

**Richland  
Sentinel**

# Pulaski's Early Newspapers

**Gasconade Valley  
Plain-Dealer**

The earliest contemporary accounts of people, places, and events in Pulaski County

**Richland Sentinel.**

TO EVERY ONE HIS OWN.

A casual or occasional reader of this gazette would notice the reliance of its publication on newspapers, often written a century or more ago. In relating a piece of history, newspapers provide a contemporary description of an event or place—a primary source.

During the past 150 years, there have been at least 25 print newspapers published in Pulaski County. Some were short-lived, such as the *Ozark Commoner* of Hancock, which lasted barely a year. The *Pulaski County Democrat* had a long run, more than a century spanning the years 1882-2007. The *Dixon Pilot* began publication in 1911 and continues to offer a weekly print edition, as well as a digital version. The *Houston Herald*, a source for information about the southern portion of Old Pulaski, has churned out papers even longer, beginning in 1878 and still going strong. During the first five decades of the twentieth century, Pulaski County people and events were well reported by four weekly newspapers: the *Richland Mirror*, the *Crocker News*, the *Pulaski County Democrat*, and the *Dixon Pilot*. The first three of these have ceased publication and with their demise, we now have a dearth of news coverage in the county, even though a couple of online newspapers have emerged. Gone are the local correspondents of small neighborhoods and communities.

We often wonder how the *Old Settlers Gazette* writer/editor in 50 years will report on the times we are living in. Pretty much gone are the postcards that recorded places and people doing things. Thousands of pictures are taken daily, only to live a short time on a phone and die by the delete button.

On the next eight pages, we look at some copy from the earliest two newspapers in Pulaski County, with a few annotations in *italics* about the historical context.

The four-page *Richland Sentinel* was established in 1872 by J. G. Lemen, who previously had published the *Tuscumbia Sentinel*, which must have been rather short-lived. Lemen sold the *Richland Sentinel* at the end of 1875 to two enterprising gentlemen, L. Samuel Wright and D. Frazer Tomson. Lemen relocated to Lebanon where he advertised his services as Attorney at Law. Tomson was an aspiring attorney and probably was reading the law with Samuel Wright, who was a lawyer. Before the establishment of law schools in the 1870s, an individual wishing to become a lawyer “read the law” with a practicing lawyer before he could hang out his shingle. It was usually about a four year apprenticeship.

The partners in the *Richland Sentinel* publication must have had a major disagreement. By January 1876, Tomson was gone from the masthead. Wright published this notice in the *Sentinel*:

### Notice

Whereas, on or about the 24th day of January, 1876, D. F. Tomson abandoned his contract to publish the *Richland Sentinel*, a weekly newspaper, published in the town of Richland, Pulaski County, Missouri, thereby, and by agreement dissolving the partnership existing by and between himself and the undersigned in the publication of said paper.

This is therefore, to notify all persons owing the SENTINEL office any sum not to pay any part of their intendedness to said D. Frazer Tomson, as any receipt from him for money due the SENTINEL office will be wholly disregarded.

L. Samuel Wright

That notice does sound like it was written by a lawyer. Tomson de-

parted Richland and with another partner, also a lawyer, founded a new paper in Waynesville, which we will showcase later. For now, let us take a look at some of the news copy from the *Sentinel* for 1876

July 7

### THE FOURTH AT LEBANON

We left our pleasant little village Monday night, and after a very mutely jolt ride of about two hours and a half, we reached our destination—Lebanon. It was by this time the solemn hour of midnight, when all living creatures are locked in the firm yet gentle embrace of Morpheus, dreaming of the events of the morrow, and collecting their exhausted energies for the ceremonies of the grand Centennial fourth. About this time we began to reflect, and the result was that we happened to think it was about time for us to find our virtuous little couch. The last thing in the line of delightful sensations was the soothing sensation of a hunger regiment of bedbugs marching over our manly form, singing “Hail Columbia,” and keeping time with their —nippers.

We had not been asleep very long when we were suddenly and rudely awakened by the deep-tone thunder of a cannon, which made us think of olden times—“one hundred years ago,” for instance. It also reminded us of our having important business under the bed. [*chamber pot*]

About ten o'clock that day, when the thermometer was about 99°F in the shade, the Marshal of the Day rode up and down the streets and announced to the “waiting world,” for those who contemplated taking part in the procession to come to the Court House, which a great many did. They formed a procession and

marched down Commercial street, and then proceeded to the school grounds, where everything was fixed comfortably for all. The band then played several National airs, and speaking was next in order.

Hon. Geo. W. Bradfield was called before the audience and delivered an able and interesting address which was well received by a large and appreciative assembly.

