

Bloodland: A Community Lost But Not Forgotten

by Stephanie L. Nutt

Stephanie Nutt is an historical archaeologist contracted to Fort Leonard Wood. This article is based on the findings of archaeological and archival research and informant interviews focusing on the former community of Bloodland.

As with all historical and genealogical research, errors are sometimes made and information is sometimes discovered that contradicts particular family records or remembrances. Every effort has been made to present the information as accurately as possible. A number of former residents and their descendants have been interviewed during the course of this research. As is to be expected, no two people remember events, people, and places in exactly the same way. Informants' memories have been recorded as they were related, with no attempts to "correct" the information or make it fit better with the documented history of the community of Bloodland. Any additional information on the community of Bloodland would be welcomed at any time.

Introduction

The town of Bloodland was once a thriving rural community located in southern Pulaski County. During its most prosperous days, from about 1900-1935, Bloodland proper had a post office, a bank, a number of stores, several mills, two churches and a cemetery, several garages and filling stations, a tomato canning factory, a school which eventually grew to include a high school, a handful of other businesses, and a number of residences. In the immediately surrounding area were a third church, several more cemeteries, and numerous farmsteads that were included within the Bloodland post office district. Bloodland was encompassed into the Fort Leonard Wood lands when the installation was created in 1941.

For many years it was assumed that any physical remains of Bloodland were nearly nonexistent, save the cemetery and one small house, due to the almost continual impacts to the area from road construction, utilities installation, and military construction and training in the years since 1941. However, in June of 2005 this belief was called into question. While excavation

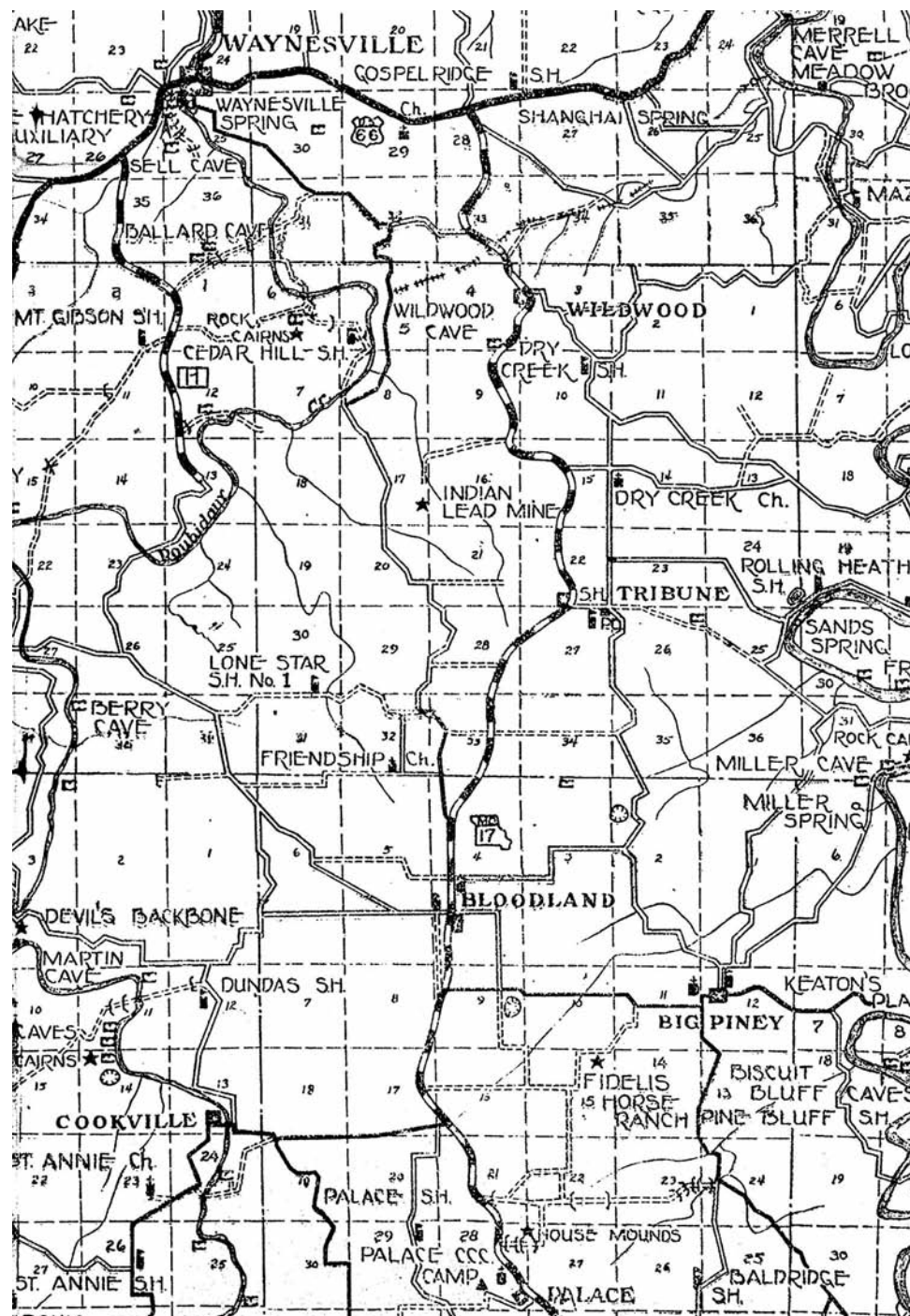


Figure 1. The map shows the south central area of Pulaski County containing Bloodland in 1936. The area from Wildwood to Palace and Cookville to Big Piney became Fort Leonard Wood.

of a utilities trench on the east side of Highway 17 in what would have been "downtown" Bloodland, workers uncovered the remains of a cellar, poured concrete steps, and numerous artifacts such as whole and broken bottles and iron stove parts. The structural remains were concentrated in one location and likely represented the remains of a residence, while the artifacts were found throughout the trench. Most of the artifacts were not found in situ, or in their original location, but rather had already been disturbed by prior earth moving activities.

At this point the Fort Leonard Wood archaeologists stepped in. Obviously

there was more left of Bloodland than was originally expected, but the question was how much remained and how significant were those remains. It was time to address this from a cultural resources management standpoint. The Department of Defense, like all federal land managers such as the National Forest Service or the National Park Service, is required by the National Historic Preservation Act to identify and protect significant cultural resources, such as archaeological sites and historic buildings and structures. To determine whether a site is significant, investigations, typically in the form of archaeology and historical re-

search, must be conducted.

The Fort Leonard Wood cultural resources manager devised a project to investigate the former community of Bloodland. The project took a two-phased approach which included in-depth archival research and oral history interviews and archaeological investigations. The historical research and oral history interview phase is nearing completion. The archaeological investigations are complete and, as was expected, little physical features remain of Bloodland. The information included here represents preliminary results of this research.

Bloodland's Beginnings

The community of Bloodland may have had its beginnings as early as the 1870s. In 1904 and 1905 the Pulaski County Democrat published a periodic column entitled "Reminiscences of Thirty-Four Years Ago". In this column John H. Green related his reminiscences of Pulaski County circa 1871. A search of the 1870 census records did not locate John H. Green in Pulaski County. However, the 1880 census lists John H. Green, thirty-seven, his wife Susan, forty-one, and daughters Sarah J., seventeen, and Martha L., two, sons John F., twelve, and Robert E., five, and step-son William Gillis, twenty-one, as residing in Cullen Township of Pulaski County. By 1900 John H. Green, his wife Susan, and one daughter, Martha L. were residing in Roubidoux Township, several miles west of Bloodland.

At the time of the 1910 census enumeration John H. and Susan Green were living in Bloodland in Piney Township; none of their children were residing with them at this point in time.

On several occasions in his column John H. Green mentions Bloodland and the surrounding area. As the story goes, Bloodland appears to have gotten its name from an early landowner in the area. According to Green there was a school house on the Blood land, the Blood School House. At some point a Reverend J. McCrary "put the land to it" and it was then known as the Bloodland School House. Green goes on to relate that before Blood a man named French lived "on the Blood land [and] afterward sold to Blood, hence the name Bloodland." There was also a spring in Bloodland located near the

first school house. This spring was referred to as the Blood Spring as late as the 1940s. This lends further credence to the presence of a local landowner named Blood.

