

Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 27, No. 2 September 2008

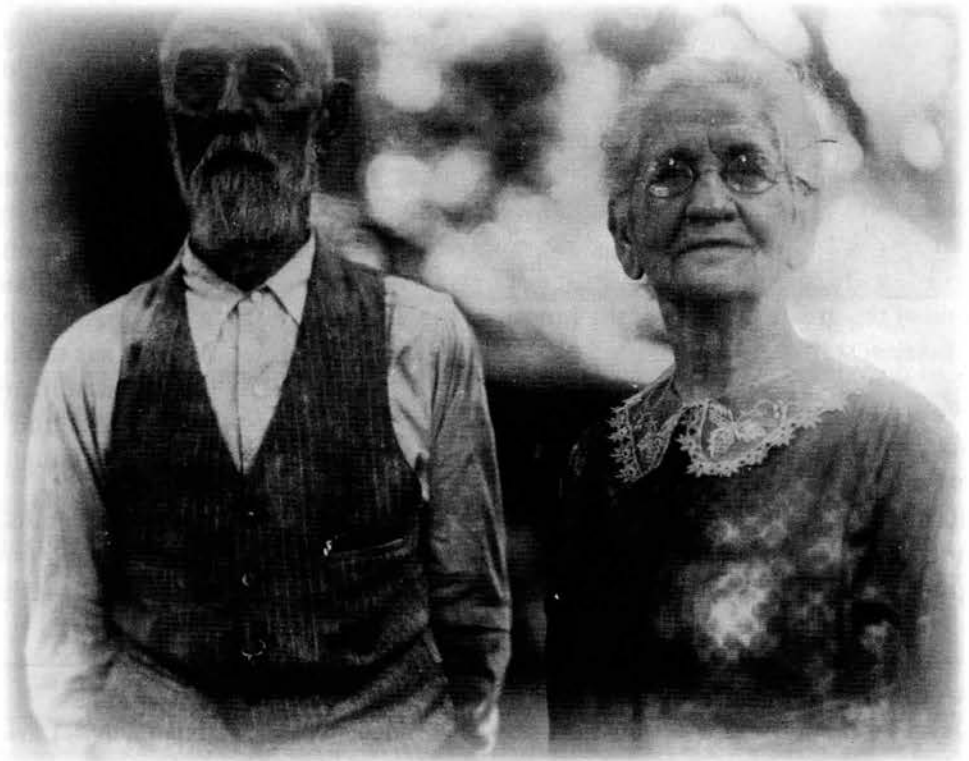
The Details of Life

Susan Young

Outreach Coordinator

Springdale farmer John J. Wayt was ever mindful of life's details: his wife's poor health, his own battles with illness, the lack of conviction among churchgoers and preachers, the weather, the sorghum business, his crops. Wayt thought about these things most every day, as evidenced in diaries he kept during the early 1900s. Seven Wayt diaries surfaced a few years ago when Earl and Mary Garrison of Springdale purchased them at an auction. Realizing the historical value in Wayt's everyday musings, the Garrisons recently donated the diaries to the Shiloh Museum.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1839, Wayt's family moved to Iowa when John was a boy. There he married Caroline Lutz on New Year's Eve, 1860—a union that would last 72 years and see the birth of eight children.



John J. and Caroline Wayt, ca. 1930. *Washington County Historical Society Collection*

In 1876 John and Caroline moved to Nebraska, then Kansas, back to Iowa, to Oklahoma, and then to Missouri before coming to Springdale about 1906. They settled on a small farm on Holcomb Street, near the present-day location of the Springdale Fire Department's main station.

Wayt was a man of many skills: schoolteacher, Methodist minister, stonemason, bricklayer, and monument maker. While living in Springdale, he was involved in the monument business and ran a sorghum factory on his Holcomb Street farm.

Wayt's diary entries make it clear that he was a busy man, and he preferred it that way. October 22, 1921 was a slow day, however, and the 82-year-old Wayt bemoaned, "Only choring. Nothing to do and it makes me lonesome. I would rather work than to be idle all the time."

