

# California House Was Once Colorful Stage Coach Stop

One of Pulaski county's most colorful landmarks was the old California House, an inn, stage coach stop and the site of many skirmishes during the Civil War. In an official report to Col. C. W. Marsh, Ass. Adj. Gen., Col. Albert Seigel spoke of the skirmish and the "nightly skeddaddles" around the place.

In the beginning, the land had been granted to the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad. On February 19,

1840, William and Sarah Maxey registered at the Boonville Land Office, 160 acres of this land. Sarah survived her husband and married Bennett Musgrave. John Nelson was the administrator of William Maxey estate, which was transferred to Sarah Musgrave and six children: Mary, wife of James Musgraves, Letha, wife of John A. Williams, Sarah Musgrave, wife of C.P. Cook, John Maxey, W.H. Maxey

and James G. Maxey in 1843. Goodspeed's History of Pulaski county, states that Bennett (born 1804) and wife, Sarah Nelson Musgrave came to Pulaski county in 1850 from Tennessee, and after he returned in 1856 from a trip to the gold fields in California, operated the California House.

The inn was built on this property, located on the Springfield-St. Louis road, later referred to as Wier Road. The date it began

operating was in 1857, the same year the stage lines began their runs through the county. The structure was the finest in the country, being the first board sided building. The frame was constructed with young hewn timbers with corner posts of hewn walnut, notched on the sides so the siding could be inlaid into them, with the remainder of post making the finished corner. The siding was 6 inch poplin lumber. The rafters were

notched and fastened with wooden pins at the ridge row. Built in a rectangular style, it was two rooms deep and two rooms in width with a stairway through the center leading to the second story, which was arranged exactly as the first floor. Dressed stone fireplaces were at each end of the building.

The building was a unique fortress. Around the eaves of the house, small windows or portholes were spaced. They were fashioned to allow the barrel of a rifle or shotgun to extend and fire at any approaching enemy.

About 100 yards from the inn stood a store and saloon. "War of the Rebellion" mentions the store being looted during the Civil War, but no mention of the saloon, which may have been added after 1865. A dark cellar was used to age the whiskey made at Still House distillery, located nearby. When the present road was widened, some of the old cellar was opened.

A wall between the store and inn furnished water for the complex.

Two warehouses were located on the site. They were used for storage and supplies. They were made with large 4 foot double doors. The doors were hand made, 3 boards thick, studded with square cut nails, spaced one inch apart. The points of the nails protruded, this side was hung to the outside, believed

by those who has seen them, to have been made for protection against burglars.

The grainery and stables were across the road from the inn. Henry Bowlin, now residing near Buckhorn, helped repair the ends of the old grainery. It was made of large hewed logs, 12 inches thick after they were hewn. (Workman used chalk lines soaked in poke berries that had been squeezed to mark their lines, when chalk was not available.)

Hugh McCain acquired the old inn, located 7 miles west of Waynesville, October 30, 1860. He was a strong Unionist and had buried some of those killed around the inn during the war. An old grave yard is located close by. Mr. Musgrave again returned to California, where a son, George, had died. On his return, via the Isthmus of Panama, in 1860, he died and was buried at sea. Mrs. Musgrave filed a will in Pulaski county in 1869.

A cotton gin was located about one half mile from the California House. Mr. Bowlin said he could remember when a large cotton field was planted where Witmor Farms is now located. Also located in the neighborhood was the De Bruin post office. John and Mary De Bruin had filed the land situated in the same section as that of Mr. Maxey in 1840. James Foote had purchased part or all of this, however, in 1844, and is recorded as the postmaster of De Bruin in 1883.

(Today the farm home of Emerson and Marie Storie is supposedly sitting on the original foundation of the old inn. The old original structure was torn down and replaced many years ago, but as it was rebuilt, the same general plan was followed.)

## Pulaski County Boys Enroll At Union Spring Encampment

July 6, 1865. The following Pulaski County men were on the Muster-in-Rolls of the Missouri Militia formed in Waynesville with W. Wilson, Lt. mustering officer. Age and address's given.

The following men were from Waynesville. Jesse B. Wickers, Capt. 28; Columbus Parsons, 24; Benjamin R. Moore, 22; William Armstrong, 35; James W. Abbott, 16; Daniel B. Colley, 31; William Colbert, 31; Edward Dowd, 44; Charles K.

Demont, 28; Jas. E. Harrison, 34; Wm. C. Lincoln, 25; Henry Mitchel, 47; Wm. H. Minnice, 22; Wm. Morgan, 26; John M. Paseley, 20; John Ramsey, 19; John J. Riddle, 19; Jacob Skaggs, 38; John Stephens, 51; Samuel White, 40; Wm. Welch, 40; Amos Wilson, 45. Allison Thomas, 48, Jones Creek; William S. Loftens, 34, McCortney Hollow; Squire Bryant, 24, Mathis Prairie; S.A. Brookshire, 22; Elijah Burton, 28, Big Piney;

John S. Blalack, 28, Bells Creek; J.A. Blalack, 46, Bells Creek.

