

# The Original City of Little Rock

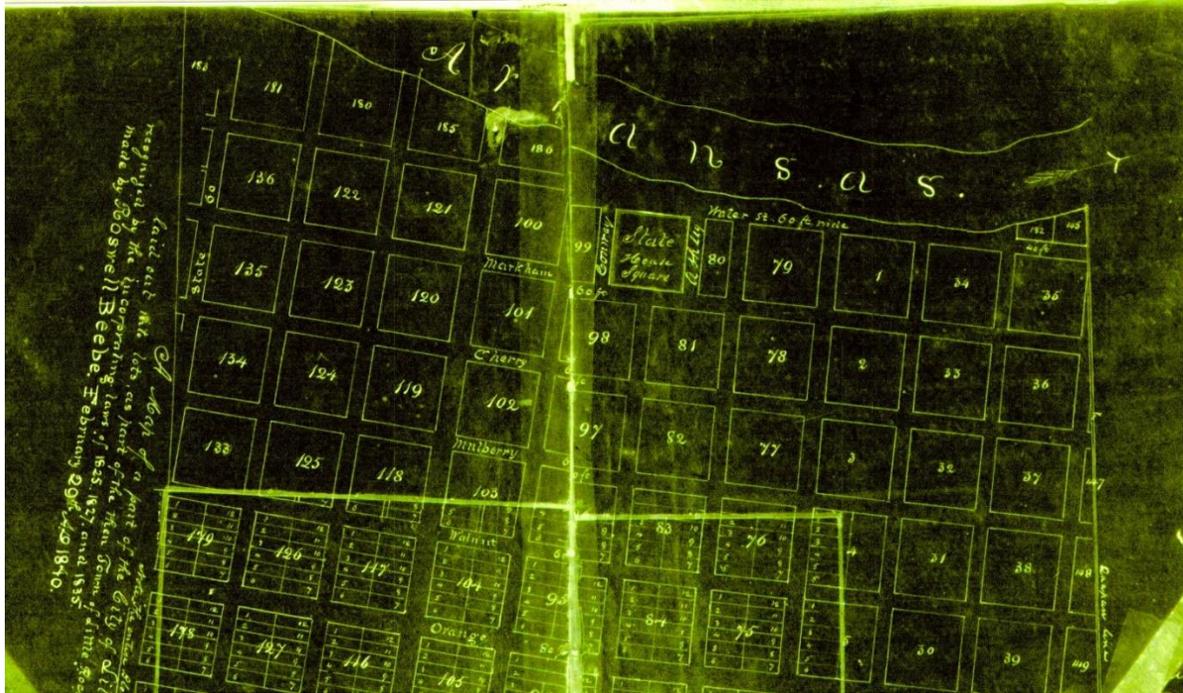
Some historical firsts and the story of how the streets got their names

Pulaski County Historical Society

September 11, 2016

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City of Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas



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## Part 1 - Early Settlers, Settlements and Roads of Pulaski County, Arkansas

### Establishment of Pulaski County, Arkansas, 1818

The area now encompassed by Pulaski County, Arkansas first became a part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and soon after, was governed by the Louisiana Territory. Upon Louisiana Statehood in 1812, Arkansas becomes a part of the Missouri Territory. Up to 1818, the entire area of present-day Arkansas is governed by only two counties. To the south, Arkansas

County is governed from Arkansas Post, and to the north, Lawrence County is governed from Lawrence, soon after named Davidsonville. On October 24, 1818 during the last session of the territorial legislature of Missouri, Governor William Clark signed into law the creation of three counties—Pulaski, Clark and Hempstead, taken from the territory of Arkansas county. These three counties along with the original Arkansas and Lawrence counties, comprised the sum total of counties at the time of the formation of the Arkansas Territory on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1819 when Missouri became a State.



### **Post Roads and Distances c1824**

In Pulaski County there was no town which could be named as the county seat, so the courts were directed to be held at the house of Samuel McHenry on the south side of the Arkansas River near the mouth of White Oak Bayou. In 1820 the Arkansas territorial legislature established the Pulaski County seat further up river at a place called Cadron. The name of Cadron is thought to be derived from the French word for quadrant. Cadron, now in Faulkner County, was first established as a fur trapping post in 1818 when a group of families moved there from Crystal Hill. In 1821, after the territorial capital was moved from the Post of Arkansas to Little Rock, the Pulaski County seat was moved to Little Rock where it has remained since.

### Early Settlers and Settlements of Pulaski County

Up to the establishment of Pulaski County in 1818, few emigrants had settled in the area. Perhaps the earliest documented settlers were at Crystal Hill north of the Arkansas River along with a smaller settlement south of the river.

Soon after the establishment of the first Territorial Capitol of Arkansas at Arkansas Post, a fierce debate arose over choosing the location of a new Territorial Capitol in Pulaski County. The leading contenders were Cadron, Crystal Hill and Little Rock. Much land speculation arose at these sites as the debate continued for months.

**Crystal Hill** - About the beginning of the year 1807 a group of eight families from North Carolina established a settlement near the Crystal Hill, above “the point of rocks.” Among them are Major John Pyeatt and his brother, Jacob. Also in 1807, Francis Lafave and his brother Leon settled in the county. Leon Lafave lived to be over ninety years old, having lived over eighty years in the county.



**Cadron, Crystal Hill and Little Rock c1824**

Upon arrival, the Pyeatts were surprised to find that a party of immigrants from North Carolina had preceded them about a year and were then living a few miles above Crystal Hill on the south side of the river at the foot of the Maumelle mountains, or, as they were then

called, the “Mammal mountains” in the vicinity of the Maumelle River. This indicates the first settlers arrived in present day Pulaski County in 1806, but their names are no longer known.

Other Pyeatt families would join them later. In 1812, Major James Pyeatt, Jacob Pyeatt, Mary Carnahan Pyeatt (daughter-in-law of Henry Pyeatt) and their families arrive at Crystal Hill. Mary Carnahan documented their travels in her diary. They constructed a large wooden skiff and operated a ferry service on the Arkansas River at Crystal Hill, likely the first ferry service in Pulaski County. Other families soon joined them in the area along the Arkansas River between Crystal Hill and Cadron.

In 1817, Colonel Edmund Hogan, a retired army officer, located near Crystal Hill on a site near the point of the rocks. In 1821, his home there was said to be the finest in Arkansas. Hogan was Justice of the Peace in 1818 and the first post master of Crystal Hill in 1820. He was later appointed as General of the Arkansas Militia.

About 150 others lived in the Crystal Hill area and it was described as a center of fashion and intelligence as well as religious influence. In 1821, the plat for the town site was recorded by Edmund Hogan and William O’Hara, a St. Louis land speculator. The first territorial governor, Governor James Miller, built his home here and eventually acquired ownership of the entire town site in the years following the establishment of Little Rock as the new territorial capitol in June 1821.

Crystal Hill declined in importance and by 1843 William Woodruff purchased the entire town site at auction for back-taxes in the amount of \$3.99. In 1933, historian Judge Utley reported that signs still remained of the “departed glory” of old Crystal Hill including old brick chimneys and foundations, the remains of a brickyard and a wharf on the old river bend.

Crystal Hill gets its name from a bluff on the river consisting of sandstone, shale, and significant amounts of quartz crystal and iron pyrite, which sparkled in the sunlight. The Crystal Hill Town site was located in present day City of Maumelle at the Maumelle Country Club. The Crystal Hill is located to the east. Crystal Hill Road gets its name from this early settlement and the Crystal Hill.