Rev. J. B. Lemen was next called upon, and responded with quite an eloquent speech.

Dinner was then announced. After dinner the Callithumpians [*boisterous revelers*], on horseback, paraded the streets. This was a grand affair, and was hugely enjoyed by the by-standers.

About five o'clock the people began to disperse, but the boys and, and, and—young ladies didn't 'sperser very fast. Not much, no sir.

After dark there was a grand display of fire-works, which illuminated things in a way particularly peculiar to fourth of July fire-works. After the fire-works were disposed of everyone retired to the quiet of his (or her) habitation, and all was quiet again.

August 11

### SPEAKING AT WAYNESVILLE

Monday morning in company with Mr. S. L. Gibson of this place, we started for Waynesville to hear the candidates speak that was their day for speaking there. After riding three hours we came in sight of the city, which we were then anxious to see.

When we got there it was about “grub time” and what were we to do if we didn't find some candidate who would invite us to dinner? We went there with the intentions of—well, of getting our “grub” of the many can-

didates. We had no trouble in finding candidates, but the kind we were looking for was rather scarce, or at least they made themselves conveniently "scarce" around us. At last we found one who was kind-hearted and generous enough to ask us to dinner. We accepted the invitation with the greatest of pleasure. After we had finished dinner—and it was a good one, too—we inquired who that man was who had kindly invited us to take dinner within. Our minds were set at rest on that score, though, when he informed us that it was only twenty-five cents apiece. Considerate of him, wasn't it? We believe the hotel man was the only man in town who was not a candidate.

After recovering from the shock received just after dinner, we proceeded to the Court House, that euphonious structure where rustic is distributed around promiscuously to the people of Pulaski, to listen to the speaking. They commenced at the Assessors for speeches, all of whom responded to their calls with a hearty good will. We tried to get their names, but there were so many we became discouraged, and gave it up in despair. All made short but telling speeches.

The candidates for the office of Surveyor were next in order, but as Mr. Alvus Warthen was the only one who responded, he soon told those assembled all he had to say which was to the point.

Next called for were Probate Justices, who responded with spirit.

By mutual consent the candidates for Sheriff agreed not to speak. We are satisfied we missed several fine speeches by this arrangement. Don't be bashful, gentlemen; you have got to get used to it some time.

Prosecuting Attorneys being next to order, Mr. Abe Johnson, of Dixon, responded and made a very interesting and telling speech. Mr. Rollins was next called for, and he made a pointed and telling speech. He took some time up in disproving charges brought against him. Mr. Rollins has been Prosecuting Attorney of this county for two years and we hear no complaints against him.

Representatives being next in order, Hon. D. E. Davis was called for, who responded to the call in his usual way, with a vim that showed he meant what he said. Mr. Davis did not make much of a political speech, but took his time up in clearing him of the charges brought against him by lying scoundrels who don't know what else to do. The people of this county know Mr. Davis far too well to believe the infamous falsehoods that have been put in circulation against him, and wherever he goes he proves them to be false. It is worse than useless for his enemies to attempt to fight it out on this line, for it would help them in the least. They can not make honest intelligent voters believe these tales, and why should they sink themselves

deeper in sin by inventing them.

Mr. Bartlett was then called upon and responded with a nice address. Mr. Wrinkles was called and entertained the audience for some time.

The meeting was then adjourned, and, mounting our horses, we started for Richland, and by 9 P. M. we were again at home.

September 1

Dr. Jas. I. Tyree, who has for some time been connected with the RICHLAND SENTINEL as associate editor, publishes his valedictory in the last number of that paper. Pressing professional duties, requiring his whole time and attention, necessitates this step. Dr. Tyree is a terse writer and a sensible man, and we regret that he has given up the field.—Marion Co. Courier.

[Seems Editor Wright enlisted Dr. James Tyree to assist with the paper to make up for the departed Tomson. Dr. Tyree was the last contract surgeon to serve the Civil War soldiers at Post Waynesville before the Union fort was abandoned in 1865. Dr. Tyree may also have delivered W. W. and Mary Jane McDonald's first born son. The McDonalds owned the stagecoach stop being used by the army as a hospital for the post. The McDonalds named their son Ulysses Sipio Grant James Tyree McDonald in honor of General Grant and Dr. Tyree. He was born June 14, 1865, two months after General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia,

effectively ending the Civil War.]

Another hard fight is reported between Crook and Terry's forces and the Sioux, with about equal loss on both sides. [Generals Crook and Terry were in pursuit of the Sioux in the aftermath of the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, where Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and nearly 270 of his men were killed. Custer's Seventh Cavalry was part of General Terry's forces.]

The Richland Institute offered teacher training courses in 1876.

