



## PULASKI COUNTY: RICH IN OZARK HISTORY CONTINUED

Waynesville was named by Harvey Wood, who secured the first post office and named it for General "Mad Anthony" Wayne. G.W. Gipson "squatted" on the townsite early in the year 1831, when the nearby Waynesville spring was a watering place on the Kickapoo trace later known as the old Wire Road.

The Roubidoux was named in honor of a fur trader and explorer of that name.

The Big Piney got its name from the short leaf pine forests along its banks.

Devils Elbow, listed as one of the state's seven beauty spots of Missouri, is said to have been given its name by lumberjacks who had a lot of trouble with log jams at the bend in the river.

Bloodland, which no longer exists due to the coming of Fort Leonard Wood, got its name from the redness of the soil where the town was built.

The Niangua was named by Indians because so many springs are at its source and was once famous for bear hunting by the French and Indians.

The town of Dixon was laid out in 1869 by Milton Santee,

a surveyor of Rolla. As Dixon was also a railroad town, laid out on both sides of the railroad track one mile square, it is believed that Dixon got its name from another railroad official.

Hancock was first called Iron Summit, but was given the name Hancock by the railroad company when they built a depot there.

Hancock was once a thriving little village. The land site was entered in 1865 by Isaac Goodman who sold it in 1868 to W.H. Murphey who laid the town out in 1869 and Murphey Brothers opened a store there in August of that year.

In 1870, a Mr. Brant opened another store and began dealing in merchandise. About 1872, Brant sold his business to E.A. Lombard of Iberia.

Murphy Brothers moved to Dixon in 1877. The late D.A. Clairborn had a store and blacksmith shop there during the 1880s.

### Did You Know?

Kit Carson's Wild West show performed in Dixon in 1911.



The men in this picture are standing on a raft made out of railroad ties. In the background in Waynesville's Bell Bluff. Men would tie the railroad ties together and wait for the Roubidoux to rise then ride the "raft" down to Crocker to sell them to the railroad. Sometimes the raft was over a mile long. (Photo courtesy of George Lane)



## Early PICNICS

The gatherings of the early days was a long looked forward to event. The old settlers picnic was a time when neighbors and friends gathered... Women visited and exchanged recipes... Children would ride the old fashioned horse drawn swing and drink a lot of lemonade from barrels or tubs.

The men would talk crops or politics. Political talk could sometimes become heated if it was an election year. Most often the gathering would be at a city park and the city merchants would go all out to lure people into their stores. Merchants would also donate prizes to be given away during the day's events.

Sometimes, a long list of orators, politicians, and entertainers would be scheduled to appear, speak, or perform. It is in this spirit that the modern "Old Settler's Day Picnic" is held.

Congratulations to the Waynesville Community Betterment Council on their hard and diligent work to bring another Old Settler's Day to life again.

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