**Cadron** – Cadron was located near the confluence of Cadron Creek and the Arkansas River, about five miles west of present day Conway. In the early 1800s, the term “Cadron Settlement” was used loosely in reference to thirty to forty families that were scattered along the Arkansas River in the vicinity of Cadron Creek. Cadron served for a time as the seat of Pulaski County government and is credited with being the first official town in present day Pulaski County.

In 1818, an early settler and trader, John McElmurry and three other investors laid out the town of Cadron on about sixty-four acres. A few other families from the Crystal Hill also moved here. McElmurry had built a blockhouse to be used as a residence, tavern, and

protection of his fur trading business (mostly deer pelts), with Cherokee Indians living on Indian land to the northwest. A ferry crossed both the Arkansas River and Cadron Creek.

English naturalist Thomas Nuttall, who visited Cadron in March of 1819, found prospects for the town limited by the small area of good ground lying between infertile hills and forest. The only town residents were McElmurry and his extended family (five or six children, wives, and slaves). On a return visit in 1820, Nuttall noted several more families, three or four outlying houses, and a thriving but slovenly tavern. Weekly mail service started in 1820.

Cadron lost out in its bid to become the territorial capitol and later its bid to become the county seat of newly formed Faulkner County. By 1831, the town had been abandoned. The site is located in Cadron Park in Faulkner County and a replica of the original blockhouse stands here.

**Future Little Rock Town Site** - In 1812, William Lewis, a hunter trapper, became the first documented land owner at the future site of Little Rock. He stayed only 3 months and sold his claim to Elisha White in 1814, who sold to William Russell a St. Louis land speculator. William O'Hara, another prominent land speculator from St. Louis, acquired an interest in another conflicting title to the town site marking the beginning of three decades of disputes, lawsuits and acrimony over title.

In 1819, British traveler and naturalist Thomas Nuttall passed through Little Rock and he notes Colonel Edmund Hogan is operating a ferry at the Little Rock. On his return trip in 1820, he notes a group of bachelors living in a log cabin near the Point of the Rock, possibly among them is Benjamin Murphy and Wright Daniel.

Benjamin Kellogg settled at the place where Little Rock now is in about the year 1820. He was a blacksmith and found plenty to do in fashioning iron implements for travelers. It is written that he made the broadax with which the logs were hewn for the building of the first house in Little Rock. After a short while he moved northward and established himself at the lead and silver mines in Pulaski County, which became known as the Kellogg mines in present day Sherwood. Argenta, now North Little Rock, got its name from the early promise of those silver and lead mines.

**Fourche** – Another early settlement in Pulaski County was the Fourche settlement. Archibald McHenry was another early settler to Pulaski county (1819 or 1820), living ten or twelve miles southwest from Little Rock along the Military Road, now Stagecoach Road. His second home on the site still stands and is known as the McHenry House or Stagecoach House. George Brodie was another early settler here. Across the Fourche Creek as it was then known were the Lewis Brothers, Washington and Nathaniel, and Jared Martin in those early years of Pulaski County and Fourche Township.

### **The Early Roads**

In 1824, The Map of the United States Intended Chiefly to Exhibit the Post Roads and Distances by Abraham Bradley showed that Arkansas Territory had few established roads, and those roads were

little more than a network of horse trails through the wilderness. The Town of Little Rock had only recently been established as the Arkansas Territorial Capitol in 1821 following the establishment of Little Rock Post Office in 1820. The early roads converged in Pulaski County north of the Arkansas River.

**Military Road through Little Rock, Saint Louis to Texas** - The only road and main post road that passed through Little Rock was along a route in use at least since 1760 that was first established by Native Americans. That road was referred to as the Military Road, National Road, and in more recent times, as the Southwest Trail. The early road was little more than a network of trails following a general compass bearing to the southwest and would soon become one of the most important transportation corridors through Arkansas on the road to Texas.

In 1820, Congress began a road construction and improvement project by the military department to establish a wagon road from St. Louis southwestward to Little Rock. That early road would pass through the town of Jackson near to Davidsonville in the northeast corner of the Arkansas Territorial line, crossing the White River just south of Batesville, then continuing on to Little Rock.

From Little Rock, the Military Road as it would come to be known, continued southwesterly through Saline Crossing near where Benton would soon be established, through Clark Courthouse, and onward through the territory to Fulton on the Red River. A branch of the road would continue west from Washington to Fort Towson in the Indian Territory. Portions of that early Military Road through Little Rock can be remembered today as the Batesville Pike in North Little Rock; Ferry Street, Asher Avenue and the Stagecoach Road in Little Rock; and Military Road in Benton.

Another early branch of the Southwest Trail and the first route mapped by Government surveyors crossed the Fourche River south of Little Rock and passed through Fourche Township where some important early springs were located, continuing on towards Colledgeville at the present Pulaski - Saline County line. The Lewis Brothers, Washington and Nathaniel, and Jared Martin were early settlers along this old road. The route followed somewhat along the western end of present day Mabelvale Pike.

**Arkansas Post Road, Crystal Hill to Arkansas Post** - Another early trail passing near to Little Rock was the road from Crystal Hill. It provided an important link from the settlement of Crystal Hill located on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River approximately where the City of Maumelle is located today, to the Arkansas Post. First established by settler and adventurer John Pyeatt in 1807, a band of woodsmen blazed and cleared a trail from Crystal Hill to a point where it intersected an old Indian trail west of present day Jacksonville, which led southeast straight to the Arkansas Post. That early road did not pass through Little Rock staying along the north and east bank of the Arkansas River.

**Military Road, Memphis to Little Rock** – Beginning with an act of Congress in 1824, construction began on another important military road that would link Memphis to Little Rock through Arkansas. This road met the Southwest Trail west of present day Military Road in Jacksonville. Construction and improvement would continue for decades. Because of

the many rivers and swamps of eastern Arkansas, the road was impassable for much of the year.

The system of military roads was extended from Little Rock along the north bank of the Arkansas River to the western territorial boundary and Cherokee lands. Important early river towns were Lewisburg near Morrilton, Dwight Mission in Pope County, and Norriston at a ferry on the bank opposite Dardanelle where the road crossed the Arkansas River. This Military Road continued along the south bank of the Arkansas River on to Fort Smith and later Fort Gibson near the western boundary of Arkansas Territory.

**Some later roads from Little Rock** - By the time of the Civil War, several other roads had been established westward and southward from Little Rock. From Little Rock westward, Civil War era maps named the roads as the Lower Maumelle Road also known as River Road, and the Upper Maumelle Road also referred to as the post road to North Point and Perryville. North Point was an early outpost in Pulaski County located near Pleasant Grove and Goodson Roads.

The road to Pine Bluff followed along the west bank of the Arkansas River, passed by Terry's Ferry at Terry Lock and Dam and onward through Sweet Home and Wrightsville. That route known as the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Pike or Fourche Pike can be remembered today as 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Barber Street, the former Confederate Boulevard, Springer Boulevard and the Sweet Home Pike.

## **Part 2 - Establishment of the original Town of Little Rock and How the Streets got their Names**

### **Town of Little Rock**

Jean-Baptiste Benard de la Harpe, a Frenchman, led an exploration party up the Arkansas River in 1772 from New Orleans. He noted the first outcropping of rock along the banks of the river since leaving New Orleans and called the place 'la petite roche' or 'the little rock,' to distinguish it from a larger cliff or big rock across the river. The location later commonly referred to as the Point of the Rocks. For a short time, the first town at point of the rocks was called Arkopolis, however, when the first post office was established at this location in March of 1820, it was named Little Rock. The first map of the Town of Little Rock was recorded in the land records of Pulaski County, Arkansas Territory on February 2, 1822.

