

Drew County History

Drew County was formed from Arkansas and Bradley Counties in 1846 and was named for Thomas S. Drew who was State Governor during the years 1844-1849. The county seat is Monticello.

GOODSPEED TRANSCRIPTION

CHAPTER XXXII

Drew County – First White Settlers –Location of Settlements – some "First Things" –Reminiscences – Formation – Change of Boundaries – Municipal Townships – Post-offices – Railroads and Highways – Matters of Judicial Importance – Court Records – Attorneys – Early Marriages – Civil Proceedings – Wealth and Population – Distribution of Personal Property – Names of County Officers – Sketch of Monticello—Tillar, Baxter and Collins – Other Stations – Industries – Resources – Position – Physical Features – Military Items – Family History

For numerous blessings yearly show'r'd

And property with plenty crow'd.

Accept our pious praise – Dryden

Occupying a prominent and influential position in the Tenth Judicial Circuit and Third Congressional District of Arkansas, Drew County owes its prosperity and existence to a worth class of pioneer settlers, whose determined efforts and heroic labors opened the way for civilization and aided greatly in transforming this wilderness into a community of culture and prosperity. Among these early immigrants was one well known to the present generation, John S. Handy, who came here in March, 1839, and to him is accorded the greater majority of facts gleaned regarding the first early settlers of Drew County. At the time of his location, besides his brother, Jack Handy, there was but one other man in the present limits of Clear Creek Township. In 1835, James Ferguson removed from Mississippi, and settled in the same neighborhood, on Handy Creek. South of the Handy settlement, on Hungry Run lived J. W. Ridgell, Bynum Nichols and Fountain Brown, the last named, a Methodist preacher. All of these men came to the county in 1835. Ridgell and Nichols came from Mississippi, and Brown from Tennessee. Toward the northeastern part of the county lived Jesse Whittacre and Hugh Fannin. These men were Kentuckians, who became citizens of Arkansas in 1835 or 1836. Stephen Gaster and Reece Powden came from Louisiana about 1832, and settled on Bayou Bartholomew. It is said of Bowden that he is the only man on record who discovered that a gray squirrel could beat a flash of lightning down a black gum tree, and as he was an eyewitness to this strange feat, the statement can not be questioned. He explained it by stating that the lightning had to run round and round the tree, while the squirrel went straight down. Ezekiel Owens came from Tennessee and settled here between

1836/1839, purchased his first piece of land there in 1843/1884, and settled on the Bayou. In 1836 John Oneal (probably O'Neal) a South Carolinian, settled on Ten Mile creek. In the same neighborhood lived Jesse Hunt, Benjamin Nettles and a man named Arnold, who came from Mississippi with Ridgell. These men and their families embraced the entire numerical strength of the county. Settlements grew slowly, and those new comers who followed made their homes near the older settled habitations until finally the neighborhoods merged one into another. The pioneers were mostly from Tennessee and Mississippi.

The first post-office established in the county was named Montongo, and was in the store of Carney Oneal, situated about three miles west of where Monticello now is. The first election in the county's present territory was while it formed a part of Bradley County. This was in what is now Marion Township, the voting place being the Gaster schoolhouse, or what is called Gaster Hill. At that early day the forest abounded in game and hunting was the chief amusement; encounters with bears were numerous, nor was the danger attending them sufficient to deter these dauntless spirits from engaging in the fascinating sport. For many years the peddling wagon of Ben Martin was the sole dependence of the citizens for dry goods. New Orleans was the distributing point, goods being landed at Pine Bluff. J. W. Ridgell erected the first mill, a gin and gristmill run by horsepower. In 1845 a school and church house was built about six miles north of the site of Monticello. Later on Rough and Ready grew to be the only place of importance in the county, and was after the organization of the county for some time the seat of justice, as well as the place where personal feuds were fought out. It was here that Richard Chance killed the two Courtneys, Dr. Street Hudspeth killed one named Griffith, and Dave McPeters killed Brown, nor were humorous scenes wanting. At a county court held at Grave Hill there were present Judge Wells and the associate justices, Reynolds and Baldy, all were somewhat exhilarated by frequent applications of the ever potent "forty rod", and at peace with mankind, when the subject of dancing came up. Court adjourned that Reynolds and Baldy might settle the question as to which of them could execute a jig with the greater grace. The door was taken from its hinges, placed on the floor, and the two candidates placed facing each other. Judge Wells patted and the others danced. After this novel procedure (the result of which is unknown) court business was resumed. Such an incident will illustrate the spirit and character of the "old timers". A member of one of the first grand juries to meet in Monticello after its selection as the county site, in company with Dr. Bond of Bradley County, having attended a meeting of the Masons at Rough and Ready reached Monticello about 11 o'clock at night. Dismounting at Hyatt's Hotel for some refreshments, the travelers were seated in the hall, and upon making their order the waiter asked if they were members of the grand jury. Receiving an affirmative reply, he requested to remain in the hall and there he would serve them. Dr. Bond not being on jury however was admitted into a "secret" room, and as the bed-quilt, which served for a door was pushed back, it showed the table lined with card players. About this time Judge Reynolds put in