Each day's diary entry records the low temperature of the day, followed by a brief but detailed description of the weather. For example, on Monday, August 14, 1916, Wayt wrote, "76°, cloudy in east but soon cleared off. 92° in afternoon." Winter weather often brought problems as seen on Sunday, Jan. 23, 1927: "31°. Rain and sleet so that many limbs are broken off the trees. Still raining and no lights, as wires are broken down. Electric incubators out of

see DIARIES, page 9

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Allyn Lord



I'm writing this column the day before I head out on three glorious weeks of vacation in Idaho, Montana, and Alberta. Despite lots of work and the museum's closing and move, I'm in an especially contented and grateful

mood these days. Projects have been going exceedingly well, facilities are being repaired, grant applications have been successful, and visitors, program attendees, and researchers alike have encountered great experiences at the museum.

But what sets the Shiloh Museum apart, I believe, and what makes it such a welcoming, interesting, and fun place to visit and work, is the quality, expertise, and hard work of our staff, volunteers, and board of trustees. I'd like to take a minute to say just a few words about one of the greatest assets of the museum, the Shiloh Museum staff.

We are fourteen members strong (eight full-time, six part-time), with a total of 160 years of museum experience. Our six full-time professional staff alone account for 127 years. Secretary **Betty Bowling** has not only kept the museum running for almost 27 years, greeting visitors, keeping the membership rolls, and

answering phones, but now provides amazing data entry work for the research library and is our go-to person for catering and soirees. Collections manager **Carolyn Reno** has been with the museum over 24 years. She cares for the museum's large collections, and also supervises building-wide issues such as climate control, security, and risk management, all with Virgo-like organization.

Outreach coordinator **Susan Young** is certainly the face of the museum, providing programs and services to civic clubs, church groups, and other Northwest Arkansas contingents. She's also the museum's heart, as a fifth generation Ozarker, who speaks, lives, and breathes our history. And she's never met a volunteer opportunity she didn't like. Special projects librarian **LuAnn Clarkson** is another staff member whose roots in the community are long and strong. Along with data entry projects on our vast photo archives, LuAnn is the mischievous pixie behind many of our staff birthday "events." An unrivaled punster, exhibits manager **Curtis Morris** has often been called a MacIver in his own right. This man of many talents can make any exhibit come alive with sound and magically appear to move, dance, sputter, or cough at the push of a button.

We've not yet discovered all the talents of collections assistant (and now national award-winning podcast producer) **Heather Marie Wells**. She can mine the

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks.

Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees on July 13, 2006

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

118 W. Johnson Avenue • Springdale, AR 72764 • 479-750-8165
www.springdaleark.org • shiloh@springdaleark.org

Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. • Free Admission

Sensational Summer Help

*Springdale resident and University of Arkansas at Monticello senior history major **Savanah Byars** spent her summer vacation as museum intern, learning the ins and outs of collections care, exhibit fabrication, and kids' summer programs. We asked Savanah to share a few thoughts about her summer at Shiloh:*

It is said that home is where the heart is. My heart is most assuredly in Springdale. My family is not originally from this lovely little section of the Ozarks but we are proud to now call it home. I am crossing my fingers and hoping to graduate in May 2009, and also hoping to be accepted into the history program at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. I'm looking forward to being home year-round so I can see the leaves change colors and to cheer on the Hogs and the Springdale Bulldogs.

By working at the Shiloh Museum, I have gained a greater knowledge of this place I call home as I sifted through newspaper clippings from the Robert Winn collection, photographs from the museum archives, and even through the livlieness of children who came to the museum to participate in summer programs. It has been an honor and a privilege to have this wonderful experience working at Shiloh. The memories and laughter are something I will treasure the rest of my life.



Northwest Arkansas Community College instructor Jami Forrester (front row, second from right) and her "History of Arkansas" summer school students evaluated museum Discovery Boxes and wrote lesson plans to accompany each box. Most of the students are teachers in local schools or are studying to become teachers, so their input is especially valuable as we work to provide more and better resources for educators.