From June 1821 when the Territorial Capitol was moved from Arkansas Post to 1825, the Territorial Governor presided over the affairs of the Town of Little Rock. In 1825 (or 1827) Territorial Governor George Izard signed legislation to provide for a Board of Trustees to govern the town. In 1831, the Town of Little Rock received its first charter. In 1835, Little Rock is re-chartered as the first city in Arkansas Territory.

The 'Little Rock' is located at the foot of Rock Street and the Junction Bridge in Riverfront Park. LaHarpe Boulevard of today gets its name from the early explorer that is credited with naming the rock.



**Little Rock, Main Street at Markham, 1836**  
**Population 600, about 150 buildings**

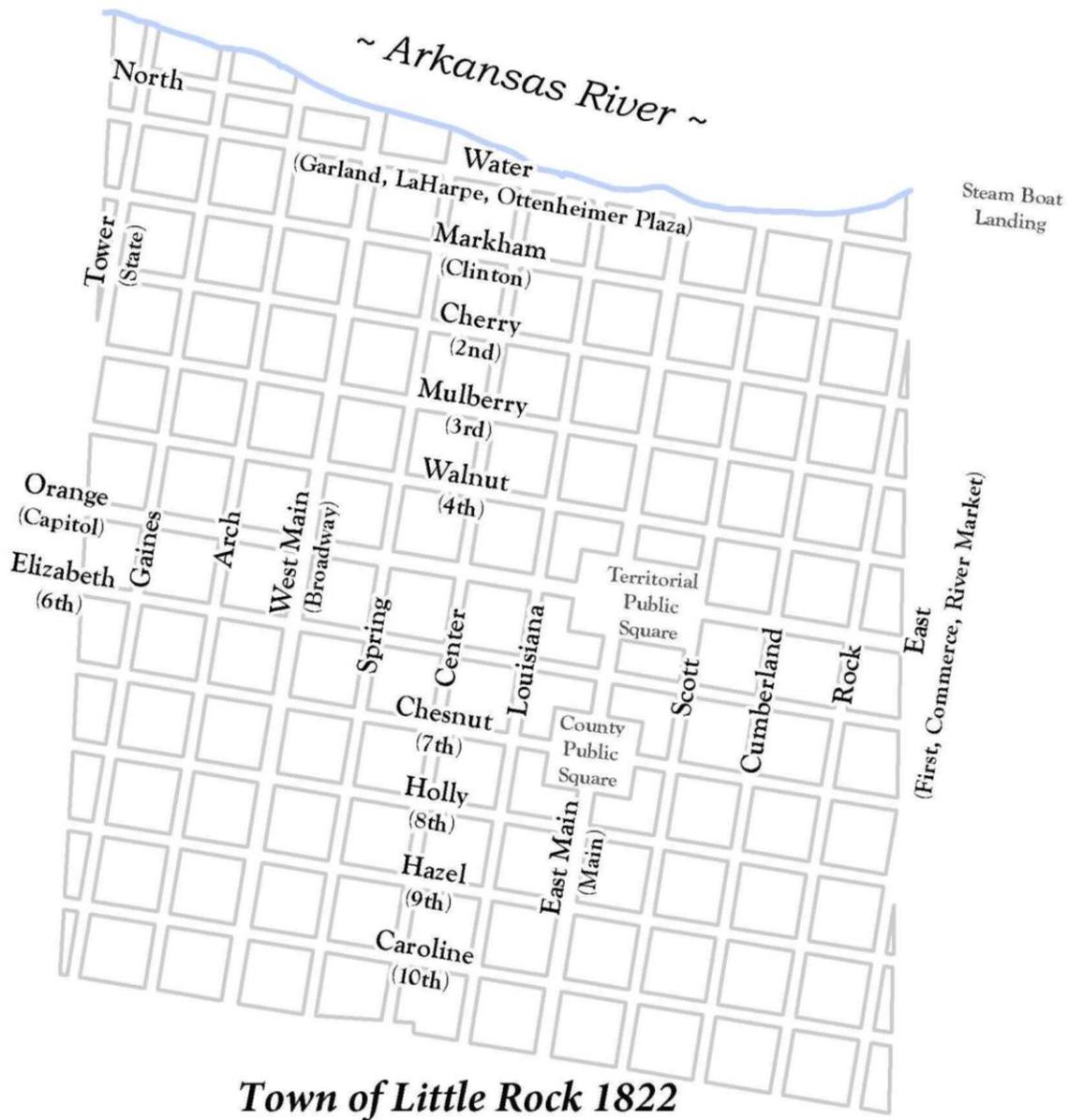
**Little Rock Land Title Disputes** – From the very beginning of the Little Rock town site continuing on into the 1840s, the ownership of the town was a subject of numerous lawsuits, disputes and hostilities over early land titles. In 1814, William Russell, a St. Louis land speculator acquired a land interest in the site and William O’Hara, another prominent land speculator from St. Louis, acquired a second conflicting title to the town site.

Chester Ashley, one of the first lawyers to settle in Little Rock, was a key figure in the dispute over the ownership of the land on which the town was to be built. Two groups of speculators held conflicting claims to the location of what is today downtown Little Rock. Ashley represented the faction comprised of James Bryan, William O’Hara, Amos Wheeler, and Governor James Miller, who claimed through a New Madrid certificate. William Russell headed the other faction, which also included Robert Crittenden, Henry Conway, Judge Andrew Scott, and a number of other prominent citizens, who claimed through pre-emption. Although Ashley’s faction lost in court, the two sides compromised and split up downtown Little Rock between them. Still, disputes over title continued for years after.

On September 25, 1839, businessman Roswell Beebe received the original patent for the town of Little Rock, signed by President Martin Van Buren. It is recorded in the Pulaski county recorder’s office Book L, page 312, encompassing 240 acres. It is written that upon his return, Beebe gave all

the people who had bought lots from a certain real estate developer, whom he considered to be fair and honest, title to their land for a dollar. In 1840, Beebe recorded his map of Little Rock and deeded the streets and alleys to the city for a dollar. He gave the state the title for the land on Markham Street, where the new capitol building (now the Old State House Museum) was located. He also donated part of the land for Mount Holly Cemetery, the other portion came from his brother-in-law Chester Ashley.

**Quapaw Line** – In 1818 a treaty with the Quapaw Indians established the northern and western boundary of tribal lands as a line commencing at the Point of the Rock and running due south. The Town of Little Rock was laid out west of this boundary. A series of stone monuments located in River Front Park commemorates this historic line as well as a monument in MacArthur Park.

