

officially determined, the event served as a rallying cry that eventually would launch the United States into a bitterly fought war with Spain. The ensuing Spanish-American war would claim many American, Spanish, and Cuban lives.

The ravages of war not withstanding, back at home, pneumonia and flu, which many in 1898 called "la grippe," were always feared killers, especially during the winter. Another common killer, however, could strike at any time of the year.

Died near Moab, in Pulaski county, MO., Feb. 25, 1898, at 5 o'clock a.m., Francis Marian, son of the late Jesse B. and Delia Maxwell, aged 16 years, 7 months and 20 days. He was born on Pea Ridge, Phelps county, and has many relatives in Arlington and Miller townships. He had just returned home from a visit to his native county when he was stricken with typhoid fever. Rev. J. J. Watts held the funeral Sunday.

-Rolla Herald, Mar. 3rd.

Proof, if needed, that 1898 was a political year came early in the year with the announcement that a popular doctor was going to try his hand at seeking public office.

Dr. H. J. Von Grempe, of Dixon, has entered the political arena in Pulaski county by announcing that he will seek election as representative of that county. There are two things that we can vouch for: -first, his genuine all-wool-and-a-yard wide Democracy, and second, his honesty and incorruptibility. If he is elected he will serve our neighbors faithfully and to the very best of his ability.

-Vienna Gazette article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on Mar. 3rd.

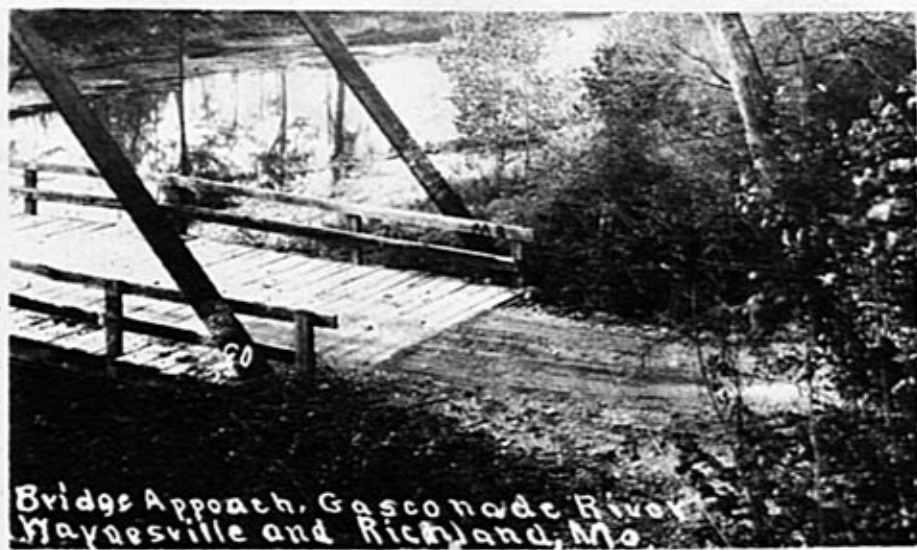
The March 30th edition of the Herald also gives us an interesting look at the everyday activities of residents of the area, which in this case were situated in Phelps County.

Nothing important on the Piney. We can brag on the good weather and the growing wheat crop.

Charley Jones, the son of J. N. Jones, was married a few days back to Miss O' Malley. We wish him success and a happy life.

Frankie Maxville, the grandson of Widow Burgett died very suddenly from bleeding at the lungs. He was interred at the Copeland cemetery on the 27th. Funeral preached by Rev. Watts.

Harry Gray of St. Louis, a nephew of Kimbrough Winston, ex-Private Secretary to Gov.



Approach to old bridge spanning the Gasconade River between Waynesville and Richland. Courtesy of John F. Bradbury.

Stone, is boarding with L. P. Lambeth of Spring Creek, for his health.

We hope the correspondent of the Spring Creek items will not use his name in his items as he is a gold bug and his politics don't run that way.

Hurrah for the Rolla Herald: It is all right, also Father Grimes.

Rev. James Smith of the Free Baptist church, has been sick for the past few days but is now convalescent.

Henry Long, son of Fred. Long, has gone south for more cattle.

N. M. Cunningham, pastor of the Free Baptist church at Bethlehem, has moved to Smith Hollow.

Farmers of this vicinity have commenced their spring work. Some are plowing while others are fencing. We hope that the farmers in this vicinity will try to keep better fences in the future as bad fences make bad stock.

In regard to the select audience spoken of in Spring Creek items, the Free Baptist have none. They invite all to come but they do not receive all that present themselves for membership.

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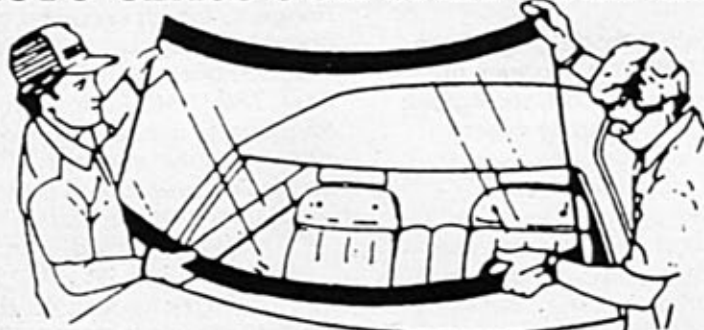
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There was quite an excitement at the sale of Reason Howard on Saturday last. The champion pugilist of Big Piney got knocked out in the first round by a Fitzsimmons heart blow.

We are informed that Spring Creek is going to have a subscription school. Miss Mary Doyle will be the teacher. We suppose it will be a success like the one she taught on Mill Creek.

Mr. Reason Howard will leave the latter part of this week to take possession of his new home at Bath, Ill.

It has been well quoted in scripture, "Thou shalt not \_\_\_\_\_ for all such have their part in a lake that burneth with -----."

Spring will soon be here: fish are getting plenty. Come on sportsmen, and bring your bait and hook and a bottle of Pennsylvania Rye.

If everybody would tell what they know and leave out what they don't know, the country would be better and our community would prosper more. Hurrah for Bryan, our candidate for 1900.