DONATIONS

April – July 2008

Pamela Acosta: Photos taken at League of United Latin American Citizens rally, Murphy Park, Springdale, 2005

Elizabeth Ann Bradford: Union treadle sewing machine of Sarah Elizabeth Oliver Johnson, Japton (Madison County), 1892

Gena Cagle: Photo of Sin-k-pater Band and three portraits of girls from Roy's Studio, Springdale, 1950s

Shelby Jean Carter: Fayetteville High School 1923 commencement announcement; photos from Mittie Funderburk Miller estate, Fayetteville, 1920s-1940s

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Epley, Jr.: Brochures, church and school programs, and photographs from the Lewis Epley family, Springdale, late 1900s

Diane Ferguson: *The Best of 91-92*, Harvey Jones Elementary School, Springdale, 1992

William M. Flanagan: Red and white quilt; photos of Road Angels club and Tontitown teenagers, 1940s-1960s

Earl and Mary Garrison: Diaries of J.J. Wayt, Springdale; *The Milestone* Springdale High School 1922 annual; Springdale High School 1921 commencement program; photo of Dorothy Hankins, Springdale, 1922

Thelma Webb Harris: Print cotton

dress of Cynthia Norman, Elm Springs, ca. 1880, with apron and bonnet; lap robe of Joe Webb, Springdale, ca. 1920

Betty Howard: Bible, 1843, belonged to Elizabeth McGarrah Reed, Washington County

C. A. Howerton: Golf clubs of R. H. Sikes, Springdale; photograph of C. A. Howerton with Jaycees trophy for Best State Party, 1970; photo of Tyson's Hatchery float, ca. 1950s

William Jordan: Photo postcards of Memorial Chapel, Crescent Hotel, and "Hello Bill" Boss of the Elk Ranch, Eureka Springs, 1913

Allyn Lord: Photo postcard of Oklahoma Row, Monte Ne, ca. 1920

Loris Lords: Photo postcards of Maple Street, Arcade Hotel, Depot, and residence, Springdale, ca. 1910

Tom Lundstrum: Photo postcard of First Baptist Church, Springdale, 1908, with note written by Springdale teacher Ola Watson

Doyle and Barbara Lynch: Handmade teacher's school desk and kerosene ceiling light fixture from Hickory Grove School (Madison County), early 1900s

Rita F. McCartney: *Intermediate Geography No. 2*, Eclectic Series, owned by J.W. Schmitzer, Eureka Springs, 1887

Ron Mynatt: Toledo grocery scale

used in grocery store at Morrow (Washington County), ca. 1930

Robert Oswald: Originals and copies of public and employee timetables from the St. Louis-San Francisco/Missouri Northern Arkansas Railroad, 1881-1998

Marcella Sharum: "Ship it on the Frisco" notepad, Springdale, 1940s

Marilyn Shirmer: Crocheted bedspread made by Marie Loyd Shirmer, Fayetteville, 1937

Ethel Simpson: Wood ironing board from the Roy and Margaret Simpson home, Fayetteville, ca. 1940s

Louise Taylor: *Under a Buttermilk Moon* by Roy Webster, 1985

Ray Tripp: Handbill for Springdale Boys Club Fights (at Odd Fellows building), Springdale, 1948

Mary Watkins and Peggy Morris: Letters; deeds; WWII ration papers; John S. Combs' political handbill; University of Arkansas handbook; Fayetteville postcard; photos of Fayetteville square and dry cleaners; all from Owen Oxford, 1908-1940s

Thank you for loaning photographs for copying: Oleta Bryant, Fonda Callaway, Raeda Mae Carter, Thelma Harris, Jerry Hogan, C. A. Howerton, James Martin, Wayne Martin, Anna Tillman, Tontitown Historical Museum

Want to learn more about artifacts and photos in our collection?

Visit our website at www.springdaleark.org/shiloh and click on "Artifact of the Month" or "Photo of the Month."



Makes a Great Skylight

Our roof replacement project has yielded some interesting, and sometimes surreal, scenes inside the museum. When museum photographer Don House shot this photo in early August, the sky was literally the limit in our research library. At the time workers were removing sections of the old metal roof, old insulation, and water-damaged ceiling tiles.

Museum staff and volunteers spent several days dismantling, moving, and/or storing everything on the main floor of the museum in preparation for the roof work. Some staff members have taken up residence in the basement, while others are housed in temporary offices at 305A North Main, next door to the museum.

A rare August rainstorm halted the first day's work on the roof, but the ensuing mild, sunny days gave the roofing crew something to cheer about. Work is proceeding on schedule, and we plan to be put back together again and open to the public in mid-October.