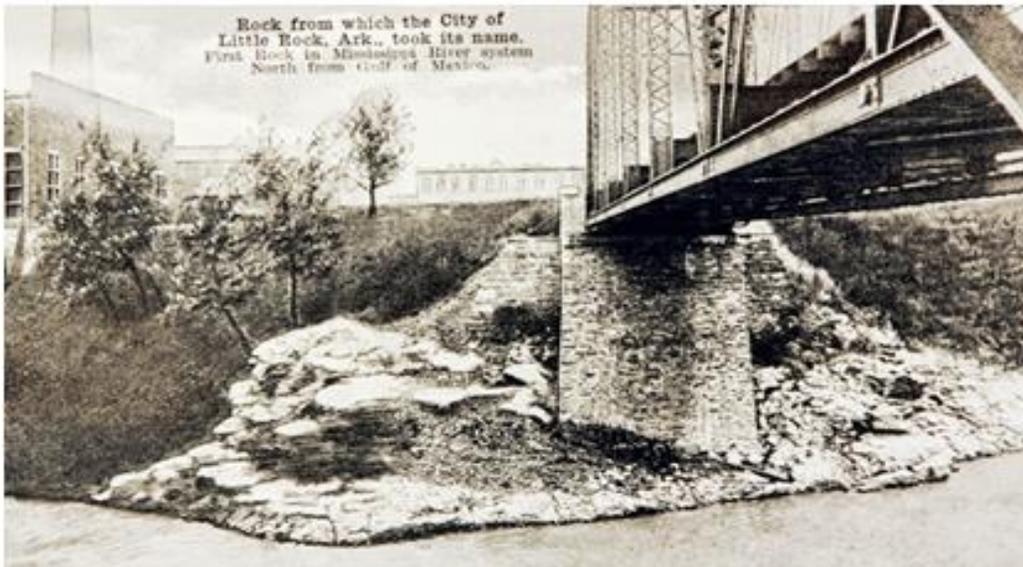


**North – South Streets of the Town of Little Rock** – These were the north – south trending streets shown on the original Map of the Town of Little Rock in 1822.

**1<sup>st</sup> or East or Commerce or River Market Avenue** – While the street was not officially a part of the original town as it was located east of the Quapaw Line, East Street or 1<sup>st</sup> Street figured prominently in the town history. In the early years, it was a short street that extended from Markham north to the Arkansas River and was a focal point of river trade where steamboats landed and early log warehouses were constructed. Further east of here was the ferry landing at future Ferry Street. Because of this role in early trade, it would soon become known as Commerce Street.

Old Commerce Street remains a focus of local shopping and entertainment in the heart of the Little Rock River Market District. A portion of Commerce Street has been renamed River Market Avenue.

**Rock Street** - Rock gets its name from the Little Rock, Point of the Rocks or La Petite Roche.



**La Petite Roche at Rock Street  
Junction Bridge opened December 1884**

**Cumberland Street** – The Cumberland Gap westward through the Appalachian Mountains into Kentucky and Tennessee was one of the most important trails in the saga of the western migration of Europeans into the Territories of the Louisiana Purchase. Many of the early Little Rock settlers or their ancestors had come through the Cumberland Gap on their way west and Cumberland Street commemorates their travels.

**Scott Street** – Andrew Horatio Scott was one of the first Superior Court judges of Arkansas Territory by virtue of appointment by President James Monroe. He was the first governmental official to report for duty at the village of Arkansas Post (Arkansas County) on July 4, 1819, and was first to put into operation the laws of the territory. He served as Circuit

Court Judge for the first District and was the first County Judge of Pope County. The county of Scott, created in 1833, was named in his honor.

Scott is acknowledged as one of the most distinguished figures in pioneer Arkansas history however, his career was forever marred by a proclivity toward violent confrontation. On May 26 1824, fellow Superior Court Judge Joseph Selden died at the hand of Scott in a duel on the east bank of the Mississippi River across from Helena (Phillips County) following an incident wherein Scott felt that Selden had insulted a lady and demanded that he apologize.

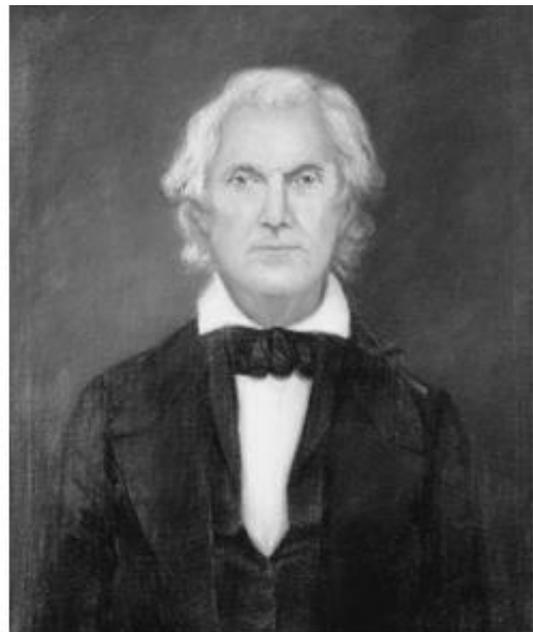
On May 31, 1828, Scott confronted Edmund Hogan in Little Rock and accused him of lying about Scott during a campaign for Territorial Delegate. A verbal argument escalated into a shoving match, during which Hogan struck Scott, knocking him down. Scott drew a spear from his walking cane and thrust it into Hogan's body, mortally wounding him. Scott was charged with murder but later acquitted from charges as he was ruled to have acted in self-defense. After this, Scott removed to Dwight Mission near present day Russellville in Cherokee Territory.

**Territorial Judge Andrew  
Horatio Scott**

**Superior Court Judge 1819**

**Dueled with fellow judge  
Joseph Seldon 1824**

**Killed Col. Edmund Hogan  
during a fight over politics**



**East Main or Main Street** – First mapped as East Main, Main Street and Markham Street were then as now, the center of the downtown business district. Travelers along the Military Road, the Southwest Trail, visited and shopped along these streets in their travels.

**Louisiana Street** – The year 1803 marked the historic Louisiana Purchase in which the United States purchased from France a vast area of land in the west that included Little Rock, the future Territorial Capitol of Arkansas. Arkansas was first a part of the Louisiana Territory, then the Missouri Territory, before becoming the Arkansas Territory on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1819.

**Center Street** – Center Street is located near the center of the original Town of Little Rock. In 1833, the third Territorial Governor John Pope selected a site on Markham Street centered on Center Street for construction of the new capitol building, now known as the Old Statehouse. Center Street was the first street constructed through to the town boundary and the first street that was paved for its entire length in the old town.

**Ashley and Conway Streets** - With construction of the new capitol building, a new street was constructed on the east side of the Statehouse and named Ashley Street in honor of Chester Ashley, the third senator from Arkansas. A new street on the west side was named Conway Street in honor of James Sevier Conway, the first Governor of the new State of Arkansas. Both men were members of the powerful Conway-Sevier-Johnson faction that controlled Arkansas politics up to the time of the Civil War.



### **Center Street and the Statehouse Ashley and Conway Streets**

**Spring Street** – In 1822 at the foot of Spring Street on the Arkansas River was located a large perennial spring that served as an important early drinking water source. By 1832, John Pope described a steam saw mill on the site. The boilers for the mill drew water from the old spring. During construction of a pedestrian approach for the new Broadway Bridge in 2015, an old brick and concrete cistern was uncovered at the site of the old spring, since re-covered and preserved.

**West Main or Broadway Street** – Broadway Street or West Main as it was known in the early years, would become the premier thoroughfare of Little Rock. Many fine homes and businesses were located on the broad, tree-lined street. During the age of the automobile, the Broadway Bridge was completed in 1927 and it would be designed as US Highway 70.

**East – West Streets of the Town of Little Rock** - These were the east – west trending streets shown on the original Map of the Town of Little Rock in 1822.

**North Street** – This was the northern most street in the early town extending only a few blocks in length at the northwest corner of the map on a high river prominence.