**RICHLAND INSTITUTE,**  
Richland, Mo.

—†—  
The Fifth Scholastic Year of this Institution, under charge of Prof. T. J. MONTGOMERY, will commence on Monday, December 13th, 1876, and will be divided into sessions as follows:

**First Session,** commencing with the year, (Dec. 13th), and ending March 3rd, 1877;

**Second Session,** commencing March 13th, and ending June 2nd;

**Third Session,** commencing June 13th, and ending September 1;

**Fourth Session,** commencing September 11th, and ending December 1.

Tuition (payable to directors monthly, in advance) will be furnished at the following rates:

Primary Department, per month,	\$1.25
Intermediate " " "	2.00
Academic " " "	2.00
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# Gasconade Valley Plain-Dealer.

Following D. Frazer Tomson's partnership breakup with L. Samuel Wright of the *Richland Sentinel*, he bought the press and type of another small newspaper. According to the *Hartville News*,

Mr. M. W. Gustin sold the *Ranger* office to Mr. D. Frazer Tomson, of the *Richland Sentinel*, who will remove the office to Waynesville, where Mr. Tomson will publish a new paper. Mr. Tomson came with Mr. Gustin. Mr. Tomson is a pleasant gentleman, and we hope that he may succeed with his new enterprise. The *Ranger* office is one of the best offices in Southwest Missouri. It has an excellent Washington press—the type are all new—and the office contains everything that is needed about a country printing office.

The inaugural issue of the *Gasconade Valley Plain-Dealer*, Volume 1, No. 1, appeared on March 9, 1876. It was six columns on four pages. The subscription price was listed as \$1.50 per year, postage prepaid by the publisher but "...we have concluded to furnish the paper to all who subscribe previous to May 1st, next, at the low price of \$1.00 per year..." Single copy price 5 cents.

Referring to the notice printed in Wright's *Richland Sentinel* regarding not paying any money owed the *Sentinel* to Tomson (see page 40, bottom of column 2), Tomson published his rejoinder in the first issue of the *Plain-Dealer* regarding money owed by subscribers and advertisers to the *Sentinel*, to wit:

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to the Richland Sentinel office on account of job work and advertising contracted and completed previous to November 5th 1875, and to all those who were and are indebted on subscription for one or more entire years previous to the above date, that we are the proprietor, **sole and exclusive owner** of such accounts, and as such warn parties against making any payments whatsoever on such accounts to Sam Wright, or Sam anybody-else, except ourself. Wright owns the *Sentinel* concern, as we understand the matter, but he does not own these accounts, or any part thereof, no more than he owns the corn and bacon in your barns and smoke-houses, or the hard-earned money in your pockets, for which you have toiled. *[This seems to be a hot feud between the ex-partners and*

*rival newspapermen/lawyers.]*

Tomson seems not to have learned much about partnerships as he took on a new one in the newspaper venture. The masthead lists D. Frazer Tomson as Editor-in-Chief and S. J. Bostrick, Associate Editor, further listing Tomson and Bostrick as Owner and Proprietors. An advertisement in the paper also offers the services of Bostrick and Tomson, Attorneys at Law and Real Estate Agents.

We have found more than a few news items in this 149 year old newspaper to be elucidating about Pulaski history.

March 9

*[The first page of this first issue is a rather lengthy treatise of vision and promises for the paper. We reprint the first three paragraphs as a sample.]*

**TO THE PUBLIC.**

It is with a degree of great satisfaction to us, an emotion of pride, that we are enabled this beautiful spring day morning in the early '76—the Centennial year of American Independence—to greet you, friends, with the first number of THE GASCONADE VALLEY PLAIN-DEALER, and, allow us to hope at least, that it will receive a cordial, hearty

welcome among you.

We come not as a stranger, an adventurer unsolicited; but as a citizen and publisher for some years in your midst and with whom most of you are acquainted; and, were it not for an established custom, we should deem it unnecessary for us to attempt to enunciate in these columns an outline of the policy of this journal.

Our object, as editor of a paper which will be regarded by our citizens as a local or county paper, will be of course as it has ever been—to promote the financial, moral and intellectual interests of the people. This we shall endeavor to do, not by an arrogant diction of either original or inferential dogmas, but rather by a consistent, advisory course calculated to stimulate their energies, to induct them into the teachings of moral precepts and, best of all, to stimulate them to think for themselves and act for themselves.

**Local and Personal**

Our friends, so far, have even excelled our most sanguine expectations—Five Hundred copies of the PLAIN DEALER demanded this morning. May the number "never grow less!"

