



A Trip to Iberia

St. James, Mo., March 5, 1891

After ten years of rambling, etc., I once more turned my face to the scenes of my childhood. On Feb. 26 we took the west bound train at St. James and soon landed at Hancock, intending to spend a few hours with our old friend, Dr. Anderson, but he had left some time since, and we run back to Dixon, after greeting some of our old friends and schoolmates. At Dixon we were hospitably entertained at Bro. Joseph Wade's. We then visited the parsonage, occupied by Bro. J. M. Bell, our beloved pastor. We remained until after prayer and enjoyed the short visit splendid and left feeling spiritually benefitted.

We again took the midnight train and soon landed at Richland. We again made our way to the parsonage, occupied by Bro. C. R. Wade, pastor of our church at that place, and the same spirit seemed to prevail as at Brother Bell's. We then went to Mrs. E. A. Evans, my mother-in-law.

On Thursday the 28th we started to Iberia, the home of my boyhood, but there remained nothing homelike; everything seemed changed. The old property was converted into a hotel to catch the travelers. The town has been improved until it is nearly five times as large. It pleased me to see that education was on the upward move, as there is a large and handsome brick erected for a college, and is now conducted by

a Prof. Smith of Illinois. The citizens speak very highly of him as a gentleman and a teacher. It was my intention to remain over Sunday and preach in the old church, which was built when I was a boy, but when I visited the parsonage our pastor was absent. I visited many of my old schoolmates who are now leading citizens of the place. On Friday we visited Brumley, a small but growing village. Mr. Thompson, the merchant and P. M. is one of my old schoolmates and Mr. Martin, who has just built a nice residence. We then went to Dr. S. P. Hickman, an old friend and were entertained for the night.

We then turned our steps toward home and on Monday, March 2d, took the train in Stoutland for home regretting that our stay was so short and that we must so soon leave friends, and as I now in my mind look over all the surges of humanity, it reminds me of the mighty ocean and I wondered if the love of God has grown as have the people in wealth; and then when I see several churches in the two towns I praise the Lord that His name is still remembered and cherished, as far above the town reaches the spires so much more may His love raise above the base and vicious crimes of life.

May His blessings rest upon all humanity. Amen, W. C. Smith,
M. E. Local Preacher.

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The Origin of Laquey

Based on information supplied by Steven M. Beattie

A common practice in selecting a community's name in olden days was to give a fledgling town the same name as its post office. This was the method by which Laquey received its name. The post office itself was named after one of the men who successfully petitioned the government to move the office in DeBruin to where Laquey is today.

In 1898, Columbus S. Parsons and Joseph J. Laquey applied to the Post Office Department in Washington, D. C., for the relocation of the office in DeBruin, which was located in Colley Hollow. Approval came a year later; and the post office was placed in the general store that was operated by Parsons. Parsons became the postmaster; but the office was named after Laquey. This was done in recognition of Laquey's political influence in win-

ning approval for the move.

Joseph John Laquey was the son of one of Pulaski County's great pioneers, Joseph John Alexander Laquey. The elder Laquey was born August 11, 1800, in Virginia. The first Pulaski County record of him is dated 1841 when Laquey served as constable. He was Justice of the Peace 1842-1846 and 1862-1866. Mention of the then elderly Laquey was made in an 1890 newspaper article, which named him one of the "old settlers" likely to attend an old settler's picnic in Waynesville. Laquey died March 29, 1891, and was buried in the Rollins Cemetery near the community of Laquey.

The junior Joseph John Laquey, after whom the post office and community were named, was born in 1848 and died in 1922.

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