Pulaski County census records could not place anyone named French or Blood in the Bloodland area in 1870 or 1880 (Note: the 1890 federal census records were largely destroyed by fire and are not available for most of Missouri). However the U.S. Government's General Land Office (GLO) records show that in 1860 James French patented an 80 acre parcel of land in Section 4 of Township 34 north Range 11 west, where the town of Bloodland would eventually be located. During the 1860s James French also gained title to a number of other land patents in the surrounding area of southern Pulaski County. It is possible he never resided on the parcel located where the town of Bloodland was established.

GLO records show patents in 1860 and 1861 for George W. Blood, James H. Blood, John A. Blood, and Nathaniel Blood in Laclede County, approximately fifteen to twenty miles west of the Bloodland area. It is certainly plausible that one of these men or a member of their family purchased land from James French in Pulaski County and were living in the area that would become Bloodland by the 1870s. It is also possible that they purchased the land from James French but did not reside on the land, which would explain their absence in the census records in this location.

Of other residents in the area in the 1870s John H. Green related there were "not many farms of note in the Bloodland country then, just small patches." He then went on to list some of the people and families in the area he could remember, noting he may have made a few mistakes. These were Johnny Hamilton, Johnny Williams, and the Bryant, Campbell, McCoatney (McCourtney), Lemmons, and Logatan (possibly Logan) families. In 1905 Green noted the early Pulaski County farms were small and few and far between. He described a typical farm house stating "... a large majority of the houses were small log structures without windows, and on looking in we see the heating and cook stoves were in the end of the house and made of rock and clay mortar – fire places."

John H. Green also spoke of "the milling points for the Bloodland country." Based on his descriptions this area seemed to include parts of Smith Hollow and McCourtney Hollow. Green noted the Pillmans and Coppages were the millers and that there was a corn cracker at McCoatney (McCourtney)

mill. He described this as an overshot wheel, run by an intermittent spring coming out of a hill side. The spring he described is what is known as Miller Spring today, taking its name from its early 20th century owner and mill operator – Richard Miller.

The churches of southern Pulaski County were also discussed by John H. Green. In his opinion church interest in the 1870s was low. He noted a 24 by 24 foot hewn log Baptist church at Friendship with a small membership. The Friendship Baptist Church would later grow to be one of the larger churches in that part of the county, with many Bloodland families being members of the congregation. Green went on to state that at present (1905) the Friendship log church had been replaced with a "neat frame building and a fair membership."

He also made mention of a "small class of Methodists at the Vaughn school house." This could be the precursor to the Bloodland Methodist Church. The Vaughn family had been living in and around the Bloodland area since the late 19th century and be-

"Saturday was a banner egg day at Bloodland. Jaspar Brothers [General Store] bought over six hundred dozen."

longed to the Methodist denomination. By circa 1900 the Bloodland Methodist Church and cemetery was on land immediately south of and adjacent to the H.E. Vaughn property on the northern edge of the Bloodland community (the cemetery is still located there). Just south of the church and cemetery was the Bloodland School. In 1905 Green noted "we [now] have a Methodist church at Bloodland with a membership of about fifty or sixty and we pay the pastor from \$60 to \$80." It appears Green was a member of this congregation.

Only a few other sources make mention of early Bloodland. Goodspeed's history of Pulaski County, published in 1889, states the first county Agricultural Wheel, a farmer's union, was formed in May of 1888 at the Bloodland school house. However, Goodspeed's description of the towns and villages of Pulaski County makes no mention of Bloodland, suggesting the area had not yet formally organized into a community. The Bloodland post office was established in 1898, indicating there was enough of a community and population there to warrant such a distinction by that time. Little else is known of the Bloodland area prior to 1900. Without the memories of John H. Green this early knowledge would be

nearly non-existent.

Bloodland in the Early 1900s

In stark contrast to its sparse beginnings, Bloodland in the early 1900s had all the makings of a thriving rural community. Centrally located in the southern part of the county, the community grew up along the Old Houston Road, the main north-south running roadway in the county which ran from Waynesville south to the town of Houston in Texas County (Figure 1). By 1900 there was a well-established school, a dry goods store containing the post office, several businesses, a church, and a number of houses.

In the town of Bloodland and the surrounding countryside during the period from 1900 to 1920 lived the Vaughan, Piper, Mee, Jaspar, Wolverton, Steward, Cunningham, Williams, Deaton, Koonce, Irvin, Rumbaugh, Crossland, Bradford, Hough, Page, Miller, Lancaster, Bailey, Fry, Wheeler, Wingo, Hudgens, Springer, Gan, and Christeson families, to name a few. Most of the heads of these families

listed their occupation as farmer in the 1900 and 1910 census, although there were others listed as farm laborers and day laborers. There were also the occasional specialized person such as a carpenter, minister, salesman, and even a photographer.

The Jaspars were a prominent and interesting Bloodland family living in the area in the early years of the 20th century. Three Jaspar brothers, Albert, George, and Samuel were living there just before the turn of the century. George and Samuel Jaspar had established the local store and also farmed. George Jaspar was the first postmaster in 1898 when the post office was established in the Jaspar Store. Albert Jaspar and his family were farming land nearby, but he does not appear to have been involved with his brothers' business ventures. During the first decade of the 20th century the Jaspars also became mill operators and opened a hardware store in addition to their dry goods store.

Without the aid of living informants and well-written genealogies, archival records and sparse family papers must be relied on to tell the story. So is the case with the Jaspar family. By 1870 the Jaspar family, consisting of Phillip and Elizabeth and their children Sidonia, Albert, Lydia, George, and Samuel had

moved from Cape Girardeau County to Texas County. In 1880 Phillip and Elizabeth Jaspar were still living in Texas County and the two older children, Sidonia and Albert, had already left home. The younger three, Lydia, George, and Samuel were still living with their parents.

In 1890 George H. Jaspar married Susan E. F. (Eddie) Crumrine in Roby, Texas County. Three years later, in 1893, Samuel E. Jaspar married Emma Crumrine, younger sister of Eddie Crumrine, also in Roby. The Crumrine family had come to Texas County from Elk County, Kansas sometime in the early 1880s. By 1898 George and Eddie Jaspar and Samuel and Emma Jaspar, along with their growing families, were residing in Bloodland, farming and making a name for themselves in the dry goods business.

The 1900 Federal census lists Albert Jaspar, wife Mima, and daughter May in Bloodland, with the occupation of farmer. The George Jaspar family and the Samuel Jaspar family are also listed, with only one household between them. In the George Jaspar household were listed wife Eddie and children Ettie, Eugene, Harry, and Irl, ranging in age from eight to two. In the Samuel Jaspar household were listed wife Emma and children Bessie, Frank, Samuel, and Dora, ranging in age from five to one. As noted above both George and Samuel Jaspar's occupations were listed as salesmen in a general merchandise store.

The local news of Bloodland published in the Pulaski County Democrat made many mentions of the Jaspar brothers and their business endeavors between 1900 and 1910. On April 1, 1904 it was noted that "Saturday was the banner egg day at Bloodland. Jaspar Brothers bought over six hundred dozen." In March of 1905 it was noted that "Albert Jaspar has a new house nearly completed." In November of 1907 the paper stated "George Jasper has rebuilt the Albert Jasper house, making it a ten room structure, and is now neatly domiciled in it. Sam Jasper adding additional rooms." A hand-drawn map of Bloodland depicting the community from circa 1900-1920 makes note of the original and subsequent locations of the Jaspar brothers' homes and the alterations made to them, along with notable businesses, the church, the school, and other residents. The author of this map is unknown, but it is at least partially based on the memories of Bessie G. Jaspar, daughter of Samuel Jaspar, and may have been drawn by her and another relative.

In December of 1907, during the or-

ganization of the Bank of Bloodland, Sam Jaspas was elected to the bank's board of directors and George Jaspas was chosen as president of the bank. In July of 1908 the Democrat noted that "Jaspas Brothers and Cunningham passed through town [Waynesville] Sunday on their way from Crocker with the watering tank which has been in use for quite a while as the Crocker public well. The tank will be put in use at the Bloodland roller mills . . ." Based on this information and a note on the hand-drawn map mentioned above it appears the Jaspas brothers and William Cunningham were in business together operating the mill. According to the map the mill was situated between the second Samuel Jaspas house and the Cunningham house, along the east-west township road on the south end of Bloodland.