his appearance, and thought a serenade was in order; so gathering cowbells, tin pans, horns, etc., a jolly company stormed Whitehead's Tavern, where, after imbibing and pressing in recruits, guests from the hotel, and the occupants of numerous wagons, they made their way to Henry Well's grocery. At this place three of the grand jury were found deeply interested in a game of draw, also Stakley Heflin and Brad Williams, noted characters of Smith Township. Williams invited the party to remain and hear a young man named Lore sing "Old Uncle Ned" against which infliction they first fortified by taking a drink. The song when finished necessitated another application, and stills another. Some of the part camped where they were for the remainder of the night. Others found a lodging place on convenient stumps, and a very few reached their proper quarters. Of Stoakley T. Heflin, previously mentioned, an incident worthy of note. He was for years a justice of the peace. J. S. Winter, an attorney, had a case to plead before him, and armed with Blackstone and Greenleaf, presented himself in due time at court. During his argument referred to, he read from his authorities. The court ordered the jury to pay no attention to Mr. Winter's "furren" books, as they ad nothing to do with justice in Arkansas.

Drew County was first formed November 26, 1846, since which time several changes have been made in its boundary lines. November 30, 1848, a large area was attached to Ashley, and part of Chicot was attached December 21, 1840; a portion of Desha became Jointed January 21, 1861 and the line between Drew and Chicot was changed November 30, 1873.

At the time of its organization the county wad divided into six municipal townships, viz.: Marion, Union, White, Osceola, Smith and Bartholomew. In 1850 the population of the county was 3,276. At the present writing () there are eleven municipal townships: Franklin, in the northeast corners south of Franklin, Bartholomew; west of Bartholomew, Collins; west of Collins, Bearhouse; west of Bearhouse, Veasey, west of Veasey, Crook; north of Crook, Saline; north of Saline, Clear Creek: Spring Hill, east of Clear Creek; Marion, south of Spring Hill, and Prairie, east of Marion.

The boundary lines of the municipal townships are independent of those of the Congressional. There are fifty-six schools and 119 road districts.

The mail receives distribution from twenty post offices, located at the following places: Monticello, in Marion Township; Winchester, Tillar, Selma, Reeves and Florence, in Franklin Township; Coleman, in Spring Hill Township; Bodman, Montogo and Planterville, in Clear Creek Township; Wilmar, in Crook Township; Eddy, in Veasey Township; Barkada, in Saline Township; Lacy, Grove and Paradise, in Bearhouse Township; Collins and Troy, in Collins Township and Baxter, in Bartholomew Township. Of these, the offices at Tillar and Winchester are on the main line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and Monticello, Baxter, Collins and Wilmar are on the Warren branch of the same road. The remaining offices are on "Star routes".

The Warren branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Company traverses the county from east to west, almost through the center, the stations at convenient distances affording quick communication and transportation with the outside world. The road connects with the main line at Trippe, in Desha County, bringing all parts of the county but a day's run from Little Rock, and less than half a day from the Mississippi River. In the northeaster corner of the county the main line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad is situated for a distance of five miles within these limits. The Saline River, skirting along the western boundary, furnishes river transportation direct to New Orleans, as does Bayou Bartholomew, the eastern tier of townships. The highways are kept in good repair, and with bridges over the streams, high water does not interfere with traffic.

The judicial affairs of the county are ably provided for by circuit, county and probate courts. The circuit court is held on the third Monday in February and August, two weeks' term. The judge of this circuit is C. D. Wood, who resides at Monticello. He was elected September 6, 1886, and the term of office expires October 30, 1890. The prosecuting attorney, R. C. Fuller, whose residence is at Princeton, was elected September 3, 1888; his term also expires October 30, 1890. The present resident attorneys of Drew County include such well-known citizens as W. T. Wells and J. G. Williams. W. F. Slemmons, z. t. Wood and James R. Cotham, H. W. Wells, S. J. Mathews and R. L. Crenshaw. W. M. Harrison, J. C. Barrow, W. S. McCain and J. G. Taylor, who have achieved considerable State notoriety, were at different times members of this bar.

The circuit judges for this circuit, preceding Judge Wood, have been W. H. Field, W. H. Sutton, Josiah Gould, John C. Murray, T. F. Sorrels, John C. Murray, J. F. Lowery, W. H. Harrison, H. P. Morse, D. W. Carroll, T. F. Sorrels and J. M. Bradley. The office of prosecuting attorney has been filled by Solon B. Jones, t. F. Sorrels, W. P. Grace, S. F. Arnett, D. W. Carroll, C. C. Godden, W. F. Slemmons, J. McL, Barton, H. Wood and M. L. Hawkins, the immediate predecessor of Mr. Fuller.