Our friends and relatives who went to Southeast Missouri, were back visiting relatives in Waynesville. They report a fine country in that section.

The Jones boys went to Dixon last week to purchase the furniture for the newly married couple.

We are looking for parties from St. Louis to prospect for minerals on the Big Piney. They will probably stay with Lambeth, near Spring Creek.

Hurry up old women, get your gardens ready: the fishermen will want vegetables and the babies new dresses.

Mr. James Thompson passed down the Piney to-day with lumber rafts.

*-Big Piney Items, Rolla Herald, Mar. 3rd.*

A tragic drowning occurred in early March in west county.

Richland, Mo., March 2.-Searching parties started last night in endeavoring to recover the body of Jefferson Terry, drowned in the Gasconade River yesterday afternoon, but without success and this morning a larger party has gone to renew the search. Terry started across the river for a load of corn, and it is supposed lost the ford. Later in the day a fisherman saw a horse in the river lodged against some trees and went to investigate. He found another horse dead under the water both harnessed to the running gear of a wagon. He cut the harness, extricated the live horse and brought it to town. The searching party found the wagon bed half a mile lower down the river and last night found



Rolling Health School students in March, 1935. (Front row, left to right)--Kenny Foster, Jim Foster, Elizabeth Ramsey, and "that little Wade boy." (middle row, left to right)--Eula Wade, Norma Ramsey, Dorothy Ramsey, and Eloise Ramsey. (Back, left to right)--Mary Ramsey, Alice Ramsey, and Lillian Ramsey. Martha Ramsey, Daisy Ramsey, and Bona Ramsey. Photo courtesy of Ruby Fields.

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Terry's hat and coat but no trace of the body.

LATER. The search was prosecuted all that day and night, and until early Wednesday morning when the body was found. Deceased could not swim, and the theory is that he drove into deep water and the horses became entangled and one of them finally went down, and the unfortunate man being unable to swim or perhaps becoming entangled was also carried down by the current.

-Rolla Herald, Mar. 10th.

Another hat was tossed into the political arena. George L. Speer, a grocery drummer who lived at Crocker, went out for Pulaski County Representative. The editor of the Rolla Herald on Mar. 17th stated, "If energy and pure democracy can win votes George will have a walk-over."

Meanwhile, a heavy downburst dislodged a large rock and caused it to fall on the rack in one of the deep cuts on the Dixon hill. The first Frisco train to go over the track after the rock fell, a passenger train going west, sustained some damage, but no one was injured.

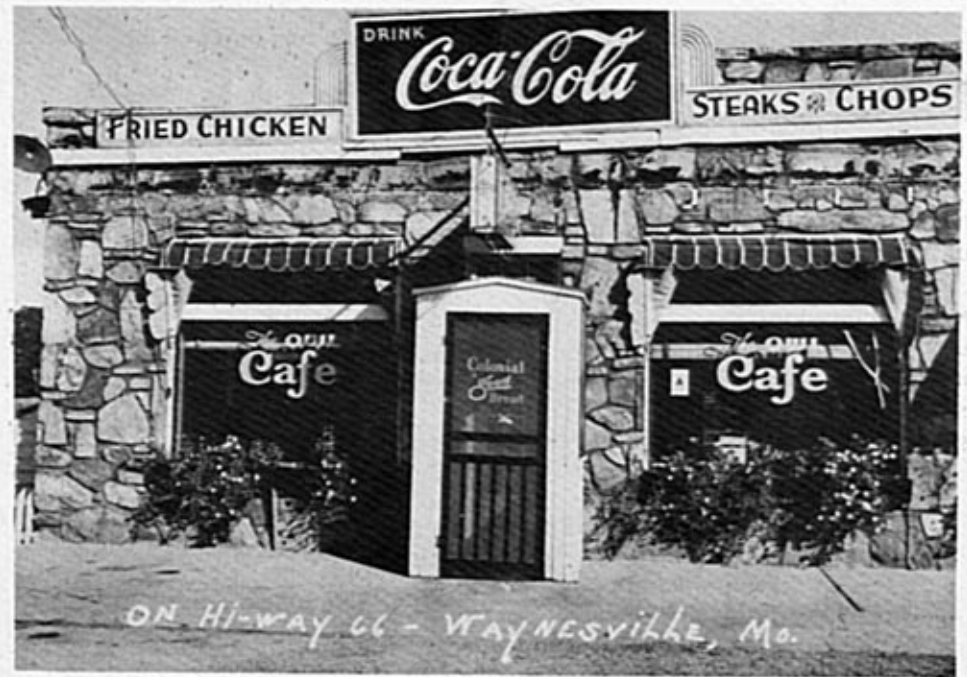
Also in its March 17th edition, the Herald reported under Big Piney Items, written by "Tom and Jerry," that "the Big

Piney band is now fully organized and will give its first concert next Wednesday night."

It's hard to surmise how festive that concert might have been, as the community was still in deep mourning over the recent death of their leading citizen and one of Pulaski County's more famous political figures.

The sad intelligence reached this place Tuesday morning that Hon. Jas. H. Ross had died at his home on Piney on the previous evening at 7 o'clock, of pneumonia fever. He had been sick but a few days. The news that came from his bedside Sunday was not encouraging, and his death was expected by his friends, but even then cast a gloom over all. Mr. Ross was a prominent farmer and politician. He was elected to the legislature from this county in 1894; was re-elected in 1896, serving with distinction. He was noted for his honesty and uprightness. He was sociable and had many friends. His wife preceded him to the world beyond a little over a year. He leaves a family of several children. His death will be mourned by many.

Hon. James H. Ross was born in Gibson Co., West



Owl Cafe served fried chicken, steaks, chops, and Coca Cola on popular Highway 66 in Waynesville. Postcard courtesy of John F. Bradbury.