During the period between 1900 and 1910 three members of the extended Jaspas family passed away and were buried in the cemetery at the Bloodland Methodist Church, suggesting they were members of the congregation. Elizabeth Jaspas, mother of Albert, George, and Samuel Jaspas, died in 1902. Loyd Jaspas, son of Samuel and Emma Jaspas died in 1903 at the age of 5. Phillip Jaspas, father of Albert, George, and Samuel Jaspas died in 1907.

In 1910 George and Samuel Jaspas and their families were still living in Bloodland. At this time the George Jaspas household included wife Eddie and children Eugene, Harry, Earl, Leo, Wilford, Cecile, and Paris, ranging in age from 16 to six months; eldest daughter Ettie had already left the household, presumably to marry. The Samuel Jaspas household included wife Emma and children Bessie, Frank, Samuel, Dora, Dorsie, Pearl, and Cecil, ranging in age between 15 and three. At this time they were still operating

the dry goods store, hardware store, and mill, still farming, and still involved in a number of local organizations like the bank board of directors and the International Order of Odd Fellows, who had a lodge in Big Piney, just south of Bloodland (Figure 2).

From the census records and newspaper accounts of the day the Jaspas seemed to be a prosperous family in early 20th century Bloodland. However, family documents indicate there were some problems. In about 1913 the Jaspas family left Bloodland en masse. A portion of a family history, written by an unknown author, relates the story of the Jaspas' move away from Bloodland. Their party numbered nineteen and they transported everything they owned by wagon. Their destination was the community of Zebra in Camden County, approximately 40 miles northwest of Bloodland; the journey took several weeks. Their new farm, with two homes, was "set on a huge patch of some of the choicest soil to be found along the river land, and the Jaspas brothers intended to make their living planting and harvesting corn and other crops." The unknown author of the map mentioned above added a note saying "Bessie states . . . Sam and George tried to farm the poor land and run the businesses too - that's where Sam (Dad) thought they made a mistake." This view likely accounts for their move to Camden County.

It would seem that while Bloodland was a thriving community in the early 1900s, farming on the uplands in poor soils was a precarious business, as it would continue to be up until the time that Fort Leonard Wood acquired the property circa 1940. A similar fate may have met some of the other residents of the Bloodland area between 1910 and 1920. Many of the early family names, such as Mee, Rumbaugh, Wolverton, and Wingo, disappear from the

records, to be replaced by new residents. But others, like the Vaughan, Deaton, Koonce, Page, Gan, and Williams families continued to live and prosper in the Bloodland area until the town ceased to exist.

Aside from the Jaspas brothers' businesses, there were others of note in the town, along with churches and the school. Frank Brown also operated a store and it likely opened in 1907, based on this note in the June 14th Pulaski County Democrat. "Frank Brown received another load of goods last week. Who will put up a third store here? We need it, as trade is on the increase." Bloodland was indeed bustling in 1907 with a telephone line running to Waynesville being installed in the summer of that year. The news of Bloodland in the November 29, 1907 edition of the Democrat stated "The mill is running day and night. The literary and debating society is now in full swing. Bloodland is soon to have a new shop, hardware store, and bank."

During the summer and fall of 1907 the Bank of Bloodland was being organized and planned to open in January of 1908 (Figure 3). By October of 1907 capital stock amounting to \$11,000 had been raised. They expected the Bank of Bloodland to serve all of southern Pulaski County, which it eventually did. Ultimately a capital stock of \$15,000 was raised. In December of 1907 a public meeting was held to elect directors and choose the bank president. At the same meeting W.R. Wingo was chosen to be the cashier. The bank

opened in January of 1908 and on the 3rd of that month the Democrat ran this bit of news: "Parties from Bloodland passed through town Tuesday with the safe for the new bank at that place. The safe was said to weigh 6000 pounds and was drawn by six horses." The Bank of Bloodland served the people of southern Pulaski County for just over 20 years, until the stock market crash of 1929. Everyone who had an account at the bank lost everything and the bank closed permanently.

In the 1900 Federal census there was one physician listed in Piney Township, however he was not located in the Bloodland area. But, by 1910 residents in Bloodland and the surrounding area were enjoying the services of Dr. Cyrus Mallette. Dr. Mallette and his wife Monta York Mallette had a home on the Old Houston Road/Highway 17 in "downtown" Bloodland, near the main intersection in town. He practiced medicine in Bloodland until 1922 when he moved to Crocker in the northern part of the county. Even though he had relocated to Crocker, he continued to see patients in the Bloodland area. In fact, his "house call" circuit stretched north from Crocker into Miller County and south into Texas County.

Bloodland was known throughout the region for its annual 4th of July picnic, which was held behind the store, on the southwest corner of the main intersection in Bloodland. This store was originally the Jaspas Hardware Store and later the Homer Page store. The



Figure 2. IOOF lodge members in front of the Jaspas Brothers Hardware store circa 1906. Courtesy of Hazel McLaughlin Wade Gomes.

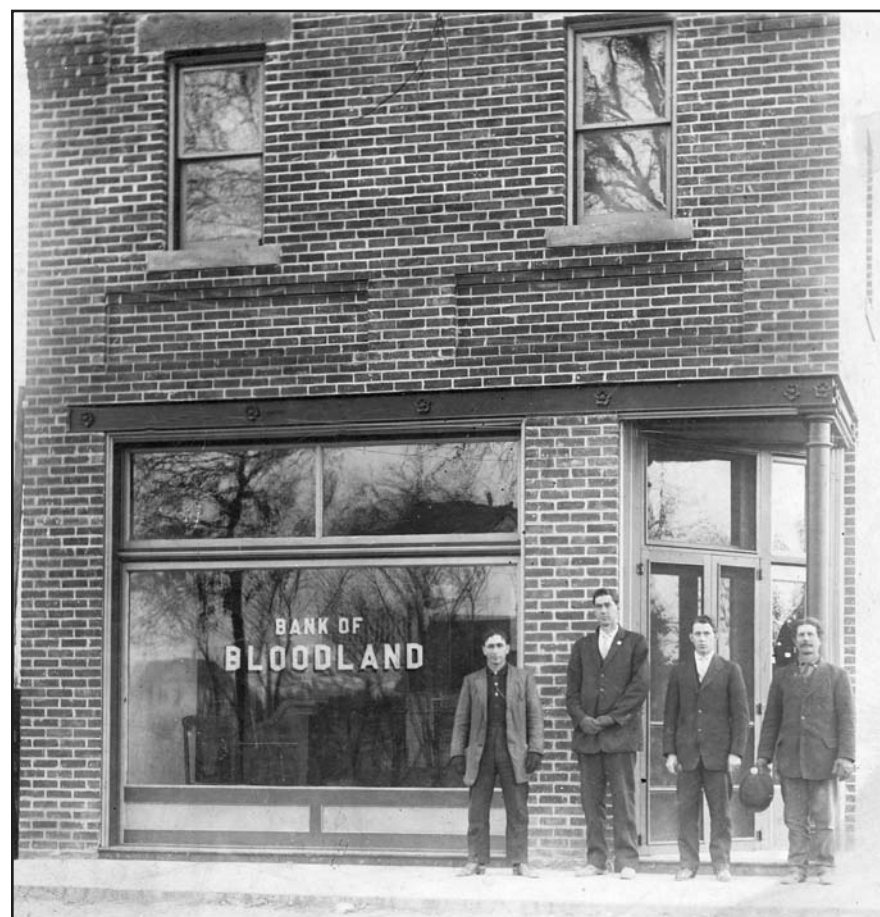


Figure 3. Bank of Bloodland circa 1908. Courtesy of Violet Cowan.

picnic was a tradition that began in the early 1900s and continued throughout the community's life. Many people who had moved from the area returned each year for this special event. A 1907 announcement stated "Bills are out announcing a picnic on July 4th at Bloodland. Bloodland always celebrates in grand style and you will do well to attend the picnic." And in 1908 this notice promised an exciting time for all who attended: "There will be a grand picnic at Bloodland on July 4th. Among the many features of the day will be a grand march by the Big Piney IOOF lodge, speaking by candidates, athletic contest, music by the Waynesville Band and other amusement. Everybody invited to come out and enjoy a day of pleasure." The picnic was also a time when photographers would set up a tent or booth and conduct business. Many families had their portraits made at this time (Figure 4).