The early records of the county court will always be of considerable local interest. Among other items, the following are presented:
Monday, March 22, 1847, the first county court met at the house of A. M. Rawles. Present, the Hon. W. H. Wells, presiding judge; Thomas S. Newman and C. L. Reynolds, associate justices. The county officials newly elected filed their bonds and constables and patrols for the several townships were appointed. The first claim to be presented against the county was one by Isaiah Halcomb, for \$3, which was allowed, and a warrant ordered in the session of court road overseers were appointed, and Jesse Newton was granted a license to retail spirituous and vinous liquors. Judges to hold elections in the several townships

were appointed as follows: George Dill, Jesse Whitaker and John Jones, in Marion Township; William Lucas, J. Heard and David C. Smith, in Bartholomew Township; David Adams, R. A. Thompson and J. P. Fisher, in Debastrop Township; James Arnett, J. Sackville and William Sanders, in Smith Township; A. M. Rowles, William B. Daniels and James Bussey, in White Township; J. C. Cabeer, James Wheeler and Liviton C. Dougherty, in Osceola Township. At the April term, 1847, a new township, called Goodland, was created. Court ordered that a tax of one-eighth of one per cent be levied on the value of all taxable property, and 50 cents on each white poll, for county revenue. The seat of Justice after this term of court was removed from Rawles' Meeting house to Rodger's Schoolhouse. The delinquent tax for 1847 was county tax. \$24.37; State tax. \$7.71, total \$32.08. At the January term, 1848, Steven Gaster was granted a license to run a public ferry across Bayou Bartholomew, near his residence, the rates of ferriage being as follows: Wagon and team, 50 cents; carryall or cart, 37½ cents; man and horse, 10 cents, footman, 5 cents; loose stock, 3 cents, all but lead horse, which was 5 cents. These rates were to be doubled in high water. Osceola Township was annexed to White Township. The sheriff, as collector, received as taxes from all sources, \$1,236.99. At the January term, 1849, the sheriff's settlement shows that he received as taxes from all sources, \$1,750.50. The delinquent tax for 1849 was \$103.37.

At the April term, 1850, court ordered that one-fourth of one per cent be lived on all property assessed by the sheriff, with a \$100 poll tax for county revenue. The total expenditures for the year ending April 9, 1850, aggregated \$1,801.79. Court was then held at Rough and Ready, and at the July term of that year the county commissioners reported that the courthouse in Monticello would be ready for the next term of circuit court, and the October term of county court was held there. During the January term of the county court, 1850, assessors for the several townships were appointed. Viz.: Henry crook, for Marion Township; J. H. Jones for Veasey Towship; Joseph Furgeson, for Bartholomew Township; Charles C. Mathias, for Spring Hill Township, and William C. Norton for Smith Township. The total tax collected for the year ending in April, 1851, amounted to \$2,236.07. Court ordered levied a tax of one-sixth of one per cent and 50 cents poll tax. July 17, 1851, the first notice appears regarding school funds. The sheriff was charged with \$105, which was to be appropriated for common school purposes. The delinquent list for 1851, was State delinquent, \$5.02, county delinquent, \$33.67; a total of \$38.69. In January, 1853, John S. Winter was appointed by the county, his salary to be appropriated by the court from time to time. Benjamin Hyatt was appointed a notary public by the county court, his commission to bear date from January 12, 1854 to January 12, 8856. In April, 2856, land was entered for a county poor-farm, and in January, 1859, the poor-farm was ordered sold.

The first probate court of which there is a record convened on Tuesday, April 13, 1859, the matter first appearing on the records as follows: "In the matter of the estate of W. G. Wells, deceased. And now on this day comes F. C. Austin, by his attorney and a manuscript of all matter appertaining to the administration of the estate of said Wells, deceased, and prays that name be made part of the records of this court. It is therefore considered by the court here, that his office, and that the same be made a matter of record." A like order was made concerning the papers relative to the manuscript in the estate of George Holloway; the administrator was allowed to keep the slaves belonging to the estate to raise a crop that year. Henry S. Hudspeth and Seaborn Greer were confirmed as, administrators for the estate of Hardaman Greer, and their bond approved. L. C. Dougherty was confirmed as administrator for the estate of C. M. Dougherty and his bond approved. John Smith presented for probate the will of Mary Wyatt, deceased: Jesse B. Morris failing to appear as one of the attesting witnesses in obedience to a subpoena, it was ordered by the court that a writ of attachment be issued, returnable on the first day of the next term of the court. This record is signed by William H. Wells, judge.

That matrimonial affairs were not allowed to go unnoticed even in an early day, is shown by the following:

State of Arkansas

County of Drew

This 5th day of Jan., 1847, this is to certify that I. Y. R. Royal, being a duly licensed minister of the Gospel, did on the third of January; A. D. eighteen hundred and forty-seven, in the county and state aforesaid, duly join in marriage Thomas Cotham and Elizabeth Griffity, both being of age.

