

Lufra, Arkansas

Submitted by Carolyn Cox, January 2015

The origin of the name Lufra is unknown. A book of early Arkansas post offices records that in 1881 a post office was established at Lufra, "which was to be Two Bayou." The location given was exactly the same as the old post office at Two Bayou which had been in operation from 1851 to 1871. However, the 1889 Bradley map and the 1898 Cram map show Lufra to be further south in Section 7 of Township 14 S, Range 18 W. This location agrees with several internet map sites that place it on present-day Ouachita 4 about a mile west of the intersection with 219. The Lufra post office was in operation from 1881 to 1904 when it was merged with Buena Vista. The name Lufra faded from use and that area is generally referred to as Two Bayou, the name it was meant to have originally.

Benjamin F. Jordan was the first to receive a land patent in Section 7. Jerdon Creek was named for him. Hale Creek was named for William P. Hale, another early settler. Marriage records from 1891 to 1904 show these applicants giving Lufra as their place of residence: Criner, Yarbrough, Rollins, Anderson, Merritt, Lide, Randle, Tribble, Stockman, Garner and many others. A 1900 business directory listed M.D. Hale as owner of a saw mill and Nathan F. *Hallon* (Haltom) as a physician. Metza D. Hale served as county judge from 1908-1912.

Lunet, Arkansas

Lunet was located about eight miles northeast of Chidester in Section 24 of Township 11S 18W. It appeared on the 1898 Cram map of Ouachita County. The post office at Lunet served the entire Tate's Bluff area from 1887 until 1906 when the mail was directed to Chidester. A book of early Arkansas post offices reports that it was to have been named Victoria. The reason for the name Lunet is unknown. A 1900 business directory listed J.L. Bacon, general store; Diffie & Son, gristmill; M.W. McGill, general store; J.M. McKenzie, blacksmith; R.J. Stinnett, proprietary medicines; R.J. Tate, general store. Lunet would have been on present-day Ouachita 26 between roads 369 and 305 in the vicinity of Rocky Hill Church.

Tremont, Arkansas

The community of Tremont was located in the southeastern corner of Ouachita County in Section 27 of Township 15S 15W on the Champagnolle Road. Section 27 is about six miles east of Snow Hill near the intersection of Ouachita 511 and 71. Miller's Bluff is to the north. Tremont was shown on the 1889 Bradley map, the 1895 Rand, McNally map and the 1898 Cram map. Tremont had a post office from 1879 to 1900.

The name Tremont came from a Ouachita County political township that appeared first on the 1860 census. The census taker grouped it with Washington and Bridge Creek townships. One of the earliest and largest landowners was Dr. Anderson P. Farris. In 1864 a Union mapmaker-scout noted that there was a distillery in the area and that Felix W. Laney and Josiah Norris had fords to the south on Smackover Creek. The census of 1870 listed O.B. Register, M.L. Langley and E.W. Lightfoot as merchants. D.N. Mullins was the local minister. In the 1880s M.E. Langley operated a grist mill. Other names common to that area were Goodwin, Cunningham, Tatom, Toney, Stephens and Moore. The censuses of 1870 and 1880 listed Tremont Township separately, but it was later merged into Washington Township. A 1900 business directory listed only one business, the saw mill of W.M. Johnson. Before long both the community and the township of Tremont faded away.

Benjamin T. Laney, a grandson of the aforementioned Felix W. Laney, became mayor of Camden and served as the governor of Arkansas from 1945 to 1949. Interestingly, he

said he came from “Cooterneck” and another source said he came from “the Jones Chapel area.”

Buffalo, Arkansas

Buffalo appeared on the 1855 Colton map of Ouachita County. It had one of the first post offices in Ouachita County. Located in Section 13 of Township 15S 16W, the post office was operational from 1846 to 1866. Buffalo was a busy trading center for the southeastern part of the county with roads from Camden, Hampton, Mount Holly, Champagnolle and El Dorado intersecting there. Buffalo was not far from Newport Landing on the Ouachita River. A Civil War map of the area noted the locations of Hopewell Church, Beech Hill and the home of Mrs. John (Nancy) Bryant. A later one marked Shiloh Church and Johnston’s grist mill.

A few families who gave Buffalo as their address in 1860 were the Kennedys, McCrees, McKenzies, McLaughlins, Joneses, Cramers, Langleys, Hildreths, Masseys and Myatts. A survey of that census showed J.W. Ayers, surveyor; James A. Norris, W.C. Farris and J.L. Elliott, merchants; Anderson P. Farris, W.J. Parker and Thomas C. Barnett, physicians. And unlike other communities where almost everyone was a farmer, Buffalo had more than a dozen clerks and numerous mechanics and machinists. There was a blacksmith, carpenter and bricklayer. What happened to that thriving community? Today it is simply known as Cross Roads.