**Water or Garland Street or Ottenheimer Plaza Drive** – Water Street was located one block north of Markham along the Arkansas River. Early industries and businesses that relied on river transportation developed along the street including associated saloons, gambling houses and houses of ill-repute. Catering to the river boat men, gamblers and ruffians, a portion of Water Street and the adjacent alley Elm Street was referred to as “hell’s half-acre.” George Featherstonhaugh, an English geologist, who visited in 1838, wrote that, in his estimation, Little Rock had fewer than twelve citizens who refrained from wearing "two pistols ... and a Bowie knife." German adventurer Frederick Gerstaecker wrote of Little Rock in 1838 “Boatmen on the Mississippi have good reason when they sing:

“Little Rock in Arkansaw  
Damndest place I ever saw.”

**Territorial Governor John  
Pope 1829**

**Progressive and visionary  
advocate for improvement of  
Arkansas’ reputation as a  
place of violence and  
corruption**



Territorial Governor John Pope wrote that: “In the early days of any country, no matter how intelligent, refined and honorable the better class of the people were, there were to be found men of lawless and desperate character, who had to be met with force and swift justice. Besides, the want of action and constant occupation, and the great interest taken in local politics; or quarrels growing out of some real or fancied wrong, or disputes over a piece of land or other property, often led to bloody encounters. Sometimes they were decided on the field of honor, falsely so called, and at others resulted in a rough and tumble fight or a

shooting or cutting scrape. Arkansas was no worse in this respect than any other new State nor was she any better than her neighbors.”

Today, Water Street as a name has disappeared from the map. The eastern portion of the old street is now within Julius Breckling Riverfront Park and Ottenheimer Plaza Drive follows somewhat along the old street within the park. Ottenheimer Plaza and Market Hall are named in honor of the philanthropies of Little Rock resident Gus Ottenheimer. Julius Breckling was a long-time Director of the Little Rock Parks Department.

The western remnant of Water Street was re-named Garland Street in honor of Augustus Hill Garland, the eleventh governor of Arkansas, a member of the Confederate Congress, a U.S. senator, and attorney general of the United States. Garland Street and Garland County gets its name from this man.

**Elm Street (alley)** – Elm Street was described as a very narrow street one-half block north of Markham. A portion of the original Elm Street remains today located east of LaHarpe Boulevard in the River Market District. A portion of the alley is still paved in old river stone cobbles.



**Arkansas River Commerce  
Commerce, Ferry, Water and Elm Streets  
Hell's half acre!**

**Markham Street or Clinton Avenue** – The source of the name of Markham Street is somewhat one of ‘histories mysteries.’ Two or three Markham brothers stayed for a time at the Point of the Rocks. It is not known where they came from or what became of them or what their full names were. However, they apparently laid out a street and their sir name is remembered as Little Rocks’ first street. Markham Street formed the baseline for the layout of the original Town of Little Rock and is still the baseline for all address assignments in

Pulaski County south of the River. It was not laid out in a true east – west direction and aligns somewhat with the original river bank.

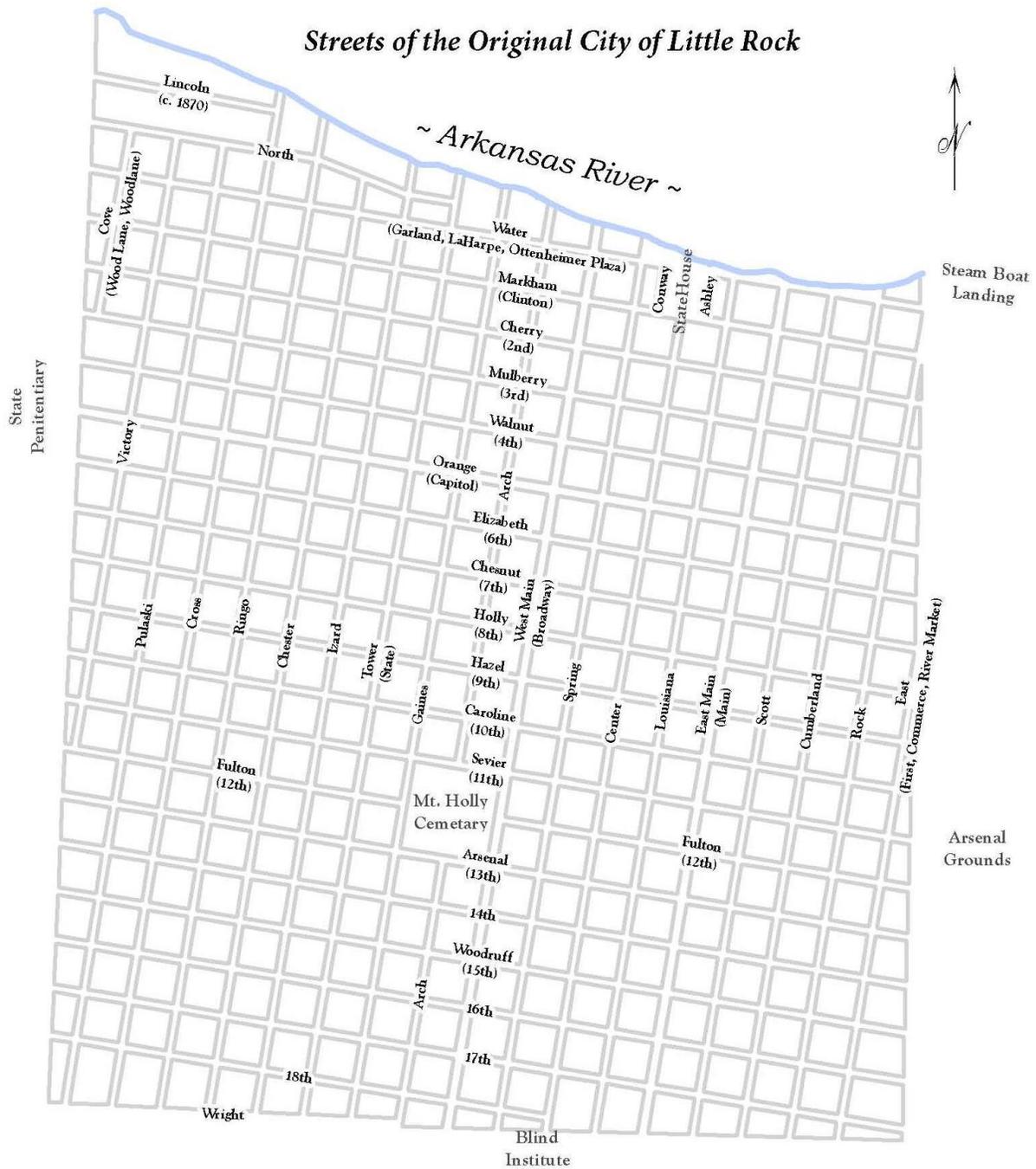
The portion of Markham Street east of Cumberland Street is now named in honor of William Jefferson Clinton, a native Arkansan, the 40<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Governor of Arkansas, and the 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States. His Presidential Library is located at the eastern terminus of Clinton Avenue in Riverfront Park.

**Mathew Cunningham and the story of Cherry or 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Mulberry or 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Walnut or 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Orange or 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Elizabeth or 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Chestnut or 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Holly or 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Hazel or 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and Caroline or 10<sup>th</sup> Street** – These streets are all given their names by Dr. Mathew Cunningham, a native of Pennsylvania and the first Mayor of the Town of Little Rock. The streets are named for streets in his beloved early home of Philadelphia.