Tennessee, July 19, 1840. Married first in Gibson Co. to Miss Martha E. Parker, April 5, 1866, and in August on the 19th day after they were married in April, she died. Then Bro. Ross came to Missouri and married second in Pulaski Co. to Miss Isabelle Adelia Mc Donald, July 5, 1869. She was the daughter of Wm. W. Mc Donald and died

March 5, 1897. After the death of his wife, Bro. Ross spent much of his time at home with his children. His children were all at home at the burial. Two are married, eight are single. Mrs. Charlie Evans did not reach home until the day after his death. Two grand children were also present. Many years ago Bro. Ross embraced the

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Christian religion and joined the Baptist church known as the Hopewell Church, and for many years was the clerk of said church, and for nineteen years held the office of Clerk of the Pulaski Co. Baptist Association. He was an honored member of the I. O. O. F., who were present at his burial from Relfe, Edgar Springs, Waynesville and Dixon, and conducted the impressive ceremonies of the order. Bro. Ross was an honorable member of the legislature of our beloved State, having held the office of Representative for two terms. His death took place March 7, 1898, at 7 o'clock p. m., aged 57 years, 7 months and 18 days. He was the father of 12 children, 10 of whom survive him and five are under sixteen years of age. Bro. Ross also served in the Civil War and was drawing a pension of twelve dollars a month for heart trouble. Funeral services were held at his late residence by the writer. May God comfort the children, and all her relatives of Bro. Ross in their hour of affliction.

-Written by Rev. J. J. Watts and published in the Rolla Herald on Mar. 17th.

The last two years of the late state representative's life were filled with tragedy. As mentioned in the previous

obituary, Ross had lost his wife just the year before. Rushing home from the legislature in Jefferson City, the train carrying the lawmaker was involved in a tragic wreck, but he was not injured. During the year preceeding this, Ross was thrown from a horse and suffered serious injuries, but apparently recovered fully.

As April approached, talk of "remembering the Maine" and exacting revenge from Spain were sweeping the country. Even in Pulaski County, the writers of Big Piney Items wrote in the March 24th Rolla Herald that war seemed a distinct possibility: "In the event of war with Spain a number of volunteers could be enlisted in our county. We hope that the better judgment of the people will prevail and that there will be no war."

It was also reported that "Seth Manes of Waynesville was out looking at his farm on Big Piney Saturday last. He intends purchasing more land to enlarge his farm."

The Dixon hill on the Frisco Line was the site late in March of a murder most foul, presenting local lawmen with a very puzzling case indeed.



Baker Hotel in Model T days. Lyon Drug is currently located at this site on the downtown square in Waynesville. Courtesy of Western Historical Manuscripts.

On Wednesday morning of last week the body of George Westover, a farmer living about 5 miles from Rolla in North Dillon, was found on the track on Dixon hill, about a mile and a half east of Dixon, fearfully mangled. As the body was cold when found it is supposed the man met his death early in the night of Tuesday. Monday night,

Mr. Westover went to Mr. Berryman's, a neighbor, who was very low from blood poisoning and who has since died, to sit up with him. About 2 o'clock in the morning he told those present that if he could catch a train he believed he would go to St. Louis or somewhere else as he said he was not particular. Without further

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talk he left. On Tuesday he got shaved at Newburg, and we have been informed that on that day he bought a ticket at Arlington for Springfield. This was the last heard of him until his body was found. Near a pool of blood on the track several yards from where the body was picked up was found a revolver with one chamber empty and a \$1 bill. This indicates that he was either murdered and placed there or committed suicide some little time before struck by the train. On his body next to the skin was a cloth belt in which was found four \$10 bills. John Harding, his brother-in-law, who lived with him at Flat Grove District says, when he left home he had \$125 in money and a check on the Bank of St. James for \$200. Mr. Westover and family moved from Wisconsin to St. James one year ago the 26th of this month and lived in St. James five months when they moved to Flat Grove District.

He was about 45 years old, and leaves a wife and three sons and three daughters to mourn his sad death. The remains were buried Friday. A coroner's inquest was held at Dixon but nothing was revealed as to how he came to his death. It may have been a murder, but

his peculiar conduct strongly indicates self destruction.

-Rolla Herald, Mar. 31st

Mr. James Rugg found \$12.50 more this week near the place where Mr. Westover was killed.

-Dixon Echo article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald Apr. 7th.

The Coroner's Jury at Dixon held several days ago returned a verdict that George E. Westover of Phelps county near Rolla came to his death by violence at the hands of some person unknown. The coroner has evidence in his possession implicating a certain person whose name they will not divulge until the grand jury meets if the suspect is apprehended. This is one of the most cold blooded murders ever committed in Southwest Missouri. The perpetrators of the foul crime, in hopes of deceiving the officers, placed the body on the railroad track, where it was horribly mangled by trains during the night. Robbery was the motive.

-Rolla Herald, Apr. 14th.

The Rolla Standard on April 8th reported that "Geo. Lane who taught the Maze school last term is attending the Dixon Normal School."

The Rolla Herald on April 14th also quoted the St. Louis Globe Democrat in reporting that a T. J. Mills had purchased a large tract of land in Pulaski County at the mouth of the Big Piney River.

"He will build a comfortable house and establish a club," the article stated. "Some of the best known sportsmen have signed. The club will be known as the Oak View Hunting and Fishing Club."

Down at Big Piney, residents in that community and in neighboring farms were getting anxious to get about the business of spring. Big Piney Items in the Apr. 14th Rolla Herald reported that farmers were behind in their work "on account of high water and cold weather."

The article further stated:

At our annual school election, Jno. N. Jones was elected to fill the expired term of S. M. Duncan. District in good shape financially.

Mrs. Julia Fletcher, wife of G. W. Fletcher, passed away Saturday night last after a long struggle with Typhus and Malaria fevers.

A former resident of Rolla, G. B. Hale, now of Big Piney, is selling out to make his home in Southeast Mo.

The concert given by the Big Piney Band on Wednesday last was attended by a large audience and proved a great success. Everybody was well pleased with the music.

Mr. Mills Melton of near Edgar Springs, paid L. P. Lambeth of Big Piney a visit on Saturday and Sunday last. He is a staunch Democrat and dyed in the wool.

One of the greatest events that ever occurred in our district took place on Sunday morning last. Mr. C. Ousley and Mr. G. B. Hale buried the tomahawk and shoot hands and made friends for ever and ever.