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A. Bryan, our very hospitable and sociable landlord, has recently thoroughly renovated and greatly improved the Waynesville House. A second story has been added to the building; and the whole neatly and substantially arranged and well painted. Its very appearance is that of comfort, and no pains are spared to render it need the home of the weary traveler. [This was a particularly important news gem for us at the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum. We knew the building began as a one-story double-pen log structure. This news item gave us the time of its raising to a two-story building. Alexander Bryan (1825-1919) owned the Waynesville House, now the Old Stagecoach Stop, from 1874 to 1886.]



This is the oldest image we have of the Old Stagecoach Stop, circa 1880, after it was raised to two stories in 1876 by Alexander Bryan. Bryan was a large man, in poor health, who is seated in this picture holding crutches, his wife Mary behind him. Bryan fought for the South and then the North, drawing a federal Invalid Pension of \$32/month.

### A Steam Saw and Grist Mill at Waynesville.

W. C. Kerr, who recently sold his farm to the county for a poor farm, is talking of putting up a steam saw and grist mill at this place. We know of no enterprise that would be of so much advantage, not only to Waynesville, but to the entire country around about the county seat, as a mill of this kind would be. There is an abundance of timber in the immediate vicinity that could be sawed up into lumber for building and fencing purposes, and thus would save the farmer and citizens of this part of the county thousands of dollars every year, as any one knows that a grist mill is one of the

things that we very much need here. Mr. Kerr is a fine machinist, a man of energy, and well qualified to take hold of an enterprise of this kind. We hope the citizens will, one and all, take hold and give him whatever encouragement is necessary in order to insure success in the matter. We trust the time is not far distant when we will have the completed mill in operation in our midst. We will refer to this matter again, but in the meantime we hope every one else will encourage the mill enterprise. [At this time, the only other mill in the vicinity was Solomon Bartlett's

mill on the Gasconade about four miles northwest of Waynesville. Kerr was located on Roubidoux Creek about two miles south of town.]

March 16

### Local and Personal

The Gasconade has been up this week, past fording, consequently mails have not been regular, and as we have no telegraphic communication with the outside world, general news of a late date is scarce.

The Judges of the County Court farm recently purchased from W. C. Kerr, to Mr. John N. Robinson,

who is busily engaged in moving on to the farm and arranging to take charge of the paupers of the county.

School District No. 3, T. 38. R. 11, has resolved that during this, the Centennial year, they will abolish the log school house regime and erect a building such as their educational needs require. The contract has been let for a neat substantial house to be completed by August first. [District No. 3 was Hancock, which was a wood and water stop on the railroad between Dixon and Crocker.]

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ALL ABOUT DIXON

[Dixon was only 7 years old at this time, along with the other railroad towns.]

Our trip this week to Dixon, though brief, was a very pleasant one. Dixon is a flourishing village, full of life and business. The merchants, business and professional men, move with vim and are well up to the standard in every respect.

Messrs. Franklin & Co. have purchased the Harris House and have filled the lower story with a fine assortment of furniture. In addition to their already very complete stock they will receive this week a large invoice from the city and a general invitation is extended to all to call and examine it and see at what a low figure first-class furniture can be bought. A good supply of the celebrated Whitewater wagon, plows and farming machinery generally is also kept in stock, and the store is

well supplied with the various articles of merchandise. They are selling right down cheap and they take all kinds of produce in exchange. [Bartering was alive and well in Pulaski.]

Messrs. Murphy Bros. & Co. were doing an immense business at their stand, crowded with customers.

Mr. C. F. Wolter, the hardware merchant and tinner, was rushed all day long and informed us that it was hard for him to supply the great demand of his custom. [A tinner was one who made and/or repaired tinware.]

The Pulaski House seemed to be well patronized and well supplied with commodities and hospitalities.

Mr. T. Sughrue, one of the jolliest men we had the pleasure of meeting, has just built and opened up a first-class wagon and blacksmith shop and is getting a fine run of customers.

Our friend W. J. Farrar, one of

the cleverest and most accommodating young men in the employ of the road, is the station agent and seemed to be enjoying Dixon life hugely.

Many others we would be happy to notice but our limited space this week forbids.

March 24

Local and Personal

Somewhat of an aggravation—to be within a few miles of a railroad station, in hearing of the whistle of the engine, and have to do without the mail more than half the time! The river, the terrible river. [The Gasconade River, which runs between Waynesville and the mail train at Crocker, is on a spring rampage.]

The Waynesville public school closes today, but the enterprising people of Waynesville do not propose to allow the school to go down or, rather,

be discontinued until the “school year” shall roll around next fall, and a large subscription, enough to justify Prof. Robinson, has been made up and the school will re-open in a week or two. [The typical school year ran from after harvest in October-November until planting time in spring around the end of March-April or about a four month school year. Sometimes a spring term was held, particularly for younger children, with the cost being paid by the parents of attending children.]

