



**The Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.
including Garfield & Pine Log, Arkansas, a 501 (c)(3) Charity**

www.gladehistorynwa.org

Glade Newsletter #1, 2025

Join us on January 26, 2025, 2 p.m. at Garfield City Hall

Speaker: Erin Rowe, author of An Ozark Culinary History.

“Pickled in the Ozarks”

The work of the society is to preserve the history of Garfield, Pine Log, and Glade by researching and gathering stories, documents & artifacts to connect with the community.

Simon McGinnis opened the Glade Post Office in 1903, and Raymond Nichols closed it in 1945. Many changes occurred during those years. Farmers eked out a living on rugged terrain while children attended school, for three to six months, in one-room schoolhouses in their community. Children’s educational skills often surpassed their parents’ earlier opportunities. On sabbath day, most families attended church.

The Glade Post office closed during the Civil War when the postmaster joined the fight. The war’s end settled slavery, but Reconstruction failed to uplift African American’s rights for a hundred years. Much turmoil occurred as economic and social changes brought crime and violence while immigration to the Ozarks increased rapidly. The days between the Civil War and the Depression were filled with unrest, strife, and hard work on the farm. Rivers, creeks, springs, and wells were necessary water sources. Rutted, rocky roads, poverty, and geographic isolation hindered travel. Candles, kerosene lamps, and outhouses were common. Customarily, baths were once a week.

Housing, food, education, clothing, and entertainment were produced by families and neighbors. Family life usually consisted of two working adults, though life expectancy was forty-seven years in 1900. Once married, a woman’s property had passed to her husband until 1892, when federal district judge Isaac Parker (The Hanging Judge) from Fort Smith held that women could keep their estate. This allowed women ownership of their property if they remarried, Women were necessary caretakers inside the home, with little resistance to men’s work outside

Vance Randolph was born in 1892 in Pittsburg, Kansas. He spent years in the four-state area gathering characteristic speech styles. He collected grammar, folklore, and Ozark dialects he found fascinating, often in bars. Down in the Holler was first published in 1953 by the University of Oklahoma Press. Randolph died in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1980.

Not everyone lived in poverty. Less than twenty-five miles away from Glade, Coin Harvey came to Rogers and opened a resort at Monte Ne in 1901. It boasted a golf course, dance pavilion, tennis court, and the first Arkansas indoor swimming pool. He imported authentic Venetian gondolas to carry visitors across the slough that separated the depot from the hotels.



Violence didn't end after the war. Vigilantes increased, and the Ku Klux Klan rose as law and order at any cost grew in popularity. Approximately one hundred miles away, Jim Crow laws disenfranchised non-whites. Lynchings were common in Oklahoma after it became a state in 1907. By 1921, the KKK in Tulsa had grown to 72,000 members. It was a booming oil city, and most Black people lived in Greenwood in relative prosperity. They had their businesses and services until 1921 when a white elevator operator appeared distressed. A Black male saw her and summoned the authorities, but he tripped as he got onto the elevator and grabbed her arm. She screamed but made no other report. He was arrested. A possible lynching was rumored at the courthouse. Crowds gathered, and gunshots occurred in Greenwood. Fires began, followed by more assaults. Airplanes fired rifles and dropped firebombs. At least 300 people were killed in the Tulsa Massacre of 1921. Their town was demolished, and many graves remained unmarked until recently. Only two elderly Blacks survive today.

Before Raymond Nichols closed the post office in 1945, Wall Street collapsed in 1929 and the Depression followed. Banks closed and the poverty that followed ruined lives, but the New Deal created bridges, roads, and many opportunities to work. It gave people a chance to survive on a dollar a day.

The New Deal brought electricity to the Ozarks. Representative Clyde Ellis was born in 1908 on a Garfield farm, the oldest of nine children. He attended Ruddick School (still standing on Highway 127) Garfield High, and the University of Arkansas. He taught and became Superintendent of Garfield Schools. He pioneered the nation's rural electrification program created in 1935 and helped persuade the federal government to include hydropower plants at dams originally designed for flood control only. He helped bring electricity to thirty other countries. He's buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Most of the rural Ozarks were open-range. Settlers drove cattle herds to the Garfield stockyard, and the train later, for shipment. In some places, cattle could forage and find streams and springs. Cattle from the Glade area could roam from the White River to the top of Whitney Mountain. Salt blocks were left in known grazing locations, and the herd recognized their owner's cattle call. Small ticks often

jumped on the horseback rider and covered his arms and legs. Once home, his first chore was to build a small fire and singe them to rid himself of misery.

Herb Williams shared this tale: After the Glade Post Office closed, the gas pump in front of the store was emptied, He helped his dad dig the empty fuel storage tank. They had the tank cut in half horizontally, then moved and anchored it in a metal frame in a pasture south of the house. Their next step was to connect the pipe from the enclosed spring across the road that Simon McGinnis had built years earlier.

The plentiful spring had previously surged from a hill about twenty-five feet north of the roadway. Simon McGinnis controlled it by engineering a surprising concrete room, approximately ten by ten feet. Inside the room, he built a six-by-eight-foot concrete border, two feet tall. It maintained a steady pool of water. Outside, a concrete fifteen-foot, smooth walkway with uniformed five-foot concrete sides allowed humans entry through the doorway. The excess water was piped under the road to the pasture on the south side of said road.

For years, water flowed from the two-inch pipe down the hill into the pasture before Herb and his dad connected the pipe to their converted water trough. The McGinnis room, though unique for its time, provided a cool respite and safe harbor in the community.

Not to be wasted was the other half of the storage tank. They moved it half a mile around the mountain to the Jimmy Fox Hollow and placed it under a natural spring that flowed into the tank. To make it work, they dug out the hill, securely placed the tank, and pushed a pipe far into the spring. It provided year-round water for the livestock during those days of open range. Jimmy Fox was a young man who lived in Jimmy Fox Hollow. Somewhere around the age of twenty-five, he moved into the Jim Horn family, but no one is left to tell us that story.

Glade Community Historical Society Inc. Board members: Judi Walter, Ruth Billingsley, Gary Blackburn, Dorothy Williams, and Patricia Heck.

Membership Dues are \$20 annually. Dues include four meetings, four or more newsletters, and music at the schoolhouse.

Please send dues to Ruth Billingsley at 97 W. Champion Blvd. Rogers, AR 72758, or pay online at www.gladehistorynwa.org