Hurrah for the Corn Creek correspondent. We are not all dead when we sleepeth. We boys are all right.

The Free Baptist meeting convened at Spring Creek on Saturday and Sunday last.

A number of young people from the flats were on the Piney Sunday last.

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Events, meanwhile, were not as affable in the Pulaski County community of Dixon.

One of the saddest events in the history of this county occurred at Dixon last Friday morning, the death of Arch Wade from a wound received in Luther Long's grocery store at the hands of Tommy Powell. It was a case of justifiable homicide if all reports of the affair be true. Both Powell and Wade were young men of good character and the death was the logical penalty so frequently paid to the crime, drink.

Young Powell after attending his lodge had gone to a restaurant in the rear of one of the saloons to get a lunch. After eating, he was passing away the time with a friend, playing dominoes, for he intended to leave for St. Louis on the midnight train. While they were playing, young Wade and Scott Imboden came into the restaurant both unfortunately under the influence of liquor. They proceeded to have some sport of Powell, who lisped in his speech. Seeing that this did not provoke Powell, Imboden swiped the dominoes off the table and scattered them upon the floor. And some very rough language was used, it seems, to

provoke trouble with Powell. Wade Hancock interfered and Powell made his escape from the saloon and went to Luther Long's grocery store. A short time afterward Wade and Imboden came to Long's grocery store and began the trouble again, using very provoking language. Finally Wade drew his knife and started towards Powell. Powell warned him not to come farther. He did not heed. Powell grabbed a pound weight and threw overhand at Wade. It struck him at the angle of the nose and left eye. Meantime Frank Imboden had come in and got hold of Scott Imboden, who had drawn his knife for the fray too, but was restrained. Young Wade lingered almost a week and died from the effects of the wound. He never recovered consciousness.

-Pulaski County

Democrat article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on April 14th.

About a week later, the war many eastern newspaper editors were seeking became a certainty when U. S. sailors seized the Spanish steamer Buena Ventura in the Strait of Florida on April 22nd. Just five days later, Admiral Dewey captured the Bay of Manila in the Philippines after a full day's battle there.



Adkins Refrigeration and Appliance, located in what is now a vacant lot just west of the Miller Agency on the north side of the Waynesville square. They sold Frigidaire appliances, Bendex radios, and Skelgas. Tut's Cafe can be seen at the far right of the postcard. Courtesy of Western Historical Manuscripts.

Stories of these and other events connected with the Spanish-American conflict began to take up more and more space in the local hometown newspapers back here in the Ozarks. Patriotic fever began to spread throughout every community, especially among young unmarried men who were looking for action and adventure.

Word was circulated in May that the only child and son of former outlaw Frank James,

Robert, had joined the calvary with hopes of seeing action in the forthcoming invasion of Cuba. His father urged him to "sustain the fighting reputation of your ancestors on both sides of the house."

Some young boys from Brumley--Arthur Davis and Claude Martin--said they were so eager to battle the Spanish that they stole two horses while Sunday services were underway at a country church near Brumley, with the intention of

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riding them to St. Louis to join the Army.

They made it only as far as Dixon, where they were arrested by Marshal J. B. Spradling on May 15th.

Both boys were under the age of 14.

To be sure, there were other young men who wanted to enlist without having to "borrow" horses to achieve that purpose.

Since President McKinley issued the second call for volunteers a company of 50 has been enlisted here by George E. Cansler and Henry Houk, who obtained their necessary enrolling credentials from Captain Frank M. Walters. They will begin drilling at once and continue until they get orders to move. The company will form a part of Colonel Vincent Marmaduke's regiment.

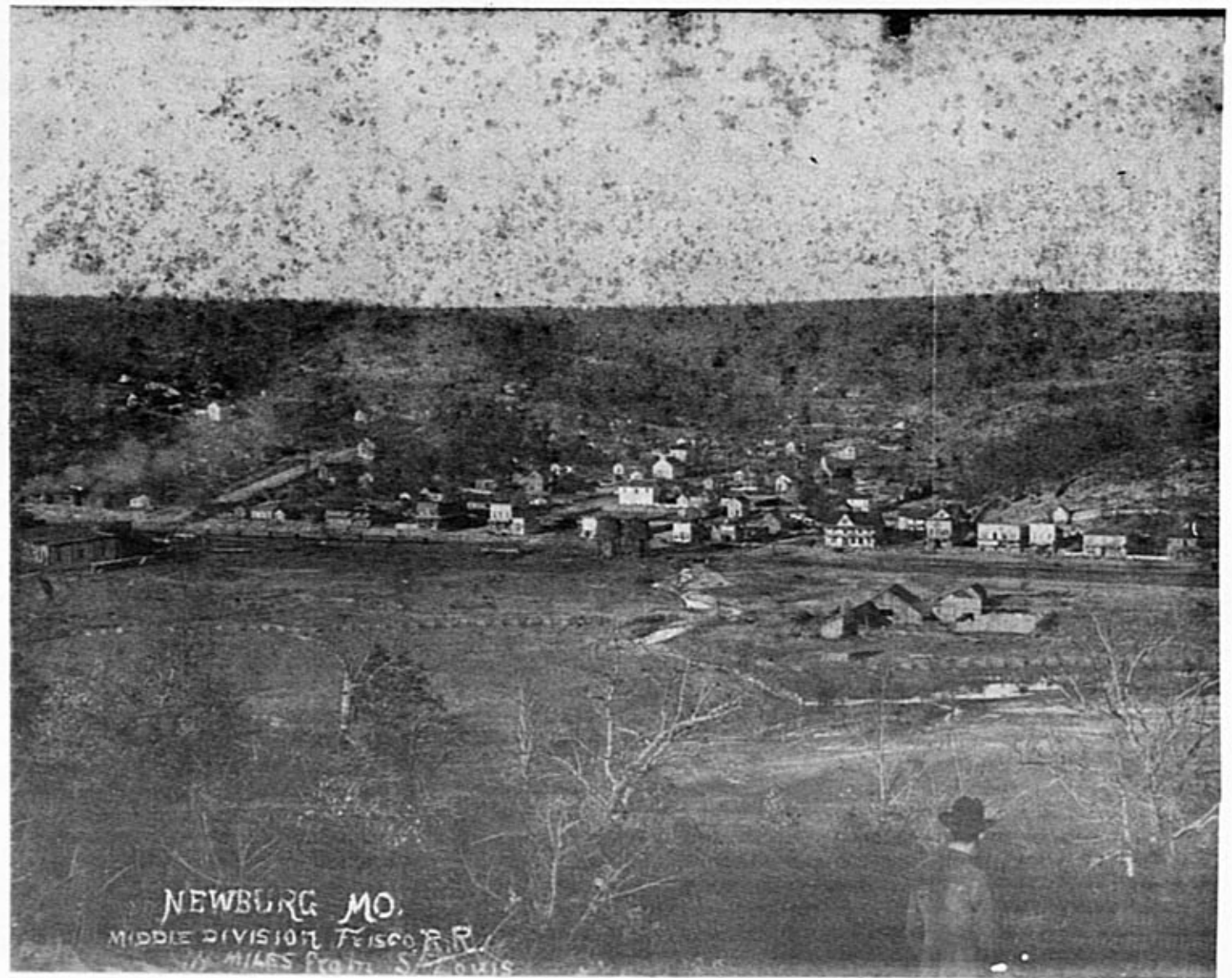
-Dateline Dixon, Mo., May 30th, and printed in the June 2nd edition of the Rolla Herald.