The grocery market in Waynesville would be lively no doubt—especially dried fruit, butter etc., if any one would bring in anything. Will not some one bring in a few pounds of good butter and a few bushels of dried apples, or are you willing to suffer us to remain in our agony and starve? [The flooding river held up not only the mail but food stuffs.]

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### The Ferry Question.

What has become of the Richland ferry boat enterprise? Some weeks ago we were informed that there was a project on foot in the enterprising little town of Richland to build a ferry boat somewhere along the river convenient to the farm of Mr. Warren or Capt. Davis. It was our understanding that those interested had made up a subscription of some two hundred dollars; the right men were in the right place, and that the enterprise had already, in a manner, reached success. We are told by those who profess to know something about the matter, that two hundred dollars is a sufficient sum to defray all the necessary expenses in the construction of an ordinary flatboat, such as we need on the river. Even a hundred and fifty dollars is an adequate amount, and one hundred dollars would build a very passable ferry boat.

Now we are very certain that a more laudable enterprise has not been undertaken in our county, for lo, these many years, and we would be pleased to see the thing "pan out"—a good ferry boat—for it is certainly needed. We need a ferry boat on the river between Waynesville and Richland, also one on the route to Crocker. Of course a good bridge would be much better, but it is useless to talk about building a bridge now, and a good ferry boat,



The only ferry that operated in our area was White House Ferry near Dixon in Phelps County.

even a cheap one, will answer all purposes. From this time till June we shall have to labor under difficulties and inconveniences. The river will be up, in all probability, half the time, so that there can be no passing or reposing with wagons, and we shall conclude that we are in luck if we get mail from the station one-third of the time for the remainder of the spring season. There is a remedy and we are decidedly in favor of bringing it out. If the boat or boats can not be built by private enterprise then we are in favor of our County Court taking the matter in charge and by means put a boat on the Crocker route if no more.

*[The problem of crossing the rampaging Gasconade in Pulaski was not solved until the first steel bridge was constructed in 1894 at Skaggs Ford between Waynesville and Crocker.]*

*The following news item from March 16, 1876, is the only contemporary description we have of the "new" courthouse built in 1875. See page 33 for a description and image*

*of the third courthouse.*

Mr. Williams, our Circuit and County Clerk [see sidebar on the next page], got moved into his newly fitted offices this week and has succeeded in getting everything pretty well arranged therein. The combined offices is one of the best arrangements we have ever seen anywhere in the State. The two rooms for these offices, in the northwest corner of the Court House, are connected by a door-way through the partition, and the inside neatly and substantially provided with tiers of drawers and pigeon holes completely around the walls. There is a drawer for every book of record and a place for everything. The drawers are provided with small rollers, which receive the book and a little shove either way places or replaces the record. They open with a spring by means of a tasty white knob, every one labeled. Above the drawers are the pigeon holes, covered with a curtain. All is neatly painted, the entire executed by Mr. W. C. Kerr, under the direction of the Clerk, who deserves much credit for this laudable and very convenient arrangement.

March 31

Our efficient deputy sheriff, J. A. Rayl, Jr., made a trip to Camden county last week, and returned last Monday, bringing with him a prisoner who was indicted at the last term of the Circuit Court of this

county. Said prisoner is now in jail awaiting a trial. [Deputy Sheriff was a part time job. J. A. Rayl, Jr., was also the Waynesville postmaster, salary \$88 per year. Jesse Jr. also clerked in his father's dry goods store, called The Old Reliable House. Junior later had his own drug store. Larkin Bates was the Sheriff.]

As there is now a prisoner in jail, we will soon have, we suppose, a special term of the Circuit Court.

Mr. A. Bryan lost his ax this week, or rather some one picked it up and carried it off. Mr. B. does not need the ax but would like to know who is so industrious around this "burg" as to use it. Who has the ax?

About five o'clock Saturday evening, the telegraph wire was broken, about four miles west of Crocker, by some person or persons, causing an interruption to business on the line until the break was repaired by section men the next morning. The Western Union Telegraph Company offers a reward of one hundred dollars for the arrest and sufficient evidence to secure the conviction of the parties implicated. More anon.

### Editors Plain-Dealer:

While looking over your paper of March 24th, I saw some "Notes for the Farmer." Now, as I have been living in this country for a long time, noticing the progress of this country for the last thirty years and have be-



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come well satisfied that if the woods had not been fired for the last twenty years, where we now have scrubby black-jacks and post-oaks, we would at the present time have nice timber in place of those scrubby runners. It is easily seen that where fire runs through young timber, it invariably grows up scrubby and fit for nothing but firewood.