John Berryman and Martha A. Grindoll were the second couple whose marriage is recorded. There were thirty-eight couples married in 1847; forty-one in 1848; twenty-four in 1849, and twenty-one in 1850.

The following certificate or ordination is first one spread on the records:

Know all men by these presents, that I, Robert Paine, one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the United States of America, under the protection of Almighty God, and with a *singular eye* to his Glory, by the imposition of my hands and prayer (being assisted by the elders present), have this day set apart William G. Guice, for the office of elder, In the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South; a man, who in the judgment of the Arkansas Annual Conference, is well qualified for that work, and he is hereby recommended to all whom it may concern, as a proper person to administer, the sacraments and ordinances, to feed the flock of Christ, so long as his spirit and practice are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and he continueth to hold fast the form of sound words according to the established doctrines of the Gospel. In testimony whereof. I hereunto set my hand and seal, this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six. Robert Payne

Of Drew County's Circuit Court proceedings the first were held at the May term, 1847, as follows:

State of Arkansas

County of Drew

At a Circuit Court begun and holden, in and for the County of Drew, State of Arkansas, at the court house thereof, being the house known as Rodger's school house, the place appointed and established by the county court of said county, as the temporary seat of justice of said county, on the first Monday after the fourth Monday in April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, being the third day of May, of said year. Present the Honorable William B. Field, Judge of the fifth judicial circuit of said state.

James Thompson was appointed deputy clerk, and as Solon B. Jones, prosecuting attorney, was absent, Robert Anderson was appointed prosecuting attorney *pro tem*. The following named men were sworn as grand jurors: Stephen Gaster (foreman), Resun Bowden, Robert A. Thompson, John P. Fisher, John Goodwin, Isaac C. Burrow, William B. Daniel, Benjamin Franklin, John Jones, Ralph Griffith, Seaborn Greer, Daniel Holcomb, John Smith, William P. Holliman, Arthur Whitney and John Fannin. This jury found two true bills, after which, there being no further business, they were discharged. There were ten civil suits on the docket at this term, two of which were jury cases. These special juries were composed of Richard Stanley, Joseph Adams, Creach Roberts, William Ross, William Nowls, D. M. C. Oneal, Isaac D. Price, Wiley D. Crook, Ezekiel B. Owens, Stephen Greer, B. Patton and Phillip S. Wolfe in the first case, and in the second, Thomas F. Edmonds, Lewis Ivy, Paul H. Baldy, James Bussey, Isaac Denson, John Grendall, William Everett, Richard Standley, Joseph Adams, Creach Robert, William Ross * * * September 24, 1849, John B. Brandon renounced his allegiance to Victoria, queen of England, and took the oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. William H. Harrison, Thomas N. Byers, Benoni S. Dubose and Henry S. Hudspeth showed that they were duly licensed to practice as attorneys and counselors at law, and solicitors in chancery in this circuit, and were enrolled as such in this court. The first case of manslaughter was the trial of Henry S. and Leonidas Hudspeth, of which charge they were acquitted March 27, 1857. March 30, 1857, Richard Chance was arraigned for murder. The case was continued until the November term of court, and in the meantime the accused cut his own throat.

In 1880 the real estate of the county was assessed at \$800,305, the value of personal property being \$578,298.21, or a total of \$1,378,603.21. In 1889 the real estate assessment aggregated \$1,127,245, and personal property \$1,049,800, a total of real and personal property of \$2,177,045. This shows an increase in nine years of \$708,441.70. The real estate is divided as follows: Lands \$810,855; city lots, \$174,885; railroad realty, \$141,505; total \$1,127,245. Of the city lots, Monticello is credited with \$158,745; Selma, \$1,548; Tracy \$420; Collins, \$4,505; Baxter \$4,210; Tillar, \$4,545; Winchester, \$915; total \$174,885.

The population of Drew County, be decades, has been as follows: in 1850, 3,276; 1860; 9,087; 1870, 9,960; 1880, 12,231; 1889, estimated 15,500.

The railroad property is distributed as follows: St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, 5.25 miles, \$34,12,5; side tracks, \$8,730; Warren Branch, \$97,680; buildings at Winchester, \$415; buildings at Tillar, \$235; buildings at Baxter, \$225; buildings at Collins, \$350; buildings at Wilmar, \$800; buildings at Monticello, \$4,445; total, \$141,505.

Personal property is distributed, in the several townships throughout the county, as follows:

Bartholomew: Number of horses, 191, value \$7,825; cattle, 956, value \$6,122; mules, 279, value, \$17,510; sheep, 146, value \$160; hogs, 867, value \$1,046; total number of animals, 2,589, value \$31,028; total of all kinds of personal property, \$60,465.