Amid all the talk and turmoil of war and war preparations, the Pulaski County love story of the year reached a blissful conclusion in St. Louis. While many may not have thought the actions of the young love-struck couple were proper according to the mores of that day and age, a St. Louis newspaper article stressed that the young man and woman acted properly and morally prior to the wedding.

Justice of the Peace Hennessy yesterday morning married Joseph Grempczynski and Miss Nellie Carter of Dixon, Pulaski county, Mo. The groom is only a little over 18, while the bride is just 17 years old. A priest refused to marry them last Thursday.

The night before the wedding the couple were detained at the Four Courts. The groom was in the holdover and the bride was in Matron Gilbert's detention room. Three weeks ago Grempczynski and his bride came to St. Louis on an excursion. The groom is the son of a prominent boot and shoe merchant in Dixon and is well connected. The girl is the daughter of a well-to-do farmer.

They had been lovers for some time, but their families objected to the union because of their youth. They attended the same church and spent much of their time together. When they arrived in St. Louis they went to a house at 1141 New Manchester Road, where they lived in separate rooms. Joseph was well supplied with money, and the couple went out a great deal.



Panoramic view of Newburg from early this century. Photo courtesy of Phelps County Historical Society.

A week ago they moved to 1349 South Thirteenth Street. Miss Carter roomed with Kate Manning and Grempczynski with Captain McKenna. Tuesday they obtained a marriage license.

They ordered a wedding supper for Thursday evening. When the time for the wedding came the priest who had been summoned refused to marry them because of their admissions to the people in the house that they were under age and that their families objected.

Friday the police received a telegram from the elopers' folks in Dixon asking them to hunt up the couple. The case was worked up by Sergeant Hess of the Third District, who located the couple on South Thirteenth Street. Saturday night he took them in custody and their folks in Dixon were notified by wire of the state of affairs.

Yesterday morning the authorities received answer to use their discretion in the matter. Detective O'Connell was sent out with the couple to Justice of the Peace Hennessy's court, where they were married. They left on an evening train for their homes and hope for forgiveness.

In the afternoon three friends of the couple came up from Dixon, Pulaski county, and scoured the city. They said that the young folks' parents were almost prostrated by their absence.

-St. Louis Republic article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on June 2nd.

Back in Pulaski County, H. E. Warren of Richland was pleased to receive the news that Governor Stephens had appointed him to the board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home in St. James.

On June 9th, the Rolla Herald reported that Steve McCorkle of Waynesville had finished sawing the timber needed for a new bridge over the Gasconade at the confluence of the Little Piney, presumably at Jerome. The newspaper said McCorkle, who had done the work at James Stewart's, had sold his engine and mill to a Kansas man and intended to go back to his farm.

In the June 16th edition of the Herald, an incredible event was reported.

Mrs. Edward Harris, who resides near Richland, Mo., gave

birth to twin boys last Wednesday night. She has given birth to twins seven times, and are all living. Mrs. Harris is 53 years old.

The article didn't reveal whether this couple had any single-birth children that may have made this sixteen-member family even larger.

Political cauldrons began bubbling hotter in July. The Pulaski County Democrat expressed glee at what it considered intrigue in the ranks of the opposing Republicans.

The (Richland) Cyclone is urging the name of Judge Murphy as Republican candidate for Circuit Judge of this judicial circuit. This is a neat piece of political work, though we are not sure that it is the conception of the Cyclone. The plan is to get Judge Murphy entirely out of Bradshaw's way for the county chairmanship. Bradshaw might earnestly aid in nominating Murphy, for it is but an empty honor. By the way, this is about the only kind of honors that have been accorded Judge Murphy for many years.

-Pulaski County Democrat article, reprinted in the July 7th edition of the Rolla Herald.



The Democrat also told about a gruesome surgery procedure necessitated by the rather primitive state of medicine at the close of last century.

A young man by the name of Borden, of Spring Creek, Phelps county, came to Waynesville last Monday evening to have Dr. Tice amputate part of his foot. Borden is a physical wreck caused by the explosion of a gun in his hands some time ago in Taney county. He lost one eye, one arm, one foot was seriously hurt, besides his side was badly wounded. He had run the muzzle of his gun in the mud in falling, thus stopping it up without his knowledge, and when he fired the gun later it exploded with barrels. Drs. Tice and Claiborn performed an operation by scraping the diseased bone in his foot and will thereby save that member for him.

Pulaski County Democrat article, reprinted in the July 7th Rolla Herald.

Around this same time frame, the Spanish-American war entered a more vital phase. On June 22nd, an American expeditionary force landed at Daiquiri, Cuba, with the intent of capturing nearby Santiago.

