

Tremont

The name Tremont means “three mountains” in French. An old community of that name was situated in southeast Ouachita County east of present-day Snow Hill and northeast of present-day Joyce City. Perhaps the earliest reference to Tremont as a town is found on a July 1861 roster of students at LaGrange Military Academy in Alabama, which included W.A. Farris from Tremont, Arkansas. [This young man came home, enlisted in October at Camden, was captured at Fort Donelson in January 1862 and died at Camp Butler in March.]

According to historian Russell Baker, Tremont had grown large enough for a post office by 1879. The post office closed twenty years later, but during that period county marriage records show a number of applicants whose place of residence was Tremont: Murphy, Norris, Williams, Goodwin, Moody, Moore, Banks, Avera, Bennett, et al. Tremont appeared on a Rand, McNally map of the county in 1895 and another map in 1898.

Tremont was also the name of a political township at one time. In 1860 the census taker grouped Washington, Bridge Creek and Tremont townships together with the post office at Buffalo. In 1870 Tremont was listed separately, providing a clearer picture of the population of that specific township. The majority received mail from Camden; although a few got mail from Miller’s Bluff. Most residents were farmers, but living among them were O.B. Register, E.W. Lightfoot and M.L. Langley (merchants), A.P. Farris (physician), Thomas Tatum (blacksmith), James Cunningham, Alex Powers and W.W. Martin (carpenters), D.N. Mullens (minister), George Flenniken (rafter) and J.A. Holloway (teacher). In 1880 among the 260 residents of Tremont Township were Y.F. Goodwin and G.W. Bridger (merchants), T.E. Humble (saloon), John Nelson and John Rood (stave makers), J.A. Cunningham (mechanic), B. Franklin and F. Blumer (doctors), C.V. Warmack and Hattie Laney (teachers) and W.P. Laney (minister). Tremont was merged with Washington Township after 1880.

Submitted by Carolyn Cox