Bearhouse Township – Number of horses, 191, value, \$7,825; cattle, 956, value, \$4,930; mules 98, value \$5,465; sheep, 105, value \$105; hogs, 977, value \$995; total number of all domestic animals, 2,327; value \$10,320; total value of all personal property, \$26,845.

Collins Township – Number of horses, 170, value, \$8,725; cattle, 1207, value, \$6,250; mules, 186, value, \$9,800; sheep, 94, value \$87; hogs 1020, value \$1,058; total number of all domestic animals, 2666, value, \$24,920, total value of all personal property \$70,540.

Crook Township – Number of horses, 117, value, \$4,995; cattle, 894, value, \$4,575; mules, 79, value \$4,375; sheet, 161, value, \$172; hogs, 980, value, \$978; total number of all domestic animals, 2,237, value, \$17,095, total value of all personal property \$20,740.

Clear Creek Township – Number of horses, 285, value, \$13,160; cattle, 1339, value, \$6,965; mules, 211, value, \$12,575; sheet, 511, value, \$509; hogs, 1,333, value, \$1,336; total number of all domestic animals, 3,679, value, \$84,550; total value of all personal property, \$75,080.

Franklin Township – Number of horses, 313, value, \$12,800; cattle, 1,978, value, \$10,492; mules, 306, value, \$22,280; sheep, 442, value, \$433; hogs, 2155, value, \$2,169; total number of animals, 5,284; value \$48,124; total value of all personal property, \$109,325.

Marion Township (outside of Monticello) – Number of horses, 453, value \$19,325; cattle, 2,411, value \$13,045; mules, 333, value \$19,880; sheet, 663, value, \$720; hogs, 1815, value \$2,072; total number of all domestic animals, 6,115; value, \$55,042; total value of all personal property, \$118,145.

Prairie Township – Number of horses, 148, value, \$6,625; cattle, 1,250, value \$6,570; mules, 110, value \$6,790; sheet, 48, value, \$50; hogs, 1,004, value, \$1,145; total number of animals, 2,50, value, \$21,180; total valuation of all personal property, \$35,145.

Saline Township—Number of horses, 249, value, \$11,340; cattle, 1,444, value \$8,205; mules, 165, value, \$11,260; sheep, 437, value, \$422; hogs 1,261, value, \$1,288; total number of animals, 3,756, value \$32,515.

Spring Hill Township – Number of horses, 246, value, \$11,490; cattle, 1,398, value \$7,435; mules, 181, value, \$11,065; sheep, 304, value, \$298; hogs, 1,036, value, \$1,067; total number of domestic animals, 3,165, value, \$31,355; total valuation of all personal property, \$64,580.

Veasey Township – Number of horses, 239, value, \$15,125; cattle, 1559, value, \$8,550; mules, 127, value, \$6,875; sheep, 113, value, \$110; hogs, 1,298; value, \$1,300; total number of domestic animals, 3,468, value, \$39,960; total valuation of all personal property, \$54,500.

Town of Monticello – Number of horses, 180, value, \$6,590; cattle, 601, value, \$8,715; mules, 71, value, \$5,175; sheep, 33, value \$33; hogs, 237, value, \$287; total number of animals, 1050, value \$15,800; goods and merchandise valued at \$75,690; moneys, credits, book accounts, etc., \$123,560; a total valuation of all personal property inside the corporation \$291,220.

The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad pays a personal tax on property valued at \$56,715, and the Western Union Telegraph Company on property valued at \$1,495.

There is a total of 2,799 horses in the county, valued at \$124,190; cattle, 16,195, value \$86,704; mules, 2,216, value, \$133,000; sheep, 3,057, value, \$3,099, hogs, 14,079, value, \$14,771; a grand total of all domestic animals of 38,346, valued at \$361,54. The sum total of the personal property valuation is \$1,049,800. The tax levied for 1889 amounted to – General State tax, \$4,376.70; 7-mill sinking fund, \$2,187.91; school fund, \$4,376.70; ordered county tax, \$10,941.75; Monticello corporation tax, \$1,151.755; a total of \$23,034.815.

The officials of Drew County who have been elected to represent their constituents in different relations are as follows, some having served two or more terms:

Judges – W. H. Wells, W. H. Lucas, E. K. Haynes, W. B. Daniels, T. N. Cotham, J. W. Colquit, C. M. Preddy, T. M. Cotham, W. T. Wells, H. J. Stanley, S. J. Matthews, H. M. Wells, S. G. Twitty, E. K. Haynes.