J.F. Cook, 45, Cooks Mill; Giles M. Cole, 40, Gasconade River; James Cruise, 40, Gasconade River; William Carrol, 28, Kissinger Hollow; Robert A. Corden, 22, Matthews Prairie; David Crossland, 24, Matthews Prairie; Edward F. Darline, 26, Big Piney Ferry; Ruben Davis, 31, Big Piney Ferry; Milton C. Dodd, 47, Gasconade River; James J. Elams, 27, Hudgens Farm.

Philip Fulmanor, Still House Hollow; Jesse W. Gillispy, Gasconade River; Hirman Hinter, 36, Hals Hollow; Calvin D. Hicks, 44, Herd Hollow; Winfield Hicks, 42, Herd Hollow; John D. Hensley, 53, Gasconade River; Hesikiak R. Holden, 43, Tilley Farms; A.J. Huntsman, 43, Big Piney; Green B. Hale, 21, Big Piney Ferry; George Hood, 26, Baldridge Creek.

Wm. A. Ingram, 33, Gasconade River; Thomas A. Jones, 26, Matthews Prairie; Wm. Lane, Wet Glaze; Joel J. Lane, 33, Wet Auglaze; James A. Lewis, 17, Wet Auglaze; Samuel B. Lewis, 25, Big Piney Ferry; Willis B. Lemons, 39, Herd Hollow; James Logsdone, 39, Smith Hollow; Charles W. Lemons, 22, Smith Hollow; Frances W. Matthews, Matthews Prairie.

George Maze, 20, James Maxey, 42, Mouth of Kellman Hollow; John D. Musgraves, 45, Hogthief Hollow; John A. Maxey, 22, Killman Hollow; Mr. Maze, 17, Gasconade River; Harrison E. Manes, 18, Wet Auglaze; Henry Nelton, 23, Roubidoux River.

Nichals Null, 53, Gasconade River; Wm. Reeves, 23, Big Piney Ferry; Wm. A. Sheldon, 21, Tavern Creek; John Story, 41, Roubidoux River; Francis

## Civil War Coins Found In County

Civil War coins were found! Two walnut boxes of coins were found near the Fort Leonard Wood Army Post. The coins were minted

between 1840 and 1861, and were uncovered by a man bulldozing there.

The word spread fast and treasure hunters quickly descended on the location. It is not known just how many residents and treasure hunters found coins, but some rather valuable ones were discovered and reported.

Old-timers of the area recalled that many of the residents of the county were southern sympathizers during the war. A farmer named Woodrow Tilley was thought to have buried the money in his field when a Union Garrison was established at Waynesville.

According to the stories the old-timers told, Tilley's son was suspected of bushwhacking. Federal troops discovered a bushwhacker's camp near the Tilley farm. In the camp was a side of beef that matched another side hanging in the Tilley's smokehouse. Tilley was hanged. He died without telling where his money was buried, and it is theorized that this must have been the money.

## New Madrid Hit By Earthquake

December 6, 1811, New Madrid Earthquake. At 2 a.m. the first rumble of the earthquake was first heard. From this time and until March 16, 1812, 1,874 more shocks were to occur. Shocks recorded averaged about 20 per day, 8 of them were ones of the first order of intensity, and as recorded, any of these eight had moving behind it 15 times the intensity of the single shocks that leveled San Francisco. Reel Foot lake, 20 miles long and seven miles wide, was created by the quake in northwest Tennessee.

Minor shocks were felt in St. Louis. People fled away from the river that was boiling and roaring. Fish were washed to the bank, and the whole earth was in continual agitation.

## Western Auto

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300 Sq. In. Sunbeam Dual Burner LP Gas Grill

Generates up to 24,000 BTU's of cooking heat. Each burner has its own on/off & heat control. Safe, easy Lite-A-Matic ignition. Sturdy 4 in. steel post. 43-1423-3

119<sup>99</sup>



### Rescue Emergency Fuel

Takes you 2 to 7 extra miles! Safe to store in car. 24 oz. 78-1300-9

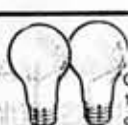
1<sup>99</sup>



Sunbeam 15 Watt Outdoor Bug Killer

Covers 1/2 acre. 92-4509-3

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### Rebate



Minute Wax Your Choice of 18 oz. spray, 16 oz. liquid or 13 oz. paste. 73-7241-43-44

Sale Price ..... 3.97 Less Mail-in Rebate -1.00

After Rebate 2<sup>97</sup>

### Rebate



Super Fix-A-Flat 18 oz. 15-4540-9

Sale Price ..... 3.97 Less Mail-in Rebate -2.00

Net Cost After Rebate 1<sup>97</sup>