

Glade Store & Post Office ca, 1880

The Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.

Garfield, AR 72732

Including Pine Log and Garfield

Newsletter #3: 2014

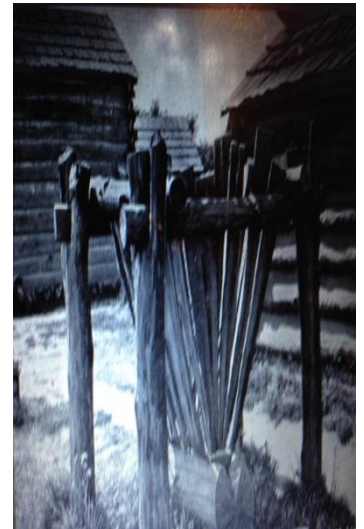
Reminder: The 14th annual reunion of Garfield Schools is scheduled this month on June 20 and 21st

“Historical Facts and Stories from Glade, AR”

Glade’s first residents made their own soap. From 1857 till the early 1900s’s most soap-making probably occurred at home in Glade. Records don’t indicate when soap was discovered, but according to *The History of Soap* site, it states that Phoenicians used it around 600 B.C. The Romans made soap a luxury item until the late 18th century. The rich could afford it, and as methods of soap making improved, soap use became inexpensive, and attitudes toward cleanliness changed, making soap a big industry. It was good to be clean!

Early settlers’ in the United States made their own ash hopper of wood. It was a V-shaped structure, wider at the top to dump in ashes and to catch more rainfall to penetrate the ashes. It narrowed at the bottom and slanted from back to front so it could drip into the trough at the bottom of the V and then flow into a covered bucket of wood or stoneware. The bucket was carefully emptied into a bigger wood barrel and kept away from children and fowls. Lye was corrosive and needed to be carefully handled. Today, ash hoppers are rare, and wood ash lye gave way to commercial lye as it was more convenient.

But ash hoppers were important in making lye soap in the 1800’s and earlier. Note this ash hopper, a smaller replica of one found at New Salem Illinois State Park where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood. Ashes from home fireplaces and stoves were dumped into the ash hopper and as it rained, the water leached the lye from the ashes and it flowed to a container below the hopper. The wood ash lye was needed for soap making and was combined with water and bacon drippings or other animal fats.



Lye soap was used to bathe the family, clean clothes on a washboard, and scrub the house. During the 1800’s commercial lye was developed, but residents didn’t have access to commercial lye in Glade’s early years. When commercial lye became available, soap continued to be made at home, but ash hoppers became obsolete. Back in the day, lye was used to make hominy, too. It was made from dried corn, water and a little lye. Today commercial lye is controlled in some states because it has been used to make methamphetamine or crank. Both are illegal drugs.

There were many recipes for soap. According to *Bittersweet* of the Springfield-Greene County Library, lye can be made quickly by putting a gallon of ashes in a cloth, tying it and putting the lye in a granite pan with two gallons of water. The pan is set on the heating stove to keep warm overnight. And, the recipe for nine pounds of lye soap requires 1 can Lye, 2-1/2 pints water, or 2 pints ash lye and 6 pounds fat. In the old days, it was bacon grease and other fats. First the water is poured into the lye without breathing the fumes as it heats. Then the mixture is brought to a boil before adding the grease. It is

stirred as it cooks so it won't boil over. When it is done it will string or bead up like jelly. Then it is poured into a container to cool. When it hardens, the soap is cut into squares. Potassium hydroxide is used to make liquid soap but it is not interchangeable with sodium hydroxide. Commercial lye can be purchased at some hardware stores or ordered online. Several sites are listed on the internet. Or, you can learn to make soap on You-tube. Several different people demonstrate how to make a variety of soaps and detergents. Some make soap to sell and some make it to use at home or because they think it is better for their skin.

The adventure of moving the old Glade Post Office/store continues. The building is more than a century old, and the money to move the building has been approved. Disrupted from moving by spring rains that softened the earth, and the Highway 62 widening project which continues at a fast pace. Now, we are waiting for the mover to receive approval to begin the move down Gann Ridge road or Highway 62 to highway 127 to Slate Gap Road and its return to Glade, AR.

Simon Lycurgus "Dick" McGinnis was Glade's first postmaster in 1903. The McGinnis family had moved from Tennessee to eastern Benton County into the Coal Gap community before 1870. He married Emma Hegwood and they raised their family (Edna, Alva, Golda, Everett and Sylvia) at Glade. Raymond Nichols was the last Glade postmaster and the store closed in 1945. The building was moved to Pea Ridge by Liss Williams when he left Glade because of Beaver Lake. Once the building is returned, many hours of hard work will be required to restore the Post Office.

Garfield's first school was built in 1887 or 1888 according to Goodspeed's 1889 History of Northwest Arkansas. School was conducted on the first floor and Masonic Lodge meetings were held on the second floor. Several smaller schools in the area dissolved and were annexed to Garfield from 1920 through the 1940's. The cast iron bell in front of the school was cast by the C.S. Bell Co. of Tiffin, Ohio and it was shipped by rail, according to The History of Garfield Arkansas, 1874-1996 by Wanda Mahurin.

Amos Reynolds, 86, was born in Carroll County and lived next to By Golly. His family property was bordered on three sides by White River. He attended school at Grassy Knob. Amos and Louise recently moved from Lost Bridge Village to Derby, Kansas to be closer to relatives. Clarice Jennings Yocum, 93, attended Pine Log School for eight years and then stayed another year to further increase her formal education. Pine Log School District #111 no longer exists but was located at the corner of Pine Log and Armadillo Road. Clarice is at Jamestown Nursing Home in Rogers, AR.

We have a wonderful program for our July 27, 2014, GCHS meeting and are delighted that *Still on the Hill* will perform for us at the NEBCO FIRE-EMS Community Center, HWY 62 & S. Wimpy Jones RD in Garfield, AR. The first 100 people who attend will receive a free CD of their music. Please join us.

The purpose of the Glade society is to preserve the history of Glade and surrounding communities by researching and gathering stories, documents and artifacts.

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