

Millville , Arkansas

Located six miles south of Bearden, Millville became another of the Ouachita County sawmill towns of the early 1900s. The community was established by C. A. Buckner, who moved into the area from Wisconsin after he purchased several hundred acres of virgin forest land so he could establish what became known as the Freeman-Smith Sawmill.

During its most prosperous years, the community had a male population of between five hundred and one thousand who worked at the mill. Culturally the community offered a school to educate the children; a commissary where food could be purchased on credit guaranteed by their wages; another regular food store, and a small library.

Buchner also erected a clubhouse for the entertainment of the employees when they were not working. They played cards and threw darts. This structure was also used as a non-denominational church and ministers from various religious denominations took turns preaching from Sunday to Sunday. This clubhouse was unique to the area and it was featured in a national article that was published by the American Lumberman.

Millville also offered a Ford agency, with Buchner as its owner. Employees of the mill could purchase automobiles there at cost.

However, once the timber had been removed Millville started to die like the other sawmill communities of the county. Today, Salem Cemetery documents the presence of many who were associated with the mill during their lives. Only a highway sign reading "Millville" reminds the traveler of what once was a thriving community.