

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.