

First Train Passengers, Arlington to Dixon

by Gary Knehans

Many interesting historical tidbits are lost through the passage of time. However, the August 13th, 1891, edition of the "Rolla Herald" carried an interesting article about some history

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of the Frisco Railroad and about the first passengers on the first train from Arlington to Dixon.

Written by an unnamed Dixon correspondent, the article stated that Arlington was the terminus of the railroad prior to October, 1869, when Lebanon became the terminus until the completion of the track to Springfield. The writer then told about the first passengers to travel from Arlington to Dixon.

Mrs. Pliny Dudley and her daughter, Miss Ella, both of whom are most kindly remembered by all of Dixon's early citizens, were the first to whom tickets were issued from Arlington to Dixon, their marks being "o," and "l," respectively. On their arrival at Arlington they were the guests of their son and brother, D. B., who was living on Esq. Wm. J. Hawkins' farm, half way between Arlington and York Station, now known as Knotwell. On the first passenger train through to Lebanon, these two ladies made the trip to Dixon, near which, for some two years or more, an elder daughter and sister, Mrs. J. N. Burton, had resided on a homestead which is still the property of the family, although Mr. Burton and his family have been residents of Dixon for many years.



Believed to be Dixon around the early 1870's. (Photo courtesy of Carol Muennig)

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