The fighting was intense and our soldiers battled not only the Spaniards, but also unknown terrain, extreme heat and humidity, and what they called "yellow fever," which we call malaria.

A significant breakthrough for the expeditionary forces came on July 1st, when Teddy Roosevelt led his Rough Riders in their famous charge up San Juan Hill.

The city of Santiago, however, still held firm.

Back home, after many celebrated Independence Day with a special degree of patriotism prompted by the war, a most infamous event took place in Crocker on July 5th.

Perhaps the most dastardly and foul murder ever committed in this section of Missouri, took place at Crocker last Tuesday evening about 8 o'clock. Sterling Teeple was murdered in cold blood. He was sitting on a beer keg in front of his saloon. Two men approached him from behind, and fired. The shot entered his head at the back and came out over the right eye causing instant death. The shot was evidently fired from a Winchester rifle. No one saw the shooting. As soon as the shot



AAA Court, Oakwood Village, 2 miles east of Waynesville on Highway 66. Courtesy of John F. Bradbury.

was fired many persons came to the scene. Two men were seen leaving the place. They were but a short distance away. No attempt was made to pursue them and they were not recognized.

The motive of the murder was evidently revenge. The deed was done by men who were well acquainted with Mr. Teeple's custom of sitting in front of his saloon to smoke.

No clue has yet been found to establish the identity of the murderers. It is claimed that

one of them was a cripple. A place was found in the woods near by, where some one had spent the day, leaving the remains of a lunch, some country tobacco, part of a newspaper, and a mark where a gun had been standing against a tree.

An autopsy was held Wednesday morning. The interment of the body took place Thursday at Crocker.

Pulaski County Democrat article reprinted in the Rolla Herald on July 14th.

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News of this foul murder spread like wildfire throughout the county, stirring up the populace into quite a frenzy. Pressure was placed on Sheriff Wyrick to find Teeple's killer or killers without delay and to bring to justice all who were responsible for the shooting. About a week later, Wyrick arrested three men--J. T. Miller, Orville Brown, and Joseph Setzer--on suspicion of having committed the murder.

Meanwhile, Nathaniel Borders returned home to Phelps County, as the operation and treatment performed by Waynesville Doctors Tice and Claiborn apparently was successful. Although one foot was partially amputated, Borders was said to be on his way to recovery.

Waynesville residents threw a glorious picnic, possibly one of their famous Old Settlers' Picnics, in the middle of July. As always, an event like this brought participants from far and wide.

The 15th was gloriously celebrated by the people of Waynesville and surrounding country by picnicking. The day was pleasantly spent, and owing to the proximity of the Democratic primary of Pulaski, and the closing of the teachers'

institute, made the occasion a very pertinent one and a large crowd present. Candidates as by virtue of nature showed their generosity in the old style of "setting up" the drinks to men, hoping to win their "much appreciated" votes by their kind inducement.

The writer witnessed the preparation of the Salt River expedition of Pulaski's unfortunate men on Sunday last. Many long faces were caused by the thoughts of leaving their wives, children, etc. Our sympathy is due the bereaved.

"Flag" was numbered among the many who attended the picnic at Waynesville on Saturday last, and much enjoyed the treats of Pulaski's candidates and Waynesville's various amusements.

*-Spring Creek Blooms, written by Flag, and printed in the Rolla Herald on July 21st.*

The picnic left one participant in a temporarily hampered condition. George W. Fletcher of Waynesville was reported by the Pulaski County Democrat to have broken one of the bones of his forearm near the wrist while crossing Roubidoux Creek on a foot bridge. Fletcher fell from the foot bridge while returning home from the celebration.



(Left to right)--Verge Brown, Buelah Foster, Charles Monroe, and Bud Monroe. Photo courtesy of Ruby Fields.

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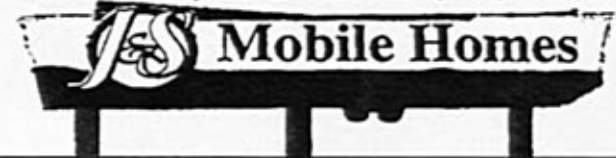
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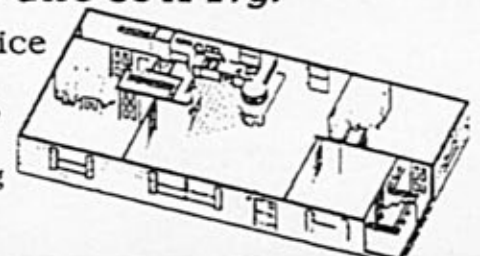


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unmanageable and threw him off.

-Dixon Echo-Enterprise article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on Aug. 11th.

On the war front in Cuba, the American expeditionary force continued to prevail on the battlefield, providing plenty of material for extensive local as well as national newspaper coverage. While patriotic editors played up the glorious aspects of the American victories, many parents just wanted to see their sons return home safely and without injury. When letters arrived from soldiers on the war front, the missives were a very welcomed source of comfort and joy in public as well as in private.

Fred Liesman, Dixon's hero now in camp within the intrenchments at Santiago, writes a very interesting letter to his parents and sisters, which is published in the Dixon Echo. Fred is seemingly a brave patriot, and we wish him good luck and an early return.

-Rolla Herald, Aug. 11th.

The next day after this issue of the Herald hit the streets, a peace protocol was signed by representatives of the U. S. and Spain. The Spanish government ceded the

Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico to America. The first American flags were raised over the ceded territories on August 16th. That day also was the first day the American flag was flown over Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands, which had been acquired earlier by other means.

Even though Labor Day didn't exist back then, residents that year still had an early September event to celebrate, the annual log roll, which was held at different communities each year. Dixon was the site in 1898.

The Frisco will sell tickets to the Log Rolling at Dixon to-morrow, Friday, Sept 2nd, for one fare for the round trip. The Rolla base ball club plays Dixon and Lebanon on that day. Also, Rolla's uniformed drill team of foresters will compete in fancy drill for the silver urn offered as a prize by the Association.

-Rolla Herald, Sept. 1st.

