

Elliott, Arkansas

By Flossie Moore as presented to the Ouachita/Calhoun Genealogical Society at a meeting, 28 Aug 2005.

A small crossroad junction stop, Elliott is located between Cullendale and Louann on Arkansas 376 South. Elliott was at one time a thriving community with "mom and pop" businesses that supported the community. As early as 1920 and probably as far back as the 1890s the community was reaching its peak in population.

At one time it had two or more grocery stores, a post office, train depot, pool hall, cotton gin, lumber mill, restaurant, feed store, three or more schools, sawmill and a doctor's office.

Mary Elliott was the first postmaster, and Dr. Plunkett specialized in all illnesses and made house calls all over the community. Midwives were in great demand in the black communities as well as people with knowledge of herbs and their healing effect. Some of the midwives were Mrs. Betsey Simmons, Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and Grandma Mary Ann Oliver.

The schools were Oak Grove, Elliott Community Center School, Bluff Springs, and Shady Grove with grades pre-primar to eighth grade. The schools were basically one-room structure. Early teachers were Mrs. Mary Bragg, Mrs. Dee Patterson, the Rev. Lonnie and Lewellen Anderson and professor McCree.

Store owners were D. A. Braswell, Mr. Columbus Cathay, the Martin's and Mr. and Mrs. Grissom, who after 40 years closed their store in 1999.

The Post Office was incorporated with Camden which most likely took some of the neighborhood's identity.

In the 30s and 40s the passenger trains made four stops a day. Today, a freight train runs twice a day through Elliott. Old Highway 7 was built in 1928 taking three years to complete. It is now called Arkansas Highway 376 South. Wagons and buggies were used a great deal because Elliott was a farming community with produce being cotton, corn, peas, sugar cane and other vegetables.

Like all communities, Elliott had its citizens of great leadership: Col. Norman Warnock, an attorney; the Rev. Will Elliott, a man of vision; Deacon Noah Elliott, a carpenter and a believer in the "No Child Left Behind" slogan long before th phrase was coined. Deacon Elliott led the effort in bringing electricity to the rural area. Mr. Louis McHenry within the Good Home area, strived for educating the youth and other initiatives. Elliot had its share of constables, with the present one being Mr. Grissom.

Some family members of the community were the Patterson's Warnock's, Marks, Lambert's, Russell's, Jeff Rogers, Vernard Norful and Edgar Bowie.

Elliott is a small country Christian community with metropolitan ideas and a quiet multi-racial community that receives love and gives love. It has found known churches within its boundaries, Elliott Baptist, New Jerusalem Baptist, Good Home Baptist and Calvary Missionary. The rural churches continue to lose parishioners each year due to a lack of jobs within the county regions and are headed for extinction.