Clerks – Y. R. Royal, S. J. Matthews, Samuel Gibson, J. F. Bussey, W. P. Montague, R. F. Hyatt, S. G. Twitty, S. J. Matthews, J. H. Hammock

Sheriffs – D. D. Greer, W. D. Ford, J. S. Jordan, D. S. Wells, J. L. Haynes, J. A. Baker, J. H. Hammock, S. E. Cole, T. W. Haynes, J. H. Hammock, C. F. Hudspeth

Treasurers – W. C. Guice, Jesse Newton, George Prosis, W. P. Montague, P. R. Smith, J. H. Rayland, Z. E. Kerr, H. M. Hankins

Coroners – T. Hale, Jacob Martin (J. D. Berry succeeded Martin), J. Werrett, H> H> Wells, S. H. Dabney, D. D. Greer, V. Garrison, H. H. Crook, S. H. Grubbs, W. P. Burk, G. W. Gill, J. W. Crook, R. E. Owens, Jesse Bowden, C. T. Duke, R. F. Hyatt.

Surveyors – E. J. Howard, M. G. Welch (Elijah Henry appointed July 9, 1857), T. W. Gulleger, R. H. Hestor, M. L. Stinson, Ab. Wilson

Assessors – E. W. Good, O. P. Madess (rejected and H. C. Brooks in office from March 18, 1871), H. C. Burke, J. Folliard, J. F. Folliard, J. F. Bussey, W. L. Hart, W. F. Bessellieu, M. G. Peebles

The Representatives in the Lower House of the State Legislature were: Wilford Garner, in the Seventh; Hugh Rogers, in the Eighth; Ninth, W. D. Crook; Tenth, William G. Guice; Eleventh, William D. Trotter; Twelfth, C. F. Hemmingway; Thirteenth, W. M. Harrison and C. F. Memmingway; Fourteenth, B. Collins and E. H. Haynes; Fifteenth, William Cox and F. H. Boyd. Confederate Legislature, September 22 to October 2, 1864, Benjamin Collins and E. H. Haynes; Sixteenth, L. L. Brooks and Benjamin Collins; Seventeenth, D. S. Wells; Eighteenth (Twenty-second District, comprising Ashley, Chicot, Drew and Desha Counties) < A. J. Robinson, C. W. Preddy, H. Marr, E. A. Fulton, J. W. Harris and John Webb; Nineteenth, A. E. Beardsley; Twenty-second District, S. W. McLeod, John C. Collins, X. J. Pindall, O. F. Parish, J. T. W. Tillar and J. E. Joslyn. At an extra session, convened by Elisha Baxter, governor, May 11, 1874, the Twenty second District was represented by J. T. W. Tillar, L. L. Jonston, A. W. Files and X. J. Pindall; Twentieth, D. S. Wells; Twenty-first, James R. Cotham; Twenty-second, D. E. Baker; Twenty-third, L. E. Baker; Twenty-fourth, D. E. Baker; Twenty-fifth, D. E. Baker; Twenty-sixth, N. Y. Waddsworth; Twenty-seventh, N. Y. Waddsworth.

Monticello, the county seat of Drew County, is situated on the Warren Branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and has a population of about 2,000. Its total valuation of property is \$449,965, divided into: Real, \$158,745, and personal \$291,220. Goods and merchandise are valued at \$75,690; moneys, credits, book accounts, etc., \$123,560; domestic animals, \$15,800; all other kinds of personal property, \$66,170.

At the July term of the county court, 1849, the question was first agitated of moving the seat of justice from Rough and Ready. At the October term of court of that year three commissioners were appointed to select a new location. These commissioners were Josiah Halcomb, John M. Carr, and J. Sanders. At the January term of court, 1850, they filed a report to the effect that Fountain C. Austin had deeded to the county eighty-three and two one-hundredths acres, for the purpose of building thereon the county seat. The town was surveyed and platted July 24, 26, 27 and 30, and August 1, 1849, the deed and plat were displayed in court. The report further showed that they had let the building of a temporary courthouse to William D. Ford, the consideration being \$174, the house to be completed by February 1, 1850, and the public square to be 170 feet square. The October term of county court was the first court held in Monticello, and from there dates the removal of the county seat.

Abel Whitehead was granted license to keep the first tavern, and William J. Barksdale was the first man to sell liquor in the new town. The village was incorporated December 20, 1852. July 3, 1853, John M. Sanders, county commissioner, reported sales made of town lots to the amount of \$2,960.27, and

that he had paid out \$817, besides \$1,400 to Hyatt & Wells, for building a jail making a total of \$2,217 expended. This left in the hands of the commissioners \$728.47 together with \$107.95, a total on hand of \$836.43 and a total received by the commissioners of \$3,053.48. This is the precise way in which the report shows on the record, and while there is a slight discrepancy in the total, the report was accepted and approved.