The annual log rolling of the Southeast Missouri Log Rolling Association was held at Dixon last Friday. As usual the Rolla team of Foresters carried off the prize for being the best drilled, making the second successive time they have won this prize. About 1800 people were present, and the Lebanon band furnished music during the

day and gave a concert at night. In the neighborhood of 75 people went up from Rolla. All enjoyed themselves, returning at 5 o'clock Saturday morning. The next meeting will be at Richland in 1899.

-Rolla Herald, Sept. 8th.

The day after the log rolling competition, the Dixon Herald, published by W. F. B. Goforth, hit the streets with its first edition. This publication had been the Crocker Banner before Goforth decided to make the move east.

Several young men in the county in early September learned a hard lesson about unintended consequences.

To our disgrace, be it said, there are now serving time in the county jail, 6 able bodied men, all for stealing chickens. A few nights since they became incensed at some of the boys in their neighborhood, and talked most "luridly," a gang then led by John Burchard, procured their arms full of squalling chickens and gave them a tiptop serenade of kind of music they were accustomed to. It did not seem to tickle them as the "band" evidently thought it might, and they launched considerable

profanity out up on the devoted heads of the musicians.

-Pulaski County Democrat article, reprinted in the Sept. 9th Rolla Standard.

More than words were exchanged a few days later in an unrelated and more serious incident.

News was received here Sunday of a serious shooting affray that occurred at Waynesville last Thursday. From what we could learn it seems that Joe and Tom Haley and Jeff. Thompson, with a number of others, had been imbibing a little too freely of that which intoxicates, and that Jeff. Thompson had a shot gun, which was accidentally discharged, the load taking effect in Joe Haley's left shoulder. Tom Haley, thinking the shooting intentional, and within 15 feet of Thompson, whipped out a 44-calibre revolver and shot Thompson in the stomach, the ball passing through the body and coming out in the back over the left hip. Neither shot proved fatal, although both received the full benefit of the load.

-Rolla Herald, Sept. 15th.

"Who shot Sterling Teeple?" remained a burning question in the early autumn of

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'98. On Oct. 17th, Gov. Stephens issued a proclamation offering a reward of \$200 for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for murdering the popular Crocker saloonkeeper back in July.

Former Pulaski County Sheriff Tom V. Imboden, who in his heyday enjoyed considerable success in locating, apprehending, and bringing several notable criminals to justice in exchange for reward money, wasted little time. On Oct. 18th, the next day after the governor's proclamation, a dispatch out of Dixon reported that Imboden had arrested Robert Clayton, James Williams, and Joe Wilks on suspicion of having committed the murder. The suspects' preliminary trial was scheduled for Oct. 19th in Crocker.

Meanwhile, as many local males were beginning to enjoy fall hunting trips, news of extraordinarily good waterfowl hunting from nearby Phelps County spiked the appetites of many.

Frank Graham, of Spring Creek, on Big Piney, had a lively time with the geese Monday of last week. Along in the early morning hours Frank was awakened by the squawking of wild geese. When daylight

dawned with a fine drizzling rain he saw his wheat fields alive with the big birds. They were gobbling up the fresh young green blades in an alarming manner. Graham got out his gun and made for the marauding band of birds. They seemed to be almost famished and were loath to leave the field when Frank began pouring hot shot into them. When the big flock began rising he got in two shots that brought down nine geese. While other gunners, down near the river, who had been attracted to the scene by the honking of the ganders, tumbled big birds to the earth by the dozen. The geese sailed off about a mile to Owsley's wheat field and again swooped down to feed. The hunters followed them, and were joined by others on the way. There were eleven men surrounding the field when fire was opened and the execution done before the geese got beyond range was considerable. In two hours during the morning eighty-three geese were killed and about fifty crippled. The latter took to the Piney and most of them are still paddling up and down that river, hiding when approached. Several were killed by campers on the stream. Feather beds and fat goose prevails at Spring Creek now. "I



Sarah Mitchele, Charles Mitchele, Christina Calley, and Nannie Johnson. Taken on C.W.'s 75th birthday, April 29, 1929. Photo courtesy of Tom Finley.

have lived here most of my life," said Graham, "but I never saw the geese in droves like they were this season. I killed more this fall than in all the years I have lived here. I get all the ducks I want in an hour's shooting in the big slash between my house and Piney. There are thousands of mallards on the river this fall."

-Rolla Herald, Oct. 27th.

In the political arena, there were potshots aplenty as

the general election date approached. Although most believed the entire slate of Democrat candidates would win by a comfortable margin, some operatives were taking no chances. An Oct. 20th dispatch out of Richland reported that a rumor was being spread that Rev. H. F. Weeks, who was also running for public office, "was espousing the licensing of saloons to gain political prestige."

The rumor failed to keep

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members from renewing Rev. Weeks' license at his church's annual meeting.

In the meantime, the preliminary hearing for the three men accused of killing Sterling Teeple finally was held after a slight delay.

Bob Clayton, Jim Williams and Joe Wilkes were arraigned before Squire Hammock at Crocker last week for the killing of Sterling Teeple on July 5th. Wilkes and Williams were released without trial and Clayton was acquitted by the Justice. Clayton acknowledged to knowing who did the killing and said he knew the day before that it was going to be done but refused to say who did the shooting.

-Dixon Echo article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on Nov. 3rd.

In early November, Pulaski County voters as expected elected the entire slate of Democrats running for county office. They gave a sizable plurality also to Congressman R. P. Bland, who was re-elected by eighth district voters by about a three thousand vote majority.

Later in the month, a well-known county banker made an important acquisition.

John Wilson, cashier of the Dixon bank, has sold his interest in that institution to H. E. Rollins, of Waynesville, and the latter is to act as cashier hereafter. While Mr. Wilson has made a splendid official, honest and incorruptible, Mr. Rollins will be a worthy successor. We have known him for nearly twenty years, and we can conscientiously commend him to our people as a gentleman of strict integrity, and a safe man to do business with. Under his management the Dixon Bank will maintain its reputation as a sound institution.

-Maries County Gazette article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on Dec. 1st.

Other entrepreneurs also were actively pursuing their financial and career goals.