Churches and Schools

The Bloodland Methodist Church and cemetery were located on the northern edge of town; the cemetery remains today as a reminder of the community's presence. It is believed that, while the congregation itself may

have begun to develop prior to 1900, the church building that served the congregation at this location was not erected until around 1900 or a few years later (Figure 5, page 34). According to the recollections of Bessie Jaspar, the funds to erect the church were raised by subscription and the Piper family was in charge of the endeavor. Many Bloodland families attended the

Methodist church and are buried in the cemetery. The H.E. Vaughan family, who lived just north of the church, was often tasked as the caretakers of the church. Several of the Vaughan children were responsible for cutting the grass in the church yard and cemetery, and the family was also responsible for opening and closing the church for special events and meetings. Edwin

Vaughan, in an interview in 2008, remembered racing his brothers to the church on Christmas morning to be the first to ring the church bell.

Another church was located in Bloodland, and seems to have been in operation intermittently at least in the 1920s and perhaps later. This was the Holiness Church, likely a part of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church or the Pentecostal Holiness Church which merged to form one body in 1911. The map based at least partially on Bessie Jaspar's recollections placed the Holiness Church just west of the main Bloodland intersection on the east-west running township road. This map notes the Putney building was located here, next to the Frank Brown Store, and the Holiness Church met there. In an interview with Homer Gann in 2006 he mentioned the church and said they had a traveling minister and did not hold services every week, only when the minister was in the area, maybe once a month or so. There is a Fire Baptized Holiness cemetery located on Fort Leonard Wood but it is in the cantonment a number of miles north of Bloodland.

The Friendship Baptist Church, located several miles north of Bloodland, also served the Bloodland community



Figure 4. Gaede family in 1912 taken at the 4th of July picnic at Bloodland. Taken from *Forty 'Leven Stories About Forty 'Leven People* by W. L. and Eula V. York.

and surrounding area. The Friendship congregation was organized before the Civil War and met in private homes until a church building could be built. The original church was a log building which was replaced in 1901 by a frame structure. This building was used by the congregation until circa 1940 when the property was sold for the creation of Fort Leonard Wood. There was also a large cemetery located next to Friendship Church, which remains today.

According to a local historical publication the first school in Bloodland was in operation at least by 1897, when Nellie Deaton Koonce was the teacher. The school was located immediately south of the Methodist Church. Again, according to Bessie Jaspar's recollections, this school was also built with subscription funds raised by the Pipers. She described it as being painted white with green shutters. A 1902 school photo shows approximately 35 pupils. In a December 1905 edition of the Pulaski County Democrat the news of Bailey (a small community a few miles west of Bloodland) stated "Our Bloodland neighbors are talking up a graded school." This statement suggests that up until this time there had been no division between grades. A 1909 school photo shows 36 pupils, many the same students shown in the 1902 photo (Figure 6).

The 1930 edition of *The Bearkin*, the Bloodland High School year book, relates the following history. In 1914 three rural school districts, Dundas, Palace, and Bloodland, merged to form the Bloodland Consolidated School District Number One. At that time the first high school building was built and a two year high school was begun under the tutelage of superintendent



Figure 6. Bloodland School. Taken from *Forty 'Leven Stories About Forty 'Leven People* by W. L. and Eula V. York.



Figure 5. Bloodland Methodist Church in 1940. Courtesy of Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

and teacher E.D. Hudgens. The new building was a two story brick structure located on the east-west running township road, west of the main Bloodland intersection between the Frank Brown store and the Albert Gaede farmstead.

Grade school classes continued to be held in the old building by the Methodist church for several years but were eventually moved into the new building as well. At this point the grade school was changed to a two teacher system. According to Bessie Jaspar's memories, the old grade school was sold at auction and bought by Emmitt Bradford. He moved it to

his property several miles north of Bloodland and used it to enlarge his existing home.

In 1925 the high school changed from a two year to a three year program and another teacher was added. In December of 1925 the school building burned and the school year was finished at the Methodist Church. The Albert Gaede family lived just west of the school property and one of their young sons was the "janitor" for the school. He was responsible for starting the fire in the building each morning to heat the school. Somehow the fire got out of control and the building was set on fire. The Gaede boy was burned badly and died several days later from his injuries. In the fall of 1926 school was held on the second floor of the bank building until the new school building was completed in December of 1926.

In 1927 the high school added a third

teacher and enrollment continued to grow, with students coming from miles away. In 1930 there were fifty students enrolled in the high school with twenty-one in the freshman class and twelve in the graduating class. Enrollment for the entire school (grade school through high school) was 165 students in 1930. In the 1930s a new, "modern" high school was built in the same location through the assistance of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) program. This school was two stories and was made of native stone. Several years after the construction of this school a gymnasium was added to the building.

In 2008 Hazel McLaughlin Wade Gomes shared her memories of Bloodland High School. Mrs. Gomes lived south of Bloodland in Palace and made the five mile trip to Bloodland to attend high school from 1934 to 1938. During her freshman and sophomore years she recalled riding a horse to Bloodland along with other students from Palace. There was a hitching post behind a building next to the Homer Page store, on the southwest corner of the main intersection in town, where they would hitch their horses for the day while they were in school. If it was a cold day they would go across the street to the post office, located in the rear of the Scott Store, where the postmaster, George Koonce, would allow them to warm their hands and feet in front of his stove before walking to the school. In 1936 a bus was acquired to pick up students who lived outside Bloodland (Figure 7). The bus route went from Dundas, to Palace, to Big Piney, and then to the high school. Mrs. Gomes stated "we really thought we were something special to have a school bus."

The Later Years

Much more is known of Bloodland in its later years, especially during the

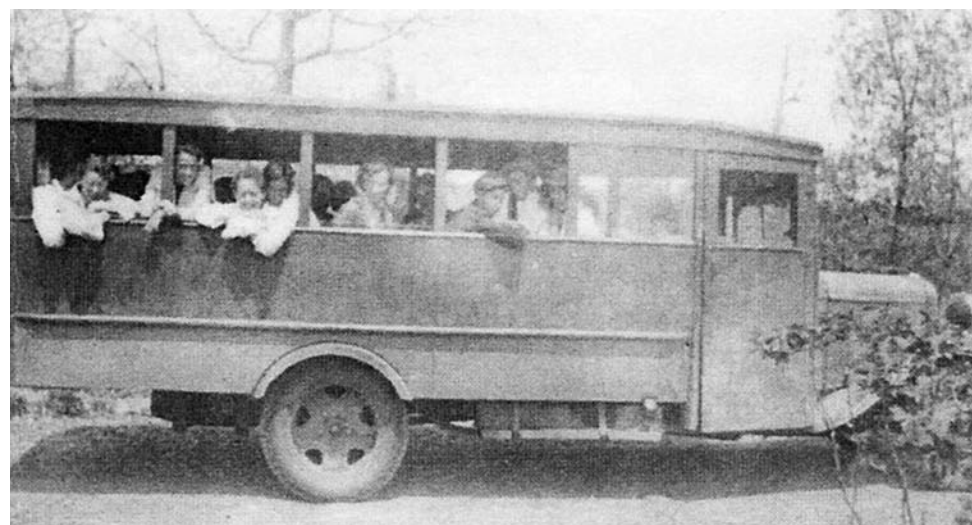


Figure 7. Bloodland School Bus circa 1937. Courtesy of Hazel McLaughlin Wade Gomes.

1930s. A number of local historical publications have documented the community's history and former residents are still living, although their numbers are dwindling. As has been mentioned above, a number of oral history interviews have been conducted with former residents and their descendants. In addition, many families have shared detailed genealogical information and family documents.