I know of several places that fire has not burned over for the last twenty years, and now these same rocky points are covered with fine building timber and the ground well set with blue grass for cattle and other stock to graze on.

I think instead of burning the undergrowth and trash around our farms, we had better use the ax and grubbing hoe more and burn less. (It is a well known fact that when we burn the grass off the ground we impoverish the land. That is just the reason that our uplands are so poor.) They were once barren, and have been burned over ever since I can recollect, consequently the wild upland gets poorer every year.

Mr. J. C. Temple, who started some time ago from Joplin in this State with a wheel barrow load of mineral [lead] for the centennial at Philadelphia, passed through Humboldt in this county last Sunday. Mr. Temple is accompanied by an Englishman who represents "Johny Bull." The wheel barrows are very fine being got up especially for this trip. The

Edward G. Williams, generally referred to by his initials, and nicknamed Ned, served as Pulaski County Clerk from 1874 through the end of 1914, except for one term 1878-1882, the longest serving civil officer in the county's history. His nearly 40 year tenure allowed him to work in the second, third, and fourth courthouses.

Williams was born in Bedford County, Virginia, in 1843. His father, Edward D., and mother, Martha E. (Jones), engaged in the hotel business in Christiansburg and Jacksonville, Virginia. E. G. began his business career in 1859 clerking in a store in Lynchburg, Virginia. His retail career was abruptly halted by the War of Rebellion.

E. G. Williams enlisted June 3 of 1861 in Company E, Eleventh Virginia Infantry, Confederate States Army. This regiment distinguished itself during the conflict at nearly every major battle in the eastern theater. Williams was in the battles at First Bull Run (Manassas), Antietam, the seven days fight below Richmond, Dranesville, Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Fredericksburg, Second Manassas, Boonsboro, Gettysburg, and Plymouth. In his last engagement at the battle of Drewry's Bluff on May 16, 1864, Williams was wounded in the leg. It was amputated the same day and he was sent to the famous Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond to convalesce for sixty days. On or about July 21, 1864,

### E. G. Williams, Clerk Extraordinaire

Sergeant Williams applied for an artificial limb for his left leg that had been amputated above the knee.

Williams left Virginia in 1866, looking for a new start in the west. He landed in Rolla. Edward D., father of E. G., came to Rolla in 1867 and died in that town in 1887. The facts are murky here, but at least a brother and two sisters of E. G. also located in Rolla. They were identified as still in Missouri in 1889. Williams's widowed mother, a brother, and a sister were noted as still living in the east.

In 1869, E.G. Williams relocated again, this time to Waynesville. Being single, he boarded with the Mitchells at the Waynesville House (aka Old Stagecoach Stop). Also living in the building was Daniel B. Colley, clerk of the county and circuit court. Williams had made one of his first political contacts. E. G.'s occupation was listed as bookkeeper on the 1870 census and he was Colley's deputy clerk. In 1874, Williams succeeded Colley in both of these offices.

When the terms of the clerks' offices were up in 1878, John J. Clark filled both. Did Williams decide not to run? We do not know, but it is more likely that Clark won the offices in the election. Williams then migrated a little north to Hancock, a

railroad village between Dixon and Crocker. He boarded with the James Goodman family, a little north of town. James was from Tennessee and his wife, Maria, was from Virginia, which must have given E. G. the sound of home. He clerked in a store in Hancock from 1878 until 1882.

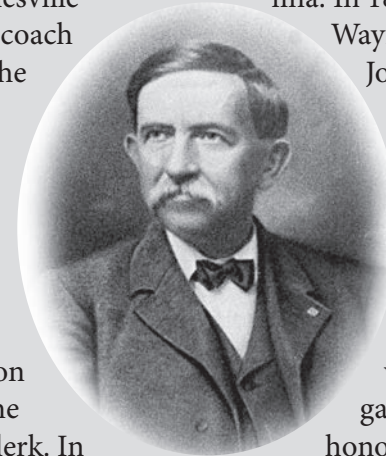
Williams was again elected to the office of county clerk in 1882 and appointed probate clerk. No longer were the clerks of the circuit court and county the same man. Edward G. Williams remained county clerk through 1914.


E. G. Williams wed Mrs. Emeline Bostic in 1885. She was born in 1845 in Randolph County, North Carolina. In 1888, they bought the Waynesville House from John and Isabelle Ross.

Williams made some improvements to the building and sold it in 1890 to J. L. Johnson, Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney.

For all of his post war life, E. G. Williams gave time and money honoring the Confederate cause. He attended nearly all U.C.V. reunions and served as a trustee of the Confederate Soldiers' Home in Higginsville, Missouri, near Kansas City.