A. S. Lick, of Rolla, has been in Dixon most of this week in the interest of the Knights of Cyrus, a new benevolent and insurance order, the supreme lodge of which is located at Rolla, MO. We believe it to be a good order, and wish Mr. Lick success in his efforts at this place.

-Dixon Echo article, reprinted in the Dec. 15th Rolla Herald.



Three young men cool off at the spring on Roubidoux Creek in Waynesville sometime in the late 1910's, or possible even in 1920's. Postcard dated sept. 3, 1920, postmarked at 1 p.m. in St. Louis and sent to Mrs. T. Lambert, Wharton, Mo., Pulaski Co., read as follows; Didn't leave Crocker til Fri. morn. at 5 o'clock. Leave St. Louis today at noon at 12:15 by way of Peoria. (Signed) t." Courtesy of John F. Bradbury.

W. H. Locker of Pulaski county is a candidate for the office of Official Reporter of the House, 40th General Assembly. Pulaski county is entitled to some recognition for its sturdy democracy, and we know of no man more worthy for the same than our young friend Locker. (He is an attorney).

-Rolla Herald, Dec. 15th.

A big festive event was presented by Waynesville school students on Christmas eve in the school building. All pupils, patrons, and friends were invited to enjoy entertainment centered around a Christmas tree. The celebration sent everyone home filled with good will and Christmas charity, and heightened hopes for the approaching new year.

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# Back Straight to '98 ...

By Gary Knehans

Residents of Ole Pulaski in 1898 were able to greet the new year on much drier footing than they experienced the previous two winters. While spring would still bring its usual flooding, local denizens were spared a repeat of '97's soggy start.

Yet, '98 was a memorable year for other reasons. The nation would be drawn into an historic war. A prominent resident of the county would be murdered in cold blood. There would be other disturbing acts of violence. And a most tender Romeo and Juliet love story would become a publicized event.

The first to take a bride in the new year, however, was a young man from Tribune.

A dispatch from St. Charles, Mo., states that a nice-looking young couple who said they were Alfred Pettit of Tribune, Pulaski County, Mo., and Miss Lizzie Webb, of Bellevue, Iron County, Mo., arrived in that city Sunday morning, and after securing license repaired to the Rev. W. H. Ferguson, on Jefferson street, and were married, leaving again on the noon train for St. Louis.

-Rolla Herald, Jan. 6th.

At about the same time, the son of former Pulaski County Sheriff Thomas V. Imboden, faced legal problems stemming from a fight in Rolla late in '97.

Scott Imboden, of Dixon, who shot Will Van Wormer in this city on Nov. 22nd, was given a preliminary hearing before Squire Hume Tuesday afternoon. Imboden was represented by Attorneys Harrison and Murphy and the state by Pros. Attorney Jones and C. Jamison. The testimony was sufficiently strong to justify the Squire in binding him over to the Circuit Court in the sum of \$100. The bond was quickly given. Will Van Wormer, the victim of that drunk, was present and testified. He is out of danger, although the wounds have not fully healed.

-Rolla Herald, Jan. 6th.

The newspaper scene in Dixon was in a state of change in '98. The editor of the Dixon Echo-Enterprise retired early in January and turned the reins of that publication over to his son, Thomas R. Tingle.



J.L. and Martha Foster, their children and grandchildren in a family get together around 1912. Earl Foster is the teenager on the far left.

Many residents in east county were saddened to hear of the passing of a longtime farmer. While Massie Rodgers had actually died in late December, news of his demise apparently traveled very slowly.

A letter from N. B. Slaughter of Vest, Mo., informs us of the death of Uncle Massie Rodgers, which occurred at the home of Jacob Long near the Wagon Ford of Big Piney, Dec. 21st, 1897. Mr. Rodgers was over 85 years of age and an excellent citizen. In the summer of 1896 he plowed and raised a crop of corn, some 200 bushels.

-Rolla Herald, Jan. 13th

Farther south on the river, there were strange comings and goings around the Big Piney community, apparently not of a human nature!

Out on Big Piney the citizens are considerably worked up over the presence in that locality of some strange "varmint." A number of persons have seen the animal and from their description it is certainly a lynx. John Shaw was in our office Saturday and gave us this information. While he has not seen the animal himself, he has heard its "unearthly squalls" and says it is surely larger game

than commonly exists in that locality. A hunting party is being organized and every effort will be made to rid the country of this unkindly intruder.

-Licking News article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on Jan. 27th.

Around the time Big Piney area hunters were searching the woods, some other kind of hunters caught what they were pursuing in the southwest part of the state.

Martin Dodson of Hancock, Mo., who forged a note for the sum of \$20 on the Bank of Dixon last fall, was caught last week by Deputy U. S. Marshal Brown of Springfield, Mo., in the I. T., and the sheriff of this county was notified and went to Chelsea, I. T., and brought Dodson to Waynesville where he is now in jail to wait the action of the grand jury.

-Dixon Echo-Enterprise article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on Jan. 27th.

A pleasant surprise for many was the unbelievably speedy completion of a new bridge over the Gasconade between Waynesville and Richland. The bid had been awarded late the previous fall.

The magnificent new steel bridge which spans the

Gasconade river at the McCain Ford is completed. Before going to press with this issue Bridge commissioner Barrows will have received the new bridge. It is a magnificent structure and stands five feet higher than the bridge which was washed down last winter. It is a monument to the spirit of progression that has taken hold of the people of Pulaski county. It is the second milestone on the way to a grander development and a nobler destiny laid out by the County Court for this county.

-Pulaski County Democrat article, reprinted in the Rolla Herald on Feb. 3rd.

According to the Democrat, Pulaski County Sheriff Wyrick also was busy along about this time. The lawman arrested John Baker of Newburg and "placed him in jail where he will lay out a fine and costs taxed against him at the last term of court for disturbing a public school."

On February 15th, an event happened hundreds of miles away that eventually would impact not only Pulaski County, but the entire country as well. A mysterious explosion destroyed the U. S. battleship Maine while it was moored in the harbor at Havana, Cuba. Although the real cause of the destructive blast was never