Perhaps one of the most informative publications dealing with Bloodland is the book *Forty-'Leven Stories About Forty-'Leven People* by W.L. and Eula V. York. W.L. York was born and raised in Bloodland. This publication contains a hand-drawn map depicting Bloodland circa 1920-1940. This map shows the locations of businesses and residences during the last twenty years of the town's life. Businesses and places of note were the Snyder flour mill, the tomato canning factory, the Vaughan Motor Company (garage and service station), the Smith Brown barber shop, the Frank Brown store, Bloodland school, the Lester O'Quinn garage, the Homer Page store, the Oley Scott store with the post office located in the rear, the Moses brothers stave mill, O'Quinn's service station, Bill Atterberry's blacksmith shop, and the Vaughan and Son store. Town residents during this period included the Kimes family, the Keaton family, the Albert Gaede family, the Homer Page family, the O'Quinn family, the Gardner family, the Moses family, the Charlie Vaughan family, the Harry Vaughan family, the Moore family, and the H.E. Vaughan family.

The tomato canning factory was in operation from the mid-1920s until the mid-1930s, and it was open seasonally. Many families in and around the Bloodland area grew tomatoes and hauled them to the factory to be purchased for canning. The factory provided much needed extra income for the people who worked there, especially during the Depression. The men scalded the tomatoes and the women peeled them and packed them in the cans. Edwin Vaughan recalled that the factory closed because of a decrease in tomato production due to the extended drought experienced in the mid-1930s.

The Frank Brown store did not carry as wide a variety of goods as some of the other stores in town. Edwin Vaughan remembers there being a lunch counter in the

store sometimes and Frank Brown serving stew and similar items. It was not a restaurant, but according to Mr. Vaughan it was the nearest thing Bloodland ever had to one. In a 2006 interview with Virginia Page of Big Piney she recalled the Frank Brown store as selling snacks mostly, and that girls and women did not often go into his store, but older men in town hung around there. She compared the store to a modern day convenience store.

The Scott Store, run by Oley and Zella Scott, was located in the old bank building. The Scotts ran their business in the front part of the building, the post office was in the rear, and they lived upstairs. Virginia Page remembers going to the Scott Store to buy school supplies, stationery, and similar items. She does not remember it being a fully stocked general store. Edwin Vaughan recalled that the Scotts carried a lot of fruit and that his family would buy bananas there.

By far the largest and best stocked store in Bloodland during this period was the Vaughan and Son store, owned and operated by Charlie Vaughan and his son Harry Vaughan (Figure 8). Edwin Vaughan, Charlie Vaughan's nephew, said of his uncle's store "It was a big store it wasn't a small one. He had the grocery section and he carried everything from women's corsets to machine parts." There was a hardware section, a grocery section, a clothing section, and many others. Residents of Bloodland and the surrounding area could get nearly every-

thing they needed at the Vaughan store. Behind the store there was a building where the Vaughans sold feed and attached to this building was a shed for the cream they bought from the local farmers. The Vaughans also bought and sold eggs.

As mentioned above, Cyrus Mallette was still considered the local doctor for Bloodland during the 1920s and 1930s, even though he had relocated to Crocker. He was particularly good friends with the H.E. Vaughan family and Edwin Vaughan remembers him well. Mr. Vaughan's mother, Pearl Gan Vaughan, would make skunk grease

every year. Mr. Vaughan and his brothers would kill skunks and bring them to their

mother so she could render the fat. The boys would collect old whiskey bottles in which to store the fat. Mr. Vaughan had this to say about Dr. Mallette and the use of skunk grease to cure coughs, colds, croup, and the like. "Doc Mallette from over in Crocker was our local doctor. He would come by, he knew where mom kept the skunk grease, he'd get a bottle, go give it to some kid and you talk about something being slick. That's the slickest stuff you ever seen. You can get it in your mouth and it won't go down. It's not real tasty or anything. So we had learned we'd mix a tablespoonful of sugar with our skunk grease on it and take it real fast before the sugar'd melt. It'd be rough but you could get it down. That winter Doc used the entire sixteen pints mom had." According to

"It was a big store it wasn't a small one. He had the grocery section and he carried everything from women's corsets to machine parts."

Edwin Vaughan



Figure 8. Vaughan and Son store in Bloodland in the 1930s. It was operated by Charlie Vaughan and his son Harry. Taken from *Forty 'Leven Stories About Forty 'Leven People* by W. L. and Eula V. York.

Mr. Vaughan their house was the central point of contact for Dr. Mallette. If it was an emergency the doctor would be telephoned, but "... if it was that they wasn't real sick but yet wanted to see Doc we just hung a red flag out on our mailbox. And if Doc came by he'd stop and find out where to go."

1931

A Year in the Life of a Bloodland Teenager

For Christmas of 1930, Edith Koonce received a diary as a present from her older sister Dot. She made nearly daily recordings in the diary throughout 1931, chronicling her day to day activities around the house and farm, school functions, social activities, friendships, and feelings. She was fourteen when she began the diary on January 1, 1931 and she turned fifteen in June of that year. Living in the Koonce household at this time were Edith's father George, mother Nellie, older brother Vance, older sisters Dorothy (Dot) and Lena, younger sister Rosemary (Roe), cousin Lorene (Lor) Deaton, and grandmother Filena Deaton. The oldest daughter of the family, Lois Koonce Kinnaird, was married and living in Evening Shade, but Edith wrote of her, her husband Clarence, and daughters Marilyn and Dorothy Jo often in the diary, too.

The Koonce family owned a 154 acre farm west of Bloodland and also looked after Grandmother Deaton's farm land. George Koonce was also the postmaster in Bloodland, although it appears his daughter Dorothy Koonce worked at the post office and did her father's job much of the time so he could maintain the family farm, or when he was ill. Nellie Koonce, Edith's mother, was completely blind by 1931,

having lost her eyesight sometime around 1921. The Koonce family seems to have been a little better off than many of their neighbors in those early years of the Depression. They worked hard and raised nearly all the food they ate, but they also had cash on hand and Edith, and likely her siblings, seemed to have access to money when they needed it. In addition to farming, their father worked outside the home as postmaster and received a supplemental income. According to anecdotal family history, Edith Koonce's grandmother was also known to be "well off" and, based on several en-

tries in the diary, she did have available cash. These two facts likely account for the Koonce's extra cash flow.

As with any fourteen or fifteen year old girl, much of the diary focuses on her friends, boys, and social activities. But intermingled with these personal entries Edith Koonce faithfully recorded the more mundane parts of her life in 1931 like the weather, homework, housework, and farm activities. It is these entries that provide a picture of life in Bloodland at this time. A typical Saturday entry mentioned household work such as ironing, scrubbing floors, and washing. The Koonce girls did all of the housework, save for a short period of time in March of that year when their mother hired someone to wash the clothes. This appears to have been a temporary employment because just a few weeks later Edith mentions doing the washing again. Most or all of the cooking was done by the girls as well, predominantly Dorothy and Lena, with Edith's assistance. The fact that the girls were responsible for all the housework is likely due to the fact that their mother was blind and no longer able to do this type of work and their grandmother was elderly. In most other Bloodland families the children would have as-

sisted their mother with these types of activities, not been completely responsible for it.

The Koonce children also helped their father around the farm. Edith and Lena were responsible for milking the cows morning and evening, and they all helped with the gardening. They assisted their father with the farm work primarily by "cutting sprouts" to clear the fields. Edith makes no mention of her or her sisters helping with the actual planting or harvesting. George Koonce also kept a small sugar cane field and made syrup and molasses for the family, which was very special to them. Edith recalled that she and her sisters loved to watch the syrup boiling in the pans. The girls were also responsible for canning and preserving the food from the garden and orchard. During the summer and fall of 1931 Edith mentions picking strawberries, goose berries, and dew berries and making preserves and jelly. She also writes specifically of harvesting green beans, beets, and rhubarb and canning apples, peaches, grapes, and "kraut". Apples were also dried and made into jelly and apple butter. Peach butter was also prepared and canned. Finally, she mentioned making and canning apple and peach pickles.