We at the Old Stagecoach Stop have always found it interesting that the building was owned for a short time by a one-legged rebel.





## The City of Waynesville

**Enjoy Historic Waynesville**

- Trail of Tears Encampment listed on the National Historic Trail
  - Civil War Fort
- The Old Stagecoach Stop
- Pulaski County Museum
- Route 66 Scenic Byway
- Roubidoux Spring and Trophy Trout Area
- "W. H. Croaker," the Waynesville Hill frog
- Blue Star Memorial Site

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largest contained about 50 lbs of mineral, and is embellished with gilt and lettering of a high order. On the sides are the words “50 lbs of mineral for the Centennial Exposition.” Over the top, on the sides the wheel curve, or deck, are the words in gold, “Joplin, Mo.” The front has inscribed on it the name of the builder. The size is five and a half feet long; each of the wheels 30 inches, width of box in front, 18 inches, back 2 feet, depth 10 inches.

The other wheel barrel is being used as a “baggage car,” and was quite as elaborate in its make and finish as the first. They propose to wheel these wheel barrows the entire distance of 1,500 miles and place the 50 lbs of mineral in the lap of the “World’s Fair,” as tokens of the everlasting friendship that should exist between “brothers Jonathan and Johnny Bull,” who one hundred years ago were hurling death-dealing blows at each other with the same kind of material.

Where the good common sense comes in, in this “wheeling enterprise,” it is hard to discern, still it shows energy, pluck and perseverance. But does it not also show a soft place some where in the head of this American “Temple.”

April 7

### Local and Personal

Let us not forget the ferry boat enterprise. Let not the excitement die away until a good boat at the Skaggs ford is realized in truth and in fact. We positively cannot get along without it—never in the world. What do our men of enterprise say?

### Robbery and Murder.

The news of a very daring robbery and murder up in the southern portion of this county has just reached us, the particulars of which we give below, as we have them from a reliable source.

It appears that on last Saturday night, the 1st inst., Messrs. M. M. & R. D. Freeman, merchants at Spring

Creek, Phelps County, were robbed of goods to the amount, perhaps, of about fifty dollars. Surmising that one “Bill” Bradford—as he is called—son of Peter Bradford, Esq., of this county, was the burglar who had committed the robbery. They, in company with a Mr. Joe Mosley, started out, on Sunday evening, to search for the goods and overtake if possible the thief. The gentlemen came upon Bradford some twenty miles south of Waynesville [at Six Crossings on the Big Piney River]. Bradford, on observing his pursuers wheeled upon them and fired, being yet in possession of the goods, as we have it. The Messrs. Freemans and Mosley returned the fire, but a few rounds and both the Freemans (brothers) fell, being shot through the heart by Bradford, who would also have taken the life of the third, Mr. Mosley, but for his entreaties for mercy at his hands. It is reported, but unbelievably, that Bradford also received a dangerous, if not fatal, wound in the neck.

Bradford is still at large and no exertions, up to date, have been made for his arrest. There is no doubt, we suppose, but that Mr. Bradford is guilty of the robbery, and of willful murder, and justice should be meted out to him to the full extent of the law.

We trust that his arrest will be

made in the due season and that he will be brought before the proper tribunals to render up an account for these rash and terrible acts.

Our officers will use the necessary vigilance in the premises, no doubt, and make an early arrest if possible. [Rumors had Bradford on the lam in Texas.]

### Mail Routes—What We Need.

The benefits, importance and value of the mail service is felt and realized by the people of this country in a manner which renders any argument upon the subject quite unnecessary. Our object, then, is simply to state what we need, where we need it, and the *modus operandi* by which we may secure it. We need more mail routes, more post offices—better mail facilities.

[The county post offices in 1876 were located at Waynesville, Bellefonte, Crocker, DeBruin, Dixon, Dundas, Iron Summit, Richland, and St. Annie.]

Here, in the Southwest, where every man and woman is both intelligent and ambitious, we are making rapid strides, general progress, and almost every day develop some new and great improvement. In short we are living in the world at this present time, moving with the world, keeping step with progress in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Real-

izing and admitting all this there is one thing, notwithstanding its very great importance, which has been, to a very great extent, neglected by our people. This is mail facilities sufficient to supply the demands of our people.

We need a route from Dixon, via Dr. Harrison’s, on Big Piney, thence up the Piney to Wm Ousley’s, thence to the Smith Hollow neighborhood, South to Miller’s Mills and intersect, at Spring Creek, the Arlington route South, which should be no less frequent than twice a week—both ways, the distance being only a day’s travel from Dixon, the starting point, to Spring Creek, the terminus. Another route is also needed—from Richland, to intersect this route at Mr. Ousley’s, via Mr. Finley’s and Waynesville. A route is also needed from Crocker to Linn Creek or, at least, to Toronto. And we think it would be wise and commendable to have the routes from Richland to Tuscumbia so changed as to make the mails from Crocker daily, from Richland twice-weekly, and in order to accommodate a section of country between Richland and Toronto, so change the route as to make it direct from Richland to Toronto, and supply with a new route from Richland to Linn Creek, the Glaze country.