Our building may be closed, but we're open 24/7 on the Web! Visit www.springdaleark.org/shiloh for our latest podcasts, event info, teaching materials, and online featuring photos and artifacts from our collections.

Wish List

For collections:

- Wood platform dollies, 16 x 24 and 18 x 30 (\$50 each)
- 5-tier wire steel shelves on wheels (\$90 each)
- Bulk shelving (contact Carolyn Reno for details)

For podcasting:

- Canon Vixia HV30 video camera (\$770) or Panasonic PV-GS320 video camera (\$500) to produce video footage in a format that is easy to archive
- Pinnacle Dazzle Video Creator Platinum DVC 170 (\$90) to convert VHS footage to DVD format
- Adobe Premiere Elements (\$100) for editing videos

For education:

- 6 Maxi Rack industrial shelving units (\$80 each)

For grounds maintenance:

- Stihl chainsaw (\$300)

For exhibit construction:

- 4'x8' panel saw (\$1500)

For outreach:

- Projector bag (\$50)

For research library:

- *Ozark Mountaineer* Vol. 1, Nos. 1-11; Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 3, 4; Vol. 13, Nos. 1-7

Thank you for these donations:

- Jewel Cordes: *My Story: The Story of Jewel* by Jewel Cordes
- Loretta Joyce Porter: Edison Re-Creation phonograph record of *Annie Laurie* and *Love's Old Sweet Song*
- Vernon Sidler: telegraph key
- Lisa and Duane Westman: blacksmithing and leatherworking tools

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 Pam Redfern
 Deborah Reed
 Carol Reel
 Bertha Reid
 Robin Reidle
 Sid Rieff
 Carolyn Roberts
 Patricia Roberts
 Elizabeth Scott
 Betty Seale
 John Selph
 Heather Semon
 Marilyn Shubat
 Kitty Sloan
 Linda Slothower
 Thelma Smallen
 Caroline Smith
 Amelia Smith
 Kim & Nancy Smith
 Ruby Smith
 Dick Stamps
 Robert Stark
 Wanda Stephens
 Jeannie Stilley
 Keith Sutton
 Jo Ellen Thomas
 Demara Titzer
 Thomas Triplett
 Sally Walker
 Parker & Barbara Ward
 Nova Jean Watson
 Betty Watson
 Sharon Wells
 Mary Ann Westphal
 Howard Williams
 Louise Williams
 Dorothy Wilson
 Dianne Wilson
 Floreine Wise
 Dr. Diana Worthen

Diaries

From page 1



Sweet stuff. John J. Wayt's sorghum factory behind his home on Holcomb Street in Springdale, ca. 1910. Wayt is standing on the right. *Washington County Historical Society Collection*

out of commission." The next day, Wayt noted a tragedy associated with the ice storm: "Boy killed by wire near Washington School. So many wires down it is not very safe for children."

Gardening took up much of Wayt's time and energy. He grew many different crops, including telephone peas, cowpeas, honeydew melons, muskmelons, cushaw pumpkins, peanuts, potatoes, cabbage, cornfield butter beans, lima beans, Yosemite Mammoth wax beans, white kidney beans, pinto beans, Kentucky Wonder beans, eggplant, yellow and red tomatoes, sweet potatoes, Golden Bantam corn, Country Gentleman corn, Stowell's Evergreen corn, cucumbers, New Zealand spinach, lettuce, parsnips, radishes, yellow globe turnips, sugar beets, salsify, celery, asparagus, pie plant (rhubarb), sunflowers, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, and mangle beets (used mainly for livestock feed).

Wayt also raised a small flock of chickens for eggs and meat. In February 1917, he bought an incubator for hatching chicks and built a brooder for raising them. He filled the incubator with 30 Wyandotte eggs, and 37 Buff Orphingtons. By March 8, the chicks were hatching, and Wayt moved them to the incubator noting, "Have not fed them anything yet but sour milk." The flock was off and

running; by May 3 Wayt was able to "shut up three roosters to fatten for eating." On July 8 he proudly noted, "Pullet hatched March 8 now wants to set. Began laying at 4 months old."