Edith Koonce and her older sisters made most of their own clothes and also clothes for the younger children, Rosemary and Lorene. Many entries in the diary mention patterns and fabrics Edith chose for the clothes. Edith also writes of selecting patterns and fabrics with her friends as most would have made their own clothes as well. However, Edith also mentions several dresses, costing about \$2.00 apiece, and a number of pairs of shoes she ordered from catalogs throughout the year. Again, this hints at the fact that the Koonce family had cash on hand. Edith also appears to be up-to-date with the latest fashions and mentions specifically wearing backless pajamas (popular at the time for girls and young women to wear for play) to work in the garden in order to get a suntan, also very popular at the time. Edith's older sister Dot seems to have been the hairstylist in the family; Edith mentions getting her hair cut by Dot several times throughout the year. At one point Dot cut Edith's hair in the "wind blown style" and she was "crazy about it."

An avid reader, Edith Koonce writes of a number of newspapers, magazines, and books that she read, and re-read throughout the year. She read in

the evenings and weekend afternoons quite often and routinely read to her mother and grandmother as well. She mentions McCall's, Cappers Weekly, and True Stories magazines often. Edith seemed particularly fond of westerns and Zane Grey was one of her favorite authors.

Much of Edith Koonce's free time in 1931 seems to have been spent visiting with friends and neighbors, either at the Koonce home or at their homes. Edith regularly walks or catches a ride to her friends' and neighbors' houses, staying for as little as half an hour or as long as an afternoon or evening. During these visits Edith and her friends talked, played outside in decent weather, played inside games such as cards, cribbage, and carom, listened to the radio or the Victrola, and occasionally played musical instruments. It was not uncommon for Edith to be at a friend's house until 10 or 11 o'clock at night, even on a school night. School plays, parties, athletic events, and programs such as debates also provided entertainment. On several occasions Edith attended "marsh mallow" and wiener roasts at the school or in town. During 1931 Bloodland High School took two class trips to nearby Maxey Cave; the boys paid their way and the

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Figure 9. Ben and Norma Wood, 1940, in front of their house in Bloodland. Courtesy of Norma Wood.

girls provided the picnic lunch.

Occasionally Edith Koonce wrote of doing homework, but not regularly. Either she had little to do or did not feel it noteworthy. Classes her freshman year included English I, Algebra I, Citizenship, Agriculture, and Physical Education. Towards the end of the school year she wrote that she enjoyed her Agriculture class even though it was difficult. During her sophomore year, which began in the fall of 1931, she took English II, Geometry, General

Science, History, and Physical Education. In September Edith wrote "I sure am crazy about Geometry. Made S [satisfactory] in it today tho." A few days later she noted that her grade in Geometry had improved to E, for excellent. Edith was the sophomore class reporter and "humorous editor" for the high school paper *The Harvester*. This may have been the first year for the school paper as Edith also noted that the paper was "... made entirely by the students. Rather a good paper for that."

It is striking the amount of time Edith Koonce spends away from home and involved in social activities during 1931, especially during the summer of that year.

Many of her entries mention "going to the show" referring to either a silent picture show in Bloodland or a "talkie" in Crocker. Edith, her sisters, and her friends regularly went to the movies, catching a ride with their older brother or one of the "boys" they were "going with" at the time. It seems that many of these boys were in their late teens and early twenties and already out of high school. At one point in the summer months there was a silent movie show set up in Bloodland for about a week and they showed a number of different

movies, all current for the day. Edith and her sisters and friends planned to attend the movies every night that week and nearly did. The reason for missing one night was due to rain. The silent movies were shown in a tent or out in the open, and weather was a deciding factor.

Edith Koonce experienced a number of firsts in her life during 1931. She took her first trip to Lebanon in nearby Laclede County along with the rest of her school volleyball team for a game. On the way home from this game they stopped at a restaurant to eat, also a first for Edith. Edith attended a fair in Crocker in September where she saw a "Negro minstrel show" and rode the "Ferris Wheel", a first for her as well. She also received her first letter from a boy, saw her first train, and while not a first, saw her second talking movie ever. So was the life of this teenage girl from Bloodland in 1931. From the exciting to the ordinary, and everything in between, Edith recorded it all, providing a snap shot of life in this rural community.

The Coming of the Fort

Many people who lived on the lands that became Fort Leonard Wood had left their property before the construction of the installation began. But because Bloodland was a well established town with numerous businesses to serve the workers, it remained for a year or so longer. Earlier this year an interview was conducted with Norma Campbell Wood and her son Larry Wood. She was married to Ben L. Wood, who was born and raised in the Bloodland area (Figure 9). He graduated from Bloodland High School and worked as a clerk in the Charlie Vaughan store in the mid-1930s.

Norma Campbell was in town staying with relatives and she went to the Vaughan store to purchase a toothbrush and met Ben Wood there. They eventually married in 1940 and Ben Wood, along with his wife Norma, worked at the Vaughan Store during the last year it was open, 1940 to 1941. Mrs. Wood noted that during the first six months they worked there after their marriage, business was moderate and they did not make very much money.

But all of that changed in December of 1940 when the construction of Fort Leonard Wood began. The Vaughan Store was so busy supplying goods to the construction workers that they could barely keep the shelves stocked, especially with work clothes and boots. It was a very wet winter that year and construction proceeded through rain and mud. Edwin Vaughan recalled "Uncle Charlie ... and his son Harry they had a big truck and every day Harry would go to Springfield or St. Louis or something, buying pants, rain gear, overshoes, anything like that he could buy and at night those people when they got off work would flock in there. No electricity everything by lantern or lamp light, and no cash register." For a time Edwin Vaughan, who would have been about thirteen, was the "bank messenger" for his uncle and was in charge of taking the money home each night so it could be deposited in the bank the next day. He would have a big envelope stuffed with bills that amounted to hundreds of dollars. One night on his way home from the store he was chased by some unknown men who wanted to steal the money and his father would not allow him to carry the cash after that.

A tent city of sorts sprung up around Bloodland and workers were housed



Figure 10. Bloodland with a tent city circa 1940. Photo taken from top of the school, looking east. Courtesy of Norma Wood.

wherever there was a vacant space (Figure 10). Larry Wood remembered his father telling him that Charlie Vaughan put cots in his vacant garage and service station, across the street from the store, and workers stayed there. Edwin Vaughan related this memory: "Oh, we had people wanting our chicken house; wanting us to sell our chickens so they could live in the chicken house. We had people living in our granary. We had people in our scales that was an open building pretty well but they got cardboard boxes and done everything and sealed it in as much as they could." They charged the workers rent and his mother fed them as well. He also related this joke that went around at the time. "The winter was a wet cold winter. The story went around about a man that found a big hat right in the middle of [Highway] 17. So he got off his horse to go get that hat and walked over there and picked it up and the guy underneath the hat said you can have my hat if you'll get me outta here. You don't have to worry about getting that Caterpillar out, said just get me out."

Other families didn't fair as well as Charlie Vaughan with his active store. Another former resident of the area, who lived in Palace, remembered that

originally their farm land was to be purchased by the government as part of the installation. Her family had been notified and her father had already secured a new farm farther south. Some of the family was still living on the Palace farm when construction and military training began. She recalled how the soldiers would drive their vehicles through their farm, knocking down fences and destroying the soil. The walls of their house would shake and dishes and other items would be broken from the vibrations. Some soldiers even took, butchered, and barbecued one of the family's hogs. When their commanding officer discovered what they had done he made them apologize to the family and repay them for the hog. Ultimately the Army decided not to purchase the farm after all, but they had done so much damage that the farm was never the same again.

When the United States entered World War II there was a high demand for metal. Many people salvaged or took metal from the abandoned farmsteads across the Fort Leonard Wood lands. Edwin Vaughan related that someone stole all the metal from the steam locomotive used to power their threshing machine, the threshing ma-

chine itself, and the metal from the shed where it was stored. He stated that they lived not more than 100 yards from where the threshing machine sat and they didn't even hear or see anyone taking it.

Several buildings remained standing or partially standing in Bloodland for years after Fort Leonard Wood was established. Larry Wood recalls visiting the Bloodland cemetery with his family in the 1950s and remembers his father taking him to see the school building. He thinks there were a few other building ruins still around at this time. The Bloodland School building was finally torn down by the Army sometime in the 1950s or early 1960s. A local newspaper article gave an account of the demolition conducted by Company C of the 82nd Engineer Battalion and the 103rd Heavy Equipment Engineer Company. The article stated the rubble was buried on the school site.