In November, 1855, plans and specifications for a courthouse was submitted, to be a frame building forty feet front, sixty-five feet deep and two stories high, not to exceed in cost \$5,300. In January, 1870, the site for the present courthouse was selected; plans and specifications were submitted, and the contract awarded, \$20,070 being appropriated for the building. The cornerstone was laid in October, 1870. Additional appropriations were made during the process of construction, till the entire cost approximated nearly \$40,000. The building is a magnificent brick structure. The tower is 110 feet high, standing high above all surrounding objects. A four-dial clock marks time and strikes the hour. In July, 1860, \$6,350 was appropriated for the building of a new jail, and in 1866 \$4,500 was devoted to repairs. This jail yet does service for such offenders as come within the scope of its authority.

Monticello has had a steady growth over since its foundation. The merchants are alive to the interests of the place, wide awake, and fully abreast of the times. The public square is lined with good brick and frame buildings, most of them two stories high. A business in enjoyed ranging from \$10,000 to \$120,000 a year, and all the branches of trade are well represented. Of the cotton crop of 1889, 14,000 bales were shipped from this place. Religious interests are looked after by the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches, and the colored folk also have organizations. Rev. E. N. Evans is pastor of the Methodist Church, and Rev. Frank White pastor of the Baptist Church, the Presbyterian pastorate is now vacant. A fact that speaks volumes for the town is that the people voted out saloons some time ago.

Monticello's public school is the pride and boast of the citizens, there being an enrollment of 400 children, while the expenditures are over \$4,000 yearly for educational purposes. The school is graded and employs four assistants besides the superintendent. The building itself is a handsome modern structure, erected at a cost of \$3,500. The Negro children are also well cared for, two-fifths of all the moneys expended for school purposes being in their behalf. There are two separate buildings for their use. Over 300 scholars are enrolled. Monticello has the only bank in Southeast Arkansas, known as the Bank of Monticello. Its paid-up capital stock is \$40,000.

Another evidence of the thrift and enterprise of the city is the grounds of the Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association, of Southeast Arkansas, located here. In October, 1880, was held the fifteenth annual fair. The district supporting this enterprise is composed of Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Cleveland, Chicot, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lincoln and Union Counties in Arkansas and

West Carroll, Morehouse, Union and Ouachita Parishes in Louisiana. The exhibits cover all departments usual in such cases, and premiums are awarded horses, cattle, mules, sheep, hogs, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, implements, manufactured articles, etc.; field products, domestic industry, preserves, pickles, cakes, wines, etc., fine arts, bric-a-brac, etc.

The city government is looked after by a mayor, board of aldermen and town marshal, all elective offices. Being situated in the "hills", the drainage of the place is excellent. An abundance of water is furnished by cisterns and wells. The Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Knights of Honor each have lodges here. A telephone line affords communication with Hamburg.

Tillar, next in importance to Monticello, from a commercial standpoint, is situated on the main line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, in the northeast corner of the county. It has a population of about 130. Several general merchandise stores thrive here and considerable quantities of cotton and lumber are shipped annually. The town was laid off in 1879 and the first house completed in May of that year. Six thousand bales of cotton, 50,000,000 cypress shingles, valued at \$125,000; \$13,500 worth of cotton seed and 125 carloads of hewn timber were shipped from this point during the season of 1888-89, much of the timber finding a market in Europe. The extent of the business done in the town merchandise will approximate \$200,000 each year. The Methodists have an organization and church and Sunday school services are held regularly. A church and public school building affords opportunity for the instruction of children.

Among the general interests are 4 general stores, steam gin and grist-mill, 3 saw mills, 2 hotels, blacksmith, wagon and barber shops and 2 resident physicians.

The Masons and Knights of Pythias each have lodges.

Baxter and Collins, on the Warren Branch Railway, are thriving little villages, and are mainly supply and cotton shipping stations. Wilmar and Alice, west of Monticello, are lumber stations.

Agricultural pursuits form the chief industry of the citizens of Drew County.

Though corn and cotton are conceded to be the staple crops, oats, field peas, sorghum, and millet are raised quite extensively. The lands on Bayou Bartholomew are the richest and most productive. Cultivated as it is, in a very indifferent manner from other localities, this section yields an average crop of one bale of cotton per acre, valued at \$40, and 30 bushels of corn, with a cash value of \$15. The cost of raising a bale of cotton is estimated to be \$7. This land may be purchased at a price ranging from \$5 to \$15 per acre. All cleared land in this district rents at \$5 per acre. The hills or uplands of the county, while not so productive naturally (though they are preferable for residence purposes, being removed from the malarial influences of the bottoms) yield a bountiful return for labor expended in their cultivation, producing one half bale of cotton and fifteen bushels of corn to the acre, and by judicious distribution of fertilizers they become equally as productive as the bayou lands. Stock raising is receiving no little attention, mostly in connect with farming interests. For thirty years there have been occasional importations of short-horn cattle, and within the last ten

years quite a number of Jerseys have been shipped in, and are rapidly growing in popular favor. A few grade stallions of the Norman and Clydesdale breeds are now here. Considerable attention has also been devoted to road horses. One planter, Capt. Isom, has for several years past given his whole time to raising horses and mules suitable for plantation work, and has found it quite profitable. The grass best adapted to the physical conditions existing here is the Bermuda, fine for pasture purposes, and very hardy; three and four crops of hay are frequently cut from the same piece of land in one year. Japanese clover a few years since made its appearance along the roadsides and has evidently "come to stay", as on the town commons, in old fields, and even in the timber it now grows, and is excellent for pasture. The orchid grass and red top do fairly well. On the bottom lands of the Bayou red clover is successfully grown.