Wayt's sorghum factory was a thriving enterprise. His diary entries from August to November focus on molasses-making time, as seen in the 1921 diary. August found him readying the factory—fixing the evaporator furnace and pump, setting up juice barrels, and cleaning the engine. Local growers began delivered sorghum cane to Wayt in late August, and production continued until October 14, when Wayt noted with a tone of discouragement, "Finished the molasses making. Made 430 gallons in all. Not much of a run for an outfit as large as mine."

Caroline's health was a constant concern. Over the course of the diaries, Wayt notes his wife's medical problems, which at one time or another included a lame back, carbuncles, eczema, erysipelas, eye inflammation, and dizzy spells. He had his own health battles, voicing despair over intestinal problems and an ineffectual truss purchased to ease the pain of a "rupture."

Church-going and religious activities were of keen interest to Wayt. Even though a Methodist, he attended a variety

continued next page

of Springdale church services, including Baptist, Campbellite (church of Christ), Adventist, Holiness, and Dunkard. He had strong opinions about many of the services he attended:

"No life in sermon. Brakes are on, too much formality."

"Preacher too up $\frac{3}{4}$ of time in rambling talk, just the way to kill a meeting and take all the interest out of it."

"Meetings very poorly attended. No move on part of sinners."

"Meeting closed with but little results. Preaching too high. People not convicted or made to feel. Too much program and not enough praying."

"Went to Baptist prayer meeting last night. They had communion but left me out. Only the members of Baptist church invited. Looks selfish to me."

"Had a good sermon at night though Bro. Piper is more of a Campbellite than a Methodist."

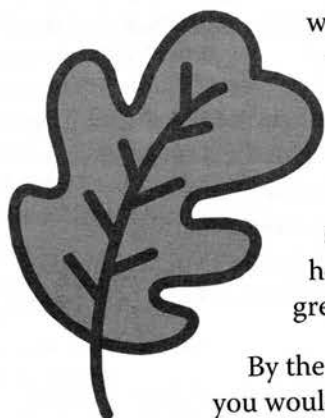
"I went to the Christian church at night. Now I am done. Too much egotism."

"Went to church morning and evening and heard two attempts at preaching. Lots of talk but little said."

When John J. Wayt died in 1933 at the age of 94, *The Springdale News* noted he was the town's oldest citizen. Caroline Wayt passed away in 1936 at the age of 92. It is unknown how, years later, the seven Wayt diaries ended up on the auction block and whether other diaries exist. However, it is clear that John J. Wayt hoped his diaries would be saved. Consider the entry on the last page of the diary spanning 1922 and part of 1923. Wayt wrote, "Goodbye old book. You have a good many things you could tell to those who would take time to look you through."

Thanks to Earl and Mary Garrison and a chance auction purchase, the hope of John J. Wayt—at least the hope for his diaries—is now realized. ♣

Help Us Go Green



It takes a lot of paper to produce this newsletter, which is not good for the environment. Couple that with lean budget times, and it quickly becomes clear that a great way to help save the planet and save money is to ask our members to receive the *Shiloh Scrapbook* in an online format. Just email us at shiloh@springdaleark.org and let us know that you'll help us go green (environmentally) and save green (financially) at the same time!

By the way, if you were reading this newsletter online, you would see the photos on pages 3 and 5, along with the lovely green oak leaf pictured here, in living color!

Lord

From page 2

patents website, edit a presentation into a finely tuned audio clip, and shimmy down with her bad self—and probably all at the same time! What a miracle is education coordinator **Pody Gay**. Her creativity and enthusiasm in working with youngsters assures us that every educational program and service will be well conceived and rich in learning and fun.

The museum's master puppeteer is photo archivist and research librarian **Marie Demeroukas**. She daily juggles at least a half dozen, often more, photo and research projects worked on by volunteers, interns, and staff. How does she do it? Dreaming of sand, beaches, and breaking waves. Top-quality work and an artist's eye are the hallmarks of photographer **Don House**, whom we somehow managed to snatch from his award-winning private practice. He's a wiz in the darkroom and known to many as one of the sweetest men around. Education assistant **Alma Lyle** is a mighty force in educational programs who has a growing variety of interests, and she's soon to reach her one-year anniversary here.

