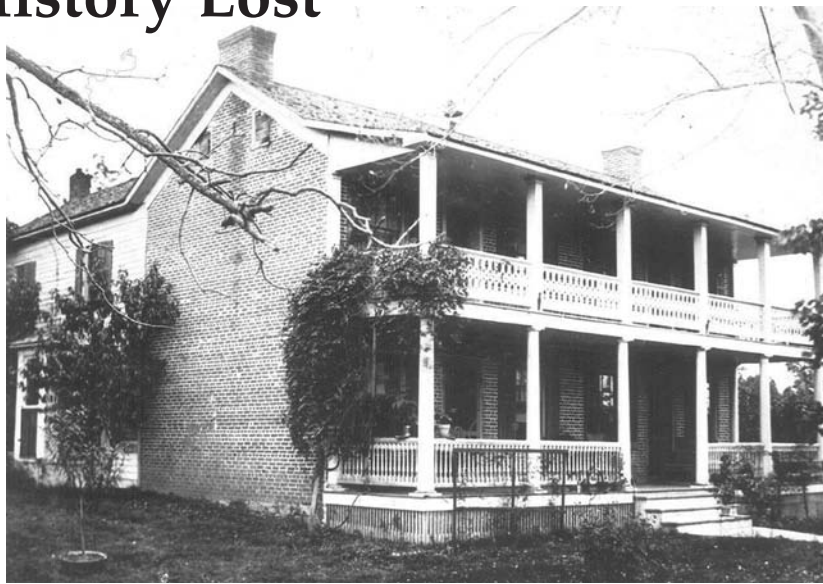


# History Lost



BUILT BY  
PLEASANT  
WAYMAN  
1842



We lose some part of our history with each day's ending: memories fading, subjects of photographs forgotten, and people passing. For the most part, these bits of history slip into oblivion silently and unnoticed. Sometimes a manifestation of history lost is very tangible and readily missed.

Such was the case in December of 2004 when one of the oldest homes in our section of the Ozarks succumbed to one of the greatest erasers - fire . Two brothers, Pleasant and John Wesley Wayman settled on "lower"

Spring Creek near its confluence with the Big Piney River in 1842. They built two fine brick homes and a mill on the spring branch. Pleasant's house burned (above) and the charred hand-made brick walls have been knocked down. After 162 years, it is a pile of rubble. Thankfully, the pegged barn across the road still stands (center right) and a short distance down the road sits John Wesley's house (center left).

The "upper" Spring Creek community was situated near the picturesque spring that today provides most of the

flow of Spring Creek (and erupts from the roadside). It was an even older settlement than the lower enclave. In the 1820s, Adam Bradford (1775-1849) and sons Isaac Neely and James began exploiting the great expanse of short-leaf pine forest that straddled the Big Piney. Isaac Neely Bradford's house still stands (bottom right), three miles southeast from John Wesley Wayman's house. Crossing the creek on a low water bridge brings the 19th century Freeman house into view (bottom left), near the old community of Relfe.

This Spring Creek heritage area is about ten miles south of I-44 on Country Road 6410, via Highway J. Once a part of Gasconade County, then Pulaski County, this park-like setting is now in southwestern Phelps County. By utilizing County Road 6590, one can make a fifteen mile loop along a mostly tree canopied lane that exudes the ambience of Ozarkadia that drew emigrants and sportsmen to the country.

The houses are not open to the public and private property lines both sides of the gravel road.

## But Much Remains