**Dr. Mathew and Eliza Cunningham**  
**1820 first family in Little Rock, 1831 first Mayor**  
**Friend to Chester Ashley, William Woodruff**

Dr. Cunningham was one of the first settlers of Little Rock in February 1820 and the first physician. His wife Eliza, became the first female in the Little Rock settlement and the birth of their son, Chester, named for Chester Ashley, was likely the first baby born to a Little Rock family. Little Rock received its first town charter in November 1831 and Dr. Cunningham was elected the first Mayor of Little Rock by a margin of 23 to 15. The first City Council meeting took place at the Cunningham house on the block which is at the southwest corner of what is now 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main Streets. A plaque on the side of the old Fulk Building on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street makes note of this early event.



### Part 3 - The Original City of Little Rock

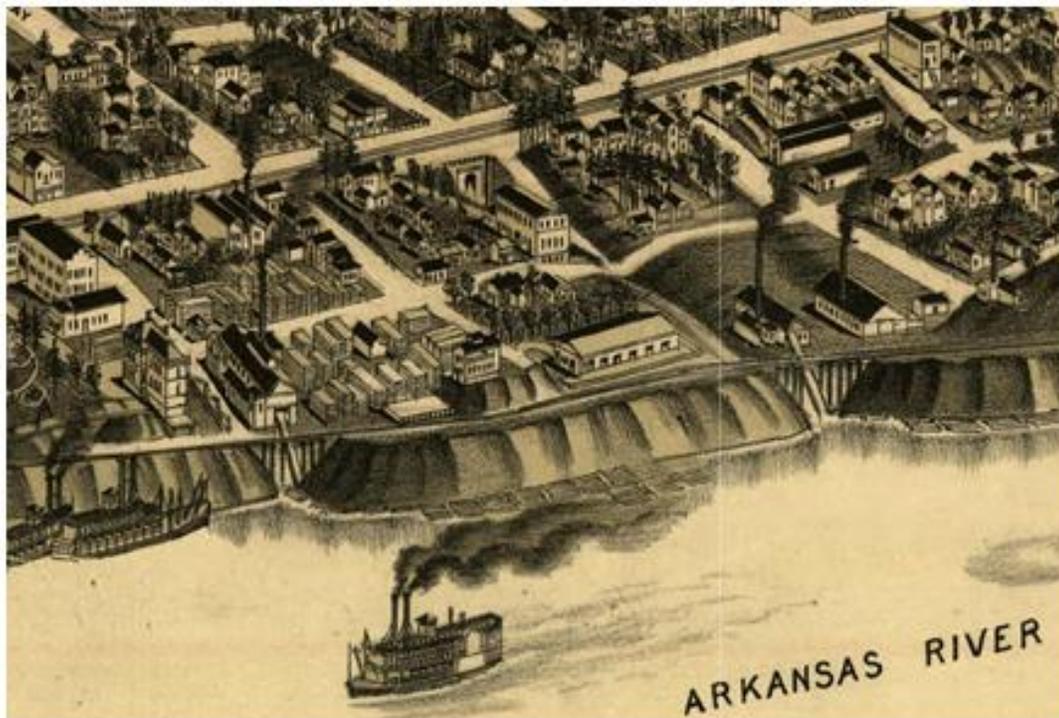
**The Original City of Little Rock** - The map of the Original City of Little Rock was recorded into the land records of Pulaski County, Arkansas in 1835 and again in 1840 when Roswell Beebe obtained the original patent for land encompassing much of the city. This event marked the beginning of the

end of numerous lawsuits, disputes and hostilities over early land titles in the city that began before the founding of the first Little Rock town site.

Early growth in the Town of Little Rock was mostly westward and eastward from the first boundaries of the early town along the south bank of the Arkansas River. Markham was one of the most travelled streets and met a road west of town that at various times was referred to as the Lower Maumelle Road or River Road. After the Civil War, a portion of the old River Road was named Lincoln Avenue for President Abraham Lincoln. Today it is known as Cantrell Road named for Deadrick Harrell Cantrell. Cantrell was once the President of the Little Rock Railway and Electric Company, the company that operated the trolley system in Little Rock.

On the east end of Markham, are the early additions to the Town of Little Rock of Pope's Addition (Governor John Pope), Russell's Addition (William Russell) and Rector Town (Governor Henry Rector). These additions were part of a ten section, 1000 acre grant of land from the United States to the Arkansas Territory for the purpose of funding a new territorial capitol and penitentiary. Governor John Pope presided over the sale of the land grant.

**Streets added west of the Town of Little Rock** - West of the original town, the following named streets had been added west of West Main Street or Broadway by the time that the plat of the Original City of Little Rock was recorded into the records of Pulaski County, Arkansas in 1835.



**The stone arch of Arch Street, 1887 drawing**

**Arch Street** – In the early years, a deep drainage ravine ran from about Mulberry or 3<sup>rd</sup> Street north to the Arkansas River. Soon after the town was established, a large stone arch bridge was constructed at Markham Street to cross this ravine as Markham accessed one of the main roads westward from Little Rock. The arch is depicted on early drawings of Little Rock in 1871 as a rather crude native stone structure and later in 1887 as a more refined key-stone arch. Today the old ravine has been filled to street level and the arch is gone.

**Gaines Street** – Gaines Street is within the boundaries of the original town, but it was not named on the map. It was named in honor of General Edmund Pendleton Gaines who served with distinction during the War of 1812, the Seminole Wars, and the Blackhawk War, serving again in the Mexican American War. Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island, Alabama is named for him as well as Gainesville, Florida, Texas, Georgia, and New York. At least six other towns, townships, and streets are named for him.

**Brigadier General Edmund  
Pendleton Gains  
War of 1812  
Seminole Wars  
Blackhawk War  
Mexican American Way  
Commander Western Military  
District**



As commander of the Western District of the Military, he spent considerable time in Arkansas Territory, presiding over Indian affairs and the forts along the western frontier including Fort Smith, Fort Gibson, and Fort Towson. Governor James Miller called on him to quiete hostilities between the Cherokee and Chickasaw at Dwight Mission (Russellville) west of Little Rock. While he was in command of military forces during two Indian wars and numerous skirmishes, he opposed Indian removal policies, espousing the enforcement of existing treaties.

**Tower or State Street** – First mapped as Tower Street, the name suggests there was once a tower on the high bank of the Arkansas River at the north end of the street. It was later and ever after known as State Street, commemorating Arkansas Statehood on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836.

**Izard Street** – George Izard, scholar, soldier, and army major general, served as Arkansas's second territorial governor from March 4, 1825, until his death on November 22, 1828. Referred to as the “aristocrat” he had an extensive education and refinement in the east and Europe and was a native of South Carolina. He attended the College de Navarre in Paris, Columbia University in New York, the College of Philadelphia, and the École du Génie at Metz, France, where he was trained in military engineering. He served for a time as aide-de-camp to General Alexander Hamilton and attained the rank of major general in the War of 1812.

In 1825, Izard was commissioned as the second governor of the Arkansas Territory. Arriving in Arkansas on May 31, 1825, Izard found territorial government unorganized, undisciplined, and lacking adequate record keeping; he also found the acting governor, Robert Crittenden, out of state. A man of order and discipline, he immediately set about the task of establishing record keeping and rectifying the territory’s financial disorder. His tenure as governor was dominated by concerns with natural resources, roads, treaties with Indians, Indian removal, and the organization and strengthening of the militia. Road development continued during Izard’s tenure, and it was during this time that some roads became adequate enough to see the use of the first stagecoaches in the territory.

