the list of early Post Offices.

The list of Post Offices with dates and establishments, etc. and discontinuance, etc. is as follows:

Gaston, established in Sumter County, June 20, 1837. Discontinued January 7, 1867. Re-established Feb. 19, 1867. Name changed to Ward Aug. 3, 1912 and still in existence serving a portion of Choctaw County.

Choctaw, established in

Choctaw Co., April 2, 1912. Discontinued Sept. 25, 1964.

Pelham, established Aug. 10, 1855. Discontinued July 8, 1967.

Robjohn, established in Choctaw Co., July 4, 1888. Discontinued Dec. 28, 1954.

Jachin, established in Choctaw Co., March 19, 1892 and still in existence.

No Post Office at anytime by name of Harris Crossroads or S.P. Harris Crossroads.

Hurricane Creek, established in Clark Co., MS., July 16, 1842. Discontinued March 2, 1846. Re-established May 26, 1846 and located in Lauderdale Co., MS. on May 22, 1850. Located again in Choctaw Co. in 1850, located again in 1857 and back to Choctaw Co. on Feb. 15, 1859. Discontinued on July 25, 1866.

Butler, established Nov. 10, 1848 and still in existence.

Hinton, established in Choctaw Co. on Aug. 9, 1890. Discontinued May 31, 1919 - mail sent to Cyril in Choctaw Co.

Lavaca, established Nov. 22, 1898 and still in existence.

Thompkinsville, established in Sumter County, Dec. 22, 1845. This place is now in Choctaw Co. (1847). Discontinued Oct. 9, 1866 and re-established Sept. 1, 1875.

Mt. Sterling, established in Washington Co., Oct. 26, 1838. (Now Choctaw 1847) Discontinued Dec. 13, 1844. Re-established Oct. 30, 1845. Discontinued Aug. 31, 1868. Re-established June 30, 1869. Post Office discontinued June 11, 1967 - mail sent to Butler.

Pushmataha, established Choctaw Co., Aug. 10, 1848. Discontinued July 8, 1867. Re-established Feb. 20, 1868, discontinued Aug. 10, 1869. Re-established Feb. 28, 1870. Discontinued Aug. 31, 1963 - mail sent to Lisman.

Desotoville, established in northern Choctaw Co. Post Office under the name of Barbour on June 1, 1850. Name changed to Desotoville on March 23, 1855. Post Office discontinued June 15, 1905.

Yantley, established at Yantley Creek on Sept. 22, 1874. Name changed to Yantley on Oct. 24, 1894. Was still in existence in 1971.

Now, notice this (Charlie Campbell McCall speaking) -

William's Crossroads, established in Sumter Co., AL. (now Choctaw Co. 1847) on Sept. 7, 1839. Name changed to Yantley on date not stated - name changed to Ashford on Oct. 15, 1845. Name changed back to William's Crossroads on a date not given. Location changed to Choctaw Co. on date not stated. Post Office there was discontinued on Aug. 22, 1866.

The village of William's Crossroads is still alive. The village of Jachin died in Section 6, Tps. 15 on the Sumter Co. line and was revived again when Miss Nora Bennett moved the Bolen Keener house from the Sumter Co. line to the old Allen Alexander place where Fred Robinson now lives and started the Jachin Post Office. The Moore families had the post office until then. The house has now been moved again and Doug Shipp now owns it.

I would like to add a few facts I have found pertaining to William's Crossroads:

According to the Liberty Baptist Association's first anniversary 1838 or 1839, the Clear Creek Baptist Church was a member of this association listing Post Office at William's Crossroads from 1839 until 1846. In 1846 the address was listed as Ashford Springs - in 1847 Yantley P.O., not to be confused with Yantley P.O. of today, Yantley Creek runs just below the Clear Creek Baptist Church on Highway 17, first bridge below the railroad. Again in 1848-49 listed as Ashford P.O. In 1850 listed again as William's Crossroads.

The voting box for Jachin is still in the name of Crossroads.
Sincerely,
Martha Mayo Parten



