

Troy, Arkansas

By: Harlon Lusby as presented to the Ouachita/Calhoun Genealogical Society at a meeting, 18 May 2003

Mr. Lusby was born at Troy on 11 July 1914 and married there on 18 June 1933. Lusby went to school at Troy through the eighth grade, walking two miles to school. Lusby related that back then you either walked or rode horses to school. The school was called Woodlawn and only six people who attended the school are still living in 2003. After finishing school at Woodlawn, three of the students went on to school in Magnolia.

Troy is now a wilderness. Two and one half miles from where U.S. 278 intersects with Arkansas 57 there is a sign that marks the Troy community. Silver Springs Methodist Church, where Lusby attended Sunday school, remains in the community.

Troy was a big community and some of the families were the Tribbles, Deans, Lusbys, Jordans, Daltons, Pruitts, and the Reddicks. Ninety-six families once called Troy home.

Back then, people rose at 4 or 5 a.m. to start their day, men in the fields and women in the house and gardens. Lanterns were used in the field and oil lamps in the house. Men from the community would help each other when they needed it.

Troy Museum, from *The Quarterly*, Vol 30, No 2, Winter 1998

The Riddick family were on their way to the California gold fields in 1849 when they decided to settle at the western edge of Ouachita County at a location that would become known as Troy. The Riddick family died on the land they settled there along with Indians and their slaves. During Benjamin Franklin Riddick's lifetime at Troy he owned a general store, a cotton gin and a machine shop. He was also a farmer growing cotton, corn, potatoes and sugar cane. In the early days the nearest post office was at Champagnolle, over 50 miles away in Union County. Eventually Troy had a Post Office by the same name. In 1930 Troy opened a new brick school building. Troy did not continue to prosper, people moved away and farms grew up in trees. By 1950 many of the homes, buildings, orchards and big trees were all gone. But Troy has not been forgotten, Troy Museum sits on the old B. F. Riddick place, between Highway 57 and the cemetery. Waymond Launius and Benny Riddick were motivated to build a log cabin and raise funds to provide a place where memories could be revisited. Display cases hold such mementos as a Camark Pottery rooster, a Troy School reader and a pocket watch. Many old photographs of Troy and the community keep memories alive for returning visitors.