**Territorial Governor George  
Izard**

**Aristocratic scholar**

**Army Major General War of  
1812**

**Organized and disciplined  
governor**



Izard was a quiet, orderly, and scholarly man, and one historian wrote that much of Arkansas’s rustic populace could not relate to him. He lived in a small brick house in old town at the southwest corner of Spring and Cherry Streets and often preferred staying home and reading to attending social events and was even known to decline events that were to be held in his honor because he was too busy with his many avocations. He would emerge in the morning from his small brick house to attend to his duties as territorial

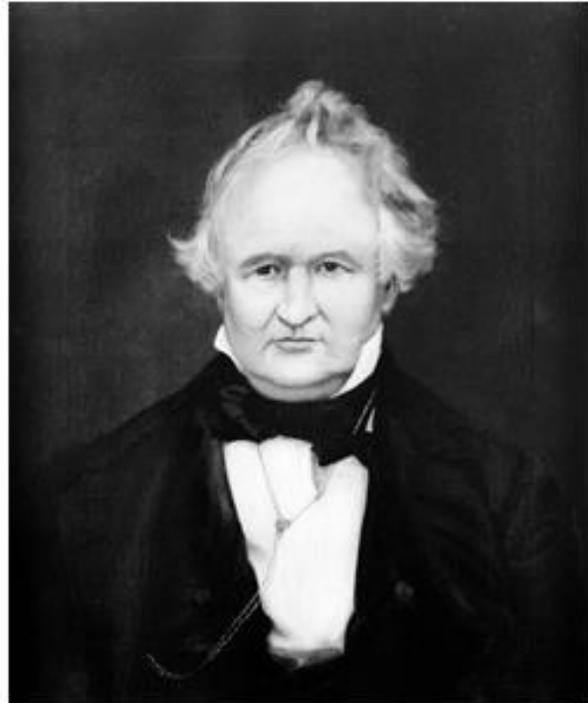
governor, dressed in full military regalia as if to attend a military parade. He served as governor until his death on November 22, 1828, and was buried first at the old city burial grounds where Peabody School would later be built, and later in the family plot of Chester Ashley at Mount Holly Cemetery. IZARD County and IZARD Street in Little Rock are named for him.

### **Chester Ashley**

**Prominent attorney, land  
owner, preeminent appellate  
attorney**

**Third U.S. Senator**

**Ashley's home was among  
Little Rock's finest**



**Chester Street** - Chester Ashley was prominent attorney and land owner in territorial and antebellum Arkansas and is described as the pre-eminent appellate attorney of the period and the wealthiest citizen of the early town because of his land holdings. He figured prominently in early land disputed over title in Little Rock. He was the third Arkansan elected to the U.S. Senate and was probably the wealthiest Arkansan for much of his life.

Ashley practiced law in a brief partnership with Robert Crittenden, the territorial secretary, and later with George Watkins, who would serve as chief justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. Uriah M. Rose later joined the practice with Watkins, and still later, Deadrick Cantrell joined the firm. That firm endures today as the Rose Law Firm.

Ashley was educated at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts and the Litchfield Law School in Litchfield, Connecticut. Like many young men at the time, he moved to the frontier arriving at the little rock in Arkansas in 1820 at a time when Little Rock was a small group of log houses in the Arkansas Territory, but it was soon to become the territorial capital. He married Mary Watkins Worthington Elliott of St. Genevieve, Missouri, in 1821 and the newlyweds made their home in Little Rock.

Governor John Pope described the Ashley home as the old time seat of refinement and hospitality. Ashley's residence occupied the entire block between Markham and Cherry (Second) streets, and Scott and Cumberland streets fronting the Gazette office, and standing back some distance from the street. According to Pope, the stately manor "was a very large two-story brick mansion, built after the Greek style of architecture, with high brick columns, stuccoed in imitation of stone, supporting the long portico which extended the full length of the building from east to west. This splendid residence, with its trimly kept gardens and orchards; its conservatories and hot-houses ; its servants' quarters, stables, carriage houses and other buildings marked its owner, Col. Chester Ashley, as a man of wealth and elegance."

He was buried in Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock, which is on land he donated to the city for the cemetery. Ashley County is named for him, as are both Chester and Ashley streets in Little Rock.

**Ringo Street** – Daniel Ringo was the first Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court following the establishment of the State of Arkansas in 1836. His fellows were Associate Justices Townsend Dickinson and Thomas J. Lacy. Herndon Haralson served as the first clerk of the court, while the colorful Albert Pike was the first reporter of decisions.

Daniel Ringo was born October 27, 1803, in Cross Plains, Kentucky and educated himself in the reading of the law. He practiced law in the Arkansas Territory beginning in 1830 and resided in Little Rock for much of his career. Ringo also served as Judge in the U.S. District Court of Arkansas, and later the Western and Eastern Districts of Arkansas. During the Civil War, Ringo was Judge of the Confederate District Court of Arkansas. He died September 3, 1873 in Little Rock.

**Cross Street** – Cross Street is named for the Baring Cross Bridge, the first bridge constructed and the western-most of the six bridges spanning the Arkansas River in downtown Little Rock today. The first Baring Cross Bridge opened to railroad traffic on the Cairo and Fulton Railroad in 1873. The bridge took its name from two sources: the famous Baring and Company bankers of England, who were the principal financiers of the construction project and C&F president Thomas Allen, who added "Cross," which came from President Allen's family coat of arms. The coat of arms consisted of a cross and the words *Fortiter Girret*, meaning, "bravely he bears the cross."

In 1877, the Baring Cross Bridge Company constructed a highway deck on top of the bridge and charged tolls for its use by the public. In early 1886, the company rebuilt most of the bridge, with the exception of the piers, and lowered the highway deck to the same level as the rail.

In April 1927, record rains soaked the Arkansas River Valley and caused an a flood of historic proportions. As the floodwaters reached Little Rock, the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company placed coal cars on the old bridge for ballast, but the bridge washed away on April 21. During this time, Missouri Pacific took over the ownership rights of the bridge and pledged to rebuild it. The new bridge opened on February 2, 1929, to a huge community celebration.

Today, the Baring Cross Bridge, acquired by Union Pacific in 1997, is a modern steel double-track bridge with a lift navigation span. It remains one of the busiest railroad bridges in the country.