Our most recent hires this spring have brought some amazing talents to the mix. Library assistant **Jacqueline Burnett** has been hot on the keyboard, assisting Marie in adding hundreds upon hundreds of new photos into our database, with only an occasional break to exercise by walking the museum grounds. We're just learning about some of the many skills of weekend assistant **Jenny Vego** who not only does a great job greeting and assisting folks on Saturdays but did a bang-up job as an assistant during this summer's history camp. And there's not a person on staff who isn't wowed by new maintenance man **Marty Powers**, whose attention to detail, amazing work ethic, and great attitude combine with his family's long history in Northwest Arkansas to make him a fabulous guy to work with.

This crew is a daily joy to work with and an amazing force to watch in action. How lucky I am to be included in their midst! ♣

CALENDAR

September 13. 32nd Ozark Quilt Fair. Cancelled; will resume in 2009.

September 17, noon. "No Longer Strangers: The Hispanic Presence in our Midst." Msgr. David LeSieur from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Rogers will discuss how the influx of the Hispanic/Latino community into Northwest Arkansas has influenced or changed the Catholic Church in Northwest Arkansas. *Held in Ivey Hall at First United Methodist Church next door to the museum at 206 W. Johnson Avenue.*

Mid-October through March 21, 2009. *First Things First*, an exhibit featuring some of the first artifacts donated to the Shiloh Museum.

Mid-October through January 17, 2009. *Ozark Voices: Personal Stories From Northwest Arkansas*, an exhibit featuring interviews with area residents recorded by the national StoryCorps® project.

Mid-October through December 13. *Happy Birthday, Shiloh!*, a photo exhibit celebrating the 40th birthday of the Shiloh Museum.

October 15, noon. "Life and Work in the Ozarks," a program by Billy Higgins, professor of history at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

November 2, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tontitown Polenta Smear, a celebration of the rich history of the Italian community of Tontitown. Come sample homemade *polenta* (cornmeal mush) and *umedo* (sauce). Co-sponsored by the Tontitown Historical Museum and the Shiloh Museum.

November 19, noon. "Northwest Arkansas Railroads," a program on the routes, people, trains, and places that shaped the development of the area by Mike Sypult of the Boston Mountain Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

December 7, 1:00-4:00 p.m. 32nd Annual Holiday Open House, featuring a slide program by nature photographer Tim Ernst, and a musical performance by old-time string band Shout Lulu.

December 16-April 11, 2009. *Good Eats*, a photo exhibit featuring tasty images of Ozark foodways, from barbecues to pancake breakfasts to dinners-on-the-ground.

January 21, 2009, noon. "How Forrestina Campbell Became White River Red," a program by Shiloh Museum outreach coordinator Susan Young.

February 2, 2009-Jan. 16, 2010. *Squeaky Clean*, an exhibit on the history of hygiene in the Ozarks.

For a current listing of events and meetings at the Shiloh Museum, visit www.springdaleark.org/shiloh.

Join the Shiloh Museum Association

- Satisfaction of knowing you are supporting an important cultural institution and helping preserve our Arkansas Ozark heritage, *and*
- 10% discount on Shiloh Store purchases
- Reduced fees for children's and adult workshops
- Invitations to exhibit openings and special events

Consider a Gift to the Shiloh Museum Endowment Fund

☐ Check here if you would like more information about the endowment fund.

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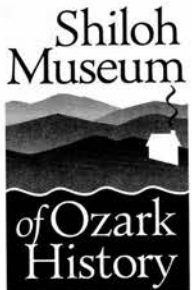
LIFE IN THE TULSA COLONY.

In 1931, a group of Tulsa businessmen formed the Oklahoma Arkansas Ozark Industrial Association, a "back to the farm colony" in Madison County for the resettlement of city folks with rural roots who were facing the hard times of the Great Depression. An 8,000 acre tract was purchased near Forum. Residents of the "Tulsa Colony," as it was locally known, were allotted ten acres of land to farm in a co-operative agreement. As seen here, houses provided for the colonists were flimsy tar-paper shacks.

The dream—or scheme—was plagued with problems from the beginning, and by 1939, the Tulsa Colony was no more.

Thanks to Joy Russell of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society for sharing her research on the Tulsa Colony.

Washington County Historical Society Collection



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