The garden and field vegetables are here surrounded by conditions that promote their fullest growth. Every variety of those peculiar to the temperate zone seems to thrive more quickly and to better advantage here than elsewhere. Among the fruits are summer and fall apples, the leading varieties being the Shannon, Quinby and Curtis Blue. Those apples grown farther north in the State, of the winter grade, do not prove satisfactory here, as they ripen too early. There are, however, several native seedlings that are pronounced good keepers. For peaches this county cannot be surpassed. The crop is rarely, if ever a failure and every known variety seems to be especially suited to its soil and climate. On the lowlands, the early trees sometimes blossom too early and are frostbitten. They ripen from the latter part of May till frost in the fall. Pears do well. The several varieties of the Chickasaw plums, and the wild goose plum are the best grown. Considerable attention has been turned to raising grapes for wine, and the wine made from the Isles, Norton's Virginia, Cinthiana, Scuppernong, and grapes of that type, rivals the California wines. Strawberries and raspberries are certain crops, and would be quite profitable with closer railroad connections.

Just in the infancy of their development are the timber resources of the county, the cypress received first attention, and much of it has been sawed up, but there are large bodies of cypress timber yet intact.

About 250 square miles of pine grows in the county, very little of which has been cut, the larger portion lies in the western part, while the remaining area is covered with hardwood forests, including the different varieties of white and black oaks, hickory, gum, elm, sycamore, beech and holly. Along the bayou the oak is converted into barrel staves, in which work many men are engaged. The gum is largely being logged and shipped to England.

Drew is one of the counties of Southeastern Arkansas, being in the second tier from the Mississippi River, also from the Louisiana State line. It is bounded on the north by Lincoln and Desha Counties, on the east by Desha and Chicot Counties, on the south by Ashley and on the west by Bradley and Cleveland Counties. In shape it is nearly square, extending twenty-seven miles north and south. The greatest length east and west is thirty-three miles, but the average distance is but little over thirty miles. In area it has about 828 square miles, or

526,720 acres. This county is situated in the basin of the Mississippi Valley, lying principally between the Saline River and Bayou Bartholomew. The surface is generally gently rolling, and has a slight declension from north to south.

Beginning a short distance north and west of the center of the county is a chain of hills that extends in a northwesterly direction to the county border. Rough and Ready is the notable of these. Adown the central portion of the county is the dividing ridge, between the bayou and Saline River; from this divide the interior creeks take their rise, and flow either in an eastern or western direction.

Excepting the alluvial lands of the bayou (containing about 1000,000 acres), and of the Saline River bottoms (containing about 8,000 acres), the county is upland. This hill land is usually a clayey loam, yet in some parts considerable gravel is found, more especially in the range of hills, before mentioned.

Excepting about twenty five square miles of prairie situated in small areas along the ridge, the whole surface is covered with a growth of pine and hardwood timber, the Saline bottom is low and swampy, being subject to inundation, and is chiefly utilized for grazing, for cattle, and range for ogs, which thrive well on the mast. The lowlands along Bayou Bartholomew are free from overflow, and are distinct from the lands of the rest of the county; the western edge terminates abruptly at the hills or bluffs.

Of the interior streams, Ables Creek in the northeastern part of county is tributary to the bayou, as also are Four Mile and Cut Off Creeks. Tributary to the Saline are Hudgens, Ten Mile, Seven Mile, Hanley, Hungry Run, Langford, Jumper and Clear Creeks.

In several localities are springs which gush forth from the hillsides, but none of them are especially notable.

Scattered over a great portion of the county are low mounds, seldom reaching an altitude of over five feet, and more frequently under than over, the circumferences varying from 50 to 200 feet around the base. They are laid out without regard for the cardinal points of the compass. Each mound appears to be the center of the radii of a gigantic circle. Attesting their great age, stand on the very summits of many of them massive forest trees, seeming as though they might have resisted the storms of centuries.

Right nobly and promptly did the men of Drew County respond when the call to arms was sounded in 1861. Companies were raised by Capts. Jackson, Haslip, Whittington, Hudspeth, Isom, Thomas, Ragland, Owens, Wolfe, Hellum, Reed, Miller, Taylor, Henry and "Pink" Burk, each, besides a few others who recruited men from this and adjoining counties. No battles were fought in the county, yet there were a few skirmishes, the Federal troops were here frequently, and at the surrender in 1865, there were two companies in Monticello.