Gatlin, Arkansas

Contributed by Carolyn Cox, 2014

Gatlin was a short-lived community located about a mile and one-quarter northwest of present-day Bearden. An entry in the Goodspeed Histories of Arkansas explains that it was named for William M. Gatling, who opened a mercantile business on his farm there in the spring of 1880. The store also housed a post office with Margaret Sloan Gatling serving as postmistress. In 1883 Gatling moved his business to the newly-established railroad town of Bearden. That same year, the community of Gatlin appeared on a map of Ouachita County by Gray, and it continued to appear on county maps for some time. The spelling was consistently Gatlin. Several of those maps, including Bradley’s 1889 map, put the location northwest of Millville rather than Bearden. Cram’s 1895 map shows a location northwest of Bearden in agreement with the Goodspeed article.