Archaeological Investigations at Bloodland

Archaeological investigations of the Bloodland area included geophysical survey and mechanical trenching along with the more traditional techniques of surface survey, shovel test excavation,

and unit excavation. A primary goal of the project was to locate and expose architectural remains of the Bloodland community.

Geophysical Survey

The use of geophysical survey was employed in an attempt to identify the locations of buried foundation remains and other features. Aerial photographs from 1938, 1945, 1979, and 2005 were studied to identify the locations of buildings in 1938, prior to the property being purchased by the government, and to determine the amount of disturbance of the area in the past 50 plus years. A Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program was used to pinpoint undisturbed areas within the community that appeared promising for geophysical and archaeological testing.

Sixteen areas of interest were identified as having the potential to contain architectural and archaeological remains. Of these sixteen areas, three were selected to be subjected to geophysical investigations in the form of magnetometer and electrical resistance survey. As it is employed for archaeological investigations, the magnetometer is an instrument used to detect

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variations in the magnetic field below the ground surface. These variations, or anomalies, can indicate the presence of buried deposits which can be cultural, such as a concentration of metal artifacts, or natural, such as iron deposits. Electrical resistance survey detects anomalies beneath the ground surface based on the differences in their resistance to the flow of an electrical current shot in to the ground. The detected anomalies can be cultural, such as a buried building foundation, or natural, such as a large, buried boulder. Neither of these techniques can tell the archaeologist exactly what is buried beneath the surface. However, the anomalies can suggest the presence of intact archaeological deposits and help guide the placement of excavation areas at a site.

Within the three areas of Bloodland tested using geophysical survey, a total of thirty anomalies were identified. Each of these anomalies was investigated or “truthed” through either hand or mechanical excavation and a few of them did, in fact, correspond to cultural features such as concentrations of artifacts and buried foundation remains. Most of the anomalies, however, turned out to be related to natural features or did not appear to correspond to any feature. The geophysical survey was most useful in locating remains of the H.E. Vaughan farmstead, located on the northern edge of Bloodland.

Mechanical Trenching

A more successful strategy for locating architectural remains turned out to be mechanical trenching using a backhoe. The 1938 aerial photographs were overlain on the 2005 aerial photographs in order to plot the location of historic buildings on the modern landscape. Trenches were then dug where buildings had once stood in an attempt to locate buried foundation remains. This strategy was employed in several locations within the Bloodland site and proved successful. The remains of three buildings were identified in this manner – an O’Quin family residence, the H.E. Vaughan farmhouse, and another residence possibly belonging to Dr. Cyrus Mallette or another member of the Vaughan family.

Use of Historic Maps and Documents

The Fort Leonard Wood 1941 land acquisition records and historical documents and maps, both published and unpublished, were also used extensively to locate the remains of site locations within Bloodland. This method

was by far the most successful strategy. By comparing the historical maps and aerial photographs it was fairly easy to pinpoint where particular sites would have been. Unfortunately, field inspections of these areas revealed most of the area was heavily disturbed. One merely had to stick a shovel in the ground and turn over a shovelful of dirt to see just how extensive the disturbance was.

Surface Survey

The entire Bloodland community area was walked by the archaeological crew to determine what remains might have survived. Through this effort the crew located structural remains, visible on the surface, of six different properties. Property owners listed here correspond to the person who sold the property to the government for the creation of Fort Leonard Wood and, for the most part, represent the owners in the 1930s and early 1940s. At the Albert Gaede farmstead, a small outbuilding foundation standing approximately three feet high was located. At the Gus Gaede, farmstead the surface remains consisted of foundation rubble, a well-head, a handful of artifacts including early 20th century ceramics and bottles, and scattered daffodils and irises delineating the farmstead’s yard area. At the Homer Page property, a cellar foundation was visible at the ground’s surface. Another cellar foundation was identified at what may have been a rental residence on property owned by Charlie Vaughan. A large concrete slab, a cellar, and foundation rubble was identified at the Robert Keaton residence. The concrete slab showed evidence along its edges of damage from backhoe teeth, probably made when Fort Leonard Wood demolished the building in the 1940s or a bit later. Finally, at the H.E. Vaughan farmstead foundation remains were visible on the surface.

Unfortunately, no above ground architectural features or artifacts were found where some of the more prominent Bloodland properties were located. These include the school, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the tomato canning factory, the various stores, and other local businesses. Through minimal random shovel testing it was determined the sites of the school and tomato canning factory had been completely destroyed. Construction had also destroyed the locations of the church, stores, and most other businesses. A small brick and concrete rubble pile was located where the bank building had stood. This push pile was the result of the demolition of the

building and evidence of grading and other disturbance was abundant.

Excavation

With this knowledge in hand locations were selected to conduct more traditional archaeological excavation, in the form of shovel testing and test units. A shovel test is a roughly 50 centimeter wide hole that is excavated until sterile subsoil is found, meaning a soil layer that is devoid of cultural materials (artifacts). In the Bloodland site area subsoil is typically encountered at a very shallow level, between twenty and thirty centimeters below the surface. The soil in this area is also very rocky, adding to the shallow nature of the cultural deposits. Shovel tests are excavated in a grid pattern across a site, with the holes typically placed anywhere from five to twenty meters apart. Test units are usually one by two meter blocks that are also excavated to sterile subsoil. A test unit is usually placed where a concentration of artifacts was discovered in the shovel tests or just outside a foundation in an attempt to locate living and disposal areas at a site. The excavation of a test unit allows the archaeologist to see a much larger portion of the site than can be seen from the excavation of shovel tests alone. By exposing this larger area it is easier to determine what may have been going on at a particular site and to get a better “picture” of the lives of the people who occupied the site.

Shovel tests and test units were placed at the Homer Page site, the bank building site, the possible Mallette/Vaughan residence, the Vaughan rental residence, and the H.E. Vaughan farmstead. Excavations at the Homer Page site were limited and revealed very little about the site. No cultural features or architectural remains, other than the aforementioned cellar, were identified. Artifacts recovered included a small number of ceramics in the form of table wares and stoneware crocks or mixing bowl fragments, glass tumbler fragments, aqua bottle glass, numerous wire nails, and fragments from a metal bucket – all typical of an early 20th century rural residence. The most abundant type of artifact was clear and amber bottle glass fragments, with over one hundred sherds coming from two to three screw top bottles. At least two of these bottles appear to be liquor bottles and are likely related to the demolition of the property rather than to the Page family’s occupation of the site. This same phenomenon has been demonstrated at other historic sites on Fort Leonard Wood where an accumulation of liquor bottles has occurred

after the owners have moved off the property. Perhaps the bottles represent trash disposal by the military or the workers who were conducting the demolition.

The location of the bank building, which eventually housed the Scott Store and Bloodland Post Office, appeared highly disturbed as well, but one excavation unit was placed here because of the importance of the property’s former use. The unit showed a high level of disturbance as had been expected. A number of brick fragments were discovered in the test unit, undoubtedly coming from the demolition of the two story brick bank building. The only other artifact recovered was a piece of a ceramic dish likely related to the Scotts’ occupation of the property from circa 1925-1940. The Scotts lived on the second floor of the building and operated their store on the first floor; the post office was located in the rear of the first floor.

As mentioned above one, of the backhoe trenches revealed evidence of a building foundation that may have been located on property owned by Dr. Cyrus Mallette and then later by Charlie Vaughan. The trench revealed a series of circular concrete piers with impressions in them where a square four by four inch post had once been inserted. The posts likely rotted out after the building was demolished. The foundation piers probably supported the building’s girders.

One test unit was placed just to the east of these pier foundation remains, in the hopes of discovering artifacts or features related to the occupation of the building. Few artifacts were recovered from the unit. They included wire nails and nail fragments, roofing nails, and clear window glass, which would be expected near a demolished building. Also recovered were domestic items similar to those found at the Homer Page site mentioned above – white semi-vitreous dish fragments, stoneware vessel fragments, and clear, aqua, brown, and amber bottle glass. Also recovered was a 1949 Lincoln head penny. This penny dates to the period of time when Fort Leonard Wood was not an active military training facility. At the end of World War II Fort Leonard Wood was closed and in 1948 grazing rights were given by the government to the Jarboe Commission Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cattle were regularly driven through the Bloodland area and the Bloodland School was used as a staging area for these drives. The post remained on inactive status until August of 1950, when it was reactivated during the Korean conflict.