Well, the next question is, how shall we proceed to get these routes and put them into operation? There is certainly a way and we here give it, according to our understanding of the matter. Where a mail route is desired by the citizens of a community a petition must be gotten up in order and signed by as many citizens as may pray for the establishment of the route, forwarding the same to the proper official of the Post-office Department at Washington.

A better way, perhaps, for this latter, however, would be to send the petition to your congressman, who will take pleasure in aiding, by his influence and knowledge, there, the project. But this is not all. An



Waynesville’s business row on the south side of the square about 1888 showing its only brick building which was constructed after a devastating fire in 1887. Also visible is the wet weather creel, called the “ditch,” that ran down Main Street until 1923. Courtesy of Maxine Farnham.

important item in securing a mail route is, immediately after the route is petitioned for, to send in your petitions and recommendations for as many post-offices and post masters along such route as may be demanded.

April 14

**Richland Items**

The recent school meeting and election here resulted as follows: Dr. Jas. Titterington was elected to the three years term ; Irvin Salley, two years, and R. H. Hendricks, one year. The voters of the district unanimously decided and so ordered in favor of the purchasing of a school house site and the building of house at a cost of six hundred dollars. The site has been selected and located just below and in sight of town—near the Waynesville road. It was further provided by the meeting that a term of six months should be taught commencing with

the school year. *[When was the last time you heard of a school building proposal receive a unanimous vote in the affirmative?]*

June 9

On account of high-water, we have had no eastern mail for about one week. We hope, however, that we will not have to chronicle this fact again soon, at least not for a week or so.

The bridge which was erected by Mr. Davis across the Roubidoux some time since, and which was pronounced as being “safe” by ye local, has been washed away by the recent overflow, and we patiently await the erection of another in its stead. *[Wooden bridges could not withstand the roarin’ Roubidoux. It would not be until 1911 that Roubidoux Creek was spanned by a steel bridge. Five bridges were built elsewhere in the county before the county seat.]*

**DARING ROBBERY!**

A House Entered Open Daylight and Robbed of its Contents—No Clue to the Perpetrator

On Wednesday last, about 11 o'clock A. M., the house of John Ormsby, a hard-working colored man of this place, while the denizens were all absent was entered by some pilfering thief, who made his entrance through the roof by means of a crowbar. The robber, after gratifying his insatiable appetite with all he could find to eat in the house, then commenced his work of depredation, turning things upside down and pocketing \$6.75 in money—which we presume, was the main object of his search. As a very natural consequence, this bold outrage gave vent to quite a sensation among our citizens, it having been perpetrated in broad daylight. No clue to the thief has as yet been

obtained but it is to be hoped that he may soon be identified, in which case the law will deal to him his just reward.

**Is It Right!**

The pay of Gen. Sherman, including allowance for sundries, is \$17,700 per annum and Gen. Sheridan \$11,600. The private soldiers, who are ordered about like slaves and who are often unnecessarily exposed in order that their commanders may win the evanescent bauble called military glory, receive about \$200 per annum. Thousands of poor men and women who are indirectly taxed to pay large salaries of military officers get out little more than private soldiers for their labor. This is another reason why we object to war. It pampers a few in official stations, while it crushes and enslaves the rank and file of the army and increases the burdens of the toilers at home.

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We do not know how long the *Gasconade Valley Plain-Dealer* was published. Only five issues from 1876 survive. There is some indication that it was followed by the *Messenger* in Waynesville, owned and published by C. H. Colley, although no issues survive. Colley determined that Richland was a better area for a profitable newspaper and moved the paper to that railroad town in 1885. The *Richland Sentinel* had already ceased publication.

This picture above appears to be an early printing press of the *Pulaski County Democrat*, ca. 1910. George Reed established the *Democrat* in Waynesville in 1886. Reed sold the paper to W. T. Wright in 1888 who sold it to John A. Swan in 1894. Swan sold the *Democrat* to Nathan Wheeler in 1898. Wheeler died in 1907 and his wife became publisher and brother Virgil the editor, until he went to Washington University. Mrs. Wheeler (above far left) took on a managing partner, Oliver Ragsdale (large man in white shirt), and they sold the paper to George Lane in 1912. V. V. and Ruth Long bought the paper in 1914 and published it for the next 36 years.