

Onalaska

In 1893, the timber industry in Ouachita County was at its peak, and B.F. Blanchard, who was a Trustee for William Carlisle and Company, was actively involved in purchasing virgin timberland in the county. History records that he purchased 7,726 acres from the Winchester & Redfield of Connecticut for a sum of \$9,658. He also acquired two hundred acres from William McGowan for \$75; 694 acres from the Madison Land and Lumber Company of Wisconsin for \$3,472; and on the list of purchase continued. This timber resulted in the creation of the Onalaska community of Ouachita County.

Located in the vicinity near Lillie and Harmony Grove and it took its name from the Onalaska Lumber Company that was established in the area. James H. Percy was the first postmaster of the new community in 1898. Phillip Agee followed him in that position. Clyde Crawford's father had a blacksmith shop there, and Clyde was the husband of Maude Crawford who was at the center of Camden's most enduring mystery.

When the Onalaska Lumber Company was established, William Carlisle knew the virgin timber would soon be cut out. Thus, in 1903 he sent the mill foreman, L.O. Jackson to search for a new location. Several thousand acres of timberland was purchased in Polk County, Texas, and in 1904 a new mill went into operation with the assistance of thirty key men from Onalaska, Arkansas. By 1914, the community had disappeared and the post office was moved to Eagle Mills.

Like many other settlement areas of the county, what once was in this area has been erased from the landscape.