Another test unit was placed near the cellar remains of what was likely a rental house on the Charlie Vaughan property. Similar to the unit excavated at the bank building site, this unit also showed a high level of disturbance. The test unit was located near modern Highway 17 and the disturbance was probably caused by road grading and construction over the past 50 years. Only a handful of artifacts were recovered from this unit including eight pieces of semi-vitreous and ironstone dishware, seven pieces of stoneware, five clear and amber bottle glass fragments, one piece of milk glass, and a very small amount of brick fragments. All of these artifacts date to the early 20th century and are typical of a rural residence during that period of time.

The H.E. Vaughan Site

Finally, excavations were conducted at the H.E. Vaughan site (Figure 11). This site was the largest and best defined of all the Bloodland sites, and also



Figure 11. The H. E. Vaughan farmhouse near Bloodland. Courtesy of the Vaughan Family.

showed the least amount of post-1941 disturbance. The interview with Edwin Vaughan, one of H.E. Vaughan's sons, was invaluable to the interpretation of this site. As was mentioned above, a variety of investigative techniques were employed at the H.E. Vaughan site. These included geophysical survey, mechanical trenching, and the excavation of eighty-six shovel tests and three test units. Remains of the house foundation and three outbuilding foundations were located along with hundreds of artifacts.

One test unit was placed approximately 50 meters/165 feet north of the foundation remains to investigate a concentration of artifacts found during

shovel testing. The artifacts recovered from the unit consisted primarily of glass and nails. One hundred and forty-four pieces of clear and aqua glass were found, most of it burned. One hundred and forty-nine wire nails and wire nail fragments were also collected. The remainder of the artifacts consisted of machine parts, bolts and rivets, vehicle plate glass and a Bull Dog brand porcelain electrical insulator. The soils in the unit were very gravely and showed evidence of burning. At first it was thought that the artifacts resulted from a garage or workshop of some sort, but Edwin Vaughan stated there was no such building in this location. More than likely, this unit actually revealed evidence of the destruction of the site, with the burning and disturbance occurring when the property was demolished post-1941.

A second unit was placed at the H.E. Vaughan site to the east of the house foundation in what would have been the back yard area. Most of the artifacts

were domestic in nature and were typical of the very late 19th and early 20th centuries. The predominant class of artifacts was bottle glass, with clear, blue, and aqua fragments recovered. Other glass included pink press molded table glass, often referred to as Depression glass, canning jar fragments, and milk glass canning jar lid liners. A number of wire nails and wire nail fragments were found, as would be expected in the yard area of a building that was demolished. Of note were a metal crown cap, which post-dates 1895, and a 1910 Lincoln head penny. All of these artifacts would be related to the H.E. Vaughan family's occupation of the site from about 1904-1941.

The third unit at the H.E. Vaughan site was also placed to the east of the house in the back yard area, near Unit 2. The artifacts recovered were similar to those from Unit 2 discussed above, however the quantity was much larger. Clear and aqua bottle glass was again recovered in great number. Other glass consisted of clear and pink press molded table glass and fragments of milk glass canning jar lid liners. Ceramic fragments included semi-vitreous dishware, stoneware, and one piece of decal decorated porcelain, probably from a plate or decorative dish. A great number of metal artifacts were found. These included a razor blade, a canning jar lid, spice tins, a can key like those found on sardine cans, wire nails and nail fragments, and two hundred sixty tin can fragments, some with lids showing marks made by an opener. Of particular interest in this unit were a piece of a writing slate, chimney glass and a knob from a kerosene lamp, and ten fragments of porcelain bathroom fixture probably from a sink or commode.

When discussing his family's typical diet and shopping habits Edwin Vaughan noted that almost all of their food, save exotic fruit like bananas, came from their farm, garden, and orchard. In fact he stated "we never bought anything in a tin can." Based on this recollection it is safe to assume that the high quantity of tin can fragments recovered from the site result from the military use of the property post-1941. When Mr. Vaughan was told of the large amount of can fragments and where they were found he said they must be related to the military and not his family. He noted that the cistern was located in the rear of their house and it was probably filled with trash after his family moved off the property. It is likely that just after the Vaughan farmstead was demolished

the military also used the area as a dump site of sorts, adding their canned food remains to the debris from the house. Possibly all of it had been pushed into or dumped into the cistern. This would explain how the tin cans were mixed with the remains of the Vaughan family's broken dishes and glassware, canning jar fragments and other clearly domestic items.

In Conclusion

One house remains today where the former community of Bloodland was located. This is a small white house that has been identified by a number of informants as a rental property. It was typically rented to teachers or the school superintendent and may have belonged to Charlie Vaughan. The cemetery is still in its same location and is maintained by the Army. The man-made lake built in the late 1970s bears the name Bloodland as a reminder of the long-vanished community. Farm land once owned by H.E. Vaughan and Gus Gaede was dug out to create the recreational lake and the source of water for the lake was the Bloodland spring. In 1980 the lake was officially named Bloodland Lake "to memorialize the original community." Family members still hold reunions at Friendship Cemetery and Bloodland Cemetery on Memorial Day weekend and the Bloodland School reunion is held in Waynesville each Fall (Figure 12). However less and less people attend each year. These, along with the small archaeological record, are the few tangible remains of Bloodland. However the history of the community lives on in the historical documents, family photos, and local publications and the memories of the community live on in the hearts and minds of those who once called Bloodland home.



Figure 12. A reunion at Friendship Cemetery. Photo by the author.

Here is a story from 1904 that we didn't use. It popped up again in 1907 and we didn't use it then, either. We have a little space here so thought we would share this story, akin to the urban myths of today, with you now.

The Cabbage Snake Scare

More than a hundred letters have been received by the Missouri Agricultural College asking for information concerning the so-called "poisonous cabbage snake," and the collection of snails, centipedes and other creeping things received from these inquirers would form the foundation for a splendid collection of Missouri's lower animal life. The most peculiar thing about this scare that has swept the state from one end to the other is that it has no foundation in fact. Professor J. M. Steman, Entomologist of the college says: "Not a thing is found on cabbage that could not have been found any fall for the last twenty years. And more than this," he continues, "there is not an animal in the world that will poison cabbage. It seems to have started from a fake report concocted by a correspondent of one of the St. Louis papers. Being hard pressed for news one day he wrote of a whole family that had come to a painful death from eating cabbage upon which a new reptile re-

sembling a small snake was present in large numbers. Other papers copied the story. People read it and began to scrutinize their cabbage patch and, of course, were rewarded by finding upon it bugs and worms that can be found any fall. The most common specimen that I have received is a nematode worm, somewhat resembling a horse hair, that lives as a parasite on crickets and grasshoppers and is perfectly harmless. Not a single one of the seventy-five specimens I have received is at all injurious. This so-called cabbage snake is a myth pure and simple and people should cease bothering about it."

Pulaski County Democrat, November 18, 1904

Violet Cowan of Crocker shared with us the pictures at right. Her grandfather was on the work crew that cut, sledged, and picked its way along the bluff that parallels Roubidoux Creek north of Waynesville. We don't know what year this was but work on a right-of-way for the proposed and aborted Waynesville to Crocker electric rail began as early as 1907. The work by these men produced calluses and Highway 17.



Stoutland

Settlers began arriving as early as the 1830s in what is now extreme southeastern Camden County, attracted by the rolling hills of prairie grass and good springs. The area bottoms along the Gasconade River and Bear Creek offered good farmland.

Railroad construction resumed after the Civil War and the tracks reached the present site of Stoutland, named for Captain Stout, a director of the South Pacific Railroad. At the turn of the 20th century, Stoutland, like its Pulaski County neigh-

bors along the Frisco, was a railroad boom town. Straddling the Camden and Laclede county lines, a thriving freight business developed.

Below Left - Main Street looking west in 1911. Cattle were driven down the middle of Main Street for shipment. At the far end is the Stoutland Christian Church.

Upper Right - The Stoutland Depot on the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway (Frisco).

Lower Right - Baptist Church. In 1859 the Good Hope Baptist Church was organized. The First Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1914 and the two Baptist churches united in 1924.

Images courtesy of John Bradbury.