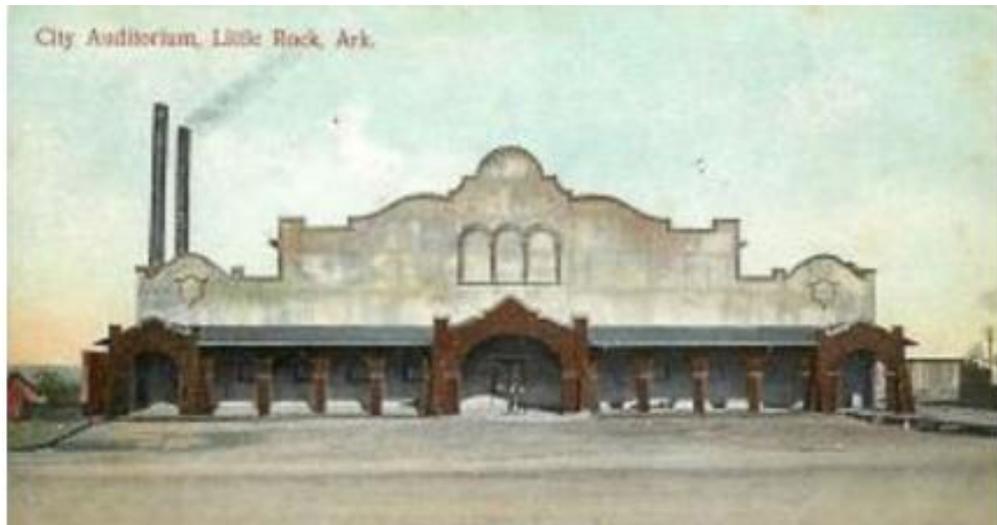
**Baring Cross Bridge at Cross Street  
Constructed 1873, toll bridge added to top of bridge 1877**

**Pulaski Street** – When Congress established Arkansas Territory in 1819, Pulaski County was created and named for Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman who fought and died in 1779 in the Revolutionary War's Battle of Savannah. There are numerous towns, counties, streets, parks, structures and monuments named for General Pulaski throughout the United States.

Casimir Pulaski, son of Count Joseph Pulaski, was born in Warsaw, Poland, on March 6, 1745. At the age of fifteen, he joined his father and other members of the Polish nobility in opposing the Russian and Prussian interference in Polish affairs. Outlawed by Russia for his actions on behalf of Polish liberty, he traveled to Paris where he met Benjamin Franklin, who induced him to support the colonies against England in the American Revolution. In 1777, Pulaski arrived in Philadelphia where he met General Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Later, at Brandywine, he came to the aid of Washington's forces and distinguished himself as a brilliant military tactician. For his efforts, Congress appointed him Brigadier-General in charge of Four Horse Brigades. Then again, at the Battle of Germantown, Pulaski's knowledge of warfare assisted General Washington and his men in securing victory for American forces. Later in 1778, Congress approved the establishment of the first Cavalry and put Pulaski at its head. Pulaski became known as the "Father of the American Cavalry."

Pulaski and his Legion were then ordered to defend Little Egg Harbor in New Jersey and Minisink on the Delaware; they then proceeded south to Charleston, South Carolina. It was on October 9, 1779, during the Battle of Savannah, that General Pulaski, charging into battle on horseback, fell to the ground mortally wounded by the blast from a cannon. Pulaski's enemies were so impressed with his courage, that they spared him the musket and permitted him to be carried from the battlefield. Pulaski died several days later on October 15, 1779, at age 34. The Pulaski Monument, erected in his honor, is located in Monterey Square, Savannah, Georgia.

Pulaski County and Pulaski Street are named for this man as well as numerous other places throughout the country.



**City Municipal Auditorium 1906  
1836 Victory, Republic of Texas,  
1836 Victory, Arkansas Statehood  
Victory is won!**

**Victory Street** – History and timing suggest Victory Street commemorates the victory in 1846 by the United States in the Mexican American War in which Mexico ceded land occupying nearly all of present day California, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico for a sum of \$15 million dollars. It also resulted in the acceptance of the Republic of Texas into the Union as territory. The gold rush began soon after.

There were other victories in which the founders of Little Rock had reason to revel in including the War of 1812 with the British, settling once and for all the question of America's independence. Perhaps the final victory of the time was the establishment of Arkansas as the 25<sup>th</sup> State in the Union in 1836 and the establishment of Little Rock in 1835 as the first chartered city in Arkansas Territory. Victory was won!

**Cove Street or Wood Lane or Woodlane Drive** – Cove Street likely derives its name from the cove of Rose Bayou located at the north end of the street and north of present-day Union Station. Houseboats and commercial fisherman once anchored in a cove along the mouth of Rose Bayou. Rose Bayou of today is referred to as either Capitol Drain or Rose Creek, and likely derived its name from the old nick-name for Little Rock, the “City of Roses.”

On May 20, 1929, the City Council of Little Rock renamed Cove Street to Wood Lane in honor Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Carroll D. Wood. Ordinance 4425 notes that it was on this date he “ended his career as a jurist on the Supreme Court of the State of Arkansas after 36 years of continuous service, retiring to private life as one of Arkansas’ most honored and beloved citizens.”

Wood was born 1858 in Ashley County, Arkansas where he also grew up. The son of a Baptist minister, he became a lawyer after graduating the University of Arkansas in 1879. Following his graduation Wood began practicing law and served twice as the Drew County, Arkansas prosecuting attorney from 1881–1886. He then served twice as a circuit court judge for circuit 10 of Arkansas from 1886–1893. In 1893 Wood was elected to position 4 of the Arkansas Supreme Court, an office he held until shortly before his death in 1929.

Wood Lane is mapped today as Woodlane Drive, likely a map or sign makers’ corruption of the original intent.

**Streets added south of the Town of Little Rock** - Early growth in the Town of Little Rock to the south was not as rapid as growth along the river. In 1871, the built-up portion of Little Rock did not reach to the southern boundary of the early map of the original city. The following streets had been added south of Caroline or 10<sup>th</sup> Street over time around the time or after the plat of the Original City of Little Rock was first recorded into the records of Pulaski County, Arkansas in 1835.

**Sevier or 11<sup>th</sup> Street** – Ambrose Hundley Sevier was a territorial delegate to congress and one of the two first U.S. senators from the state of Arkansas. Sevier was also one of the founders of “The Family, “a political dynasty which ruled antebellum Arkansas politics from the 1820s until the Civil War. His cousin Henry Wharton Conway founded the Arkansas Democratic Party, and his other cousin, James Sevier Conway, served as Arkansas’s first state governor, while yet another cousin, Elias Nelson Conway, was the state’s fifth governor. He also married into the powerful Johnson family. On September 27, 1827, Sevier married Juliette E. Johnson, the eldest daughter of Territorial Superior Court Judge Benjamin Johnson.

Born on November 10, 1801, in Greene County, Tennessee, to John Sevier and Susannah Conway, he was the grandnephew of John Sevier, a Revolutionary War hero and the first governor of Tennessee. Sevier left Tennessee in 1820, settling first in Missouri and then, finally, in Little Rock (Pulaski County) by 1821. That October, Arkansas’s second territorial legislature convened for the first time in Little Rock, and Sevier became clerk for the territorial House of Representatives. Two years later, he was admitted to the bar and won a seat in the territorial lower house representing Pulaski County. In 1827, his fellow legislators elected him as speaker of the Arkansas Territorial House of Representatives. Sevier

assumed leadership of the family after his cousin, Territorial Delegate Henry W. Conway, was killed in a duel in 1827.

In December, 1827, Sevier was elected territorial delegate in a special election, taking his seat in Congress on February 13, 1828. He quickly aligned himself with the Andrew Jackson. It was Sevier who secured Arkansas's bid for statehood, with President Andrew Jackson signing the bill making it the twenty-fifth state on June 15, 1836. Arkansas's first legislature rewarded Sevier by electing him as one of the state's first two U.S. senators.

#### **Fulton or 12<sup>th</sup> Street –**

William Savin Fulton was appointed Arkansas's last territorial governor by President Andrew Jackson in 1835 and served as Arkansas's first junior senator after statehood in 1836 until his death on August 15, 1844. He is most often associated with the Democratic Party, and when serving as governor, he surrounded himself with controversy by opposing immediate statehood for Arkansas.

William Fulton was born in Cecil County, Maryland, on June 2, 1795 to his Irish-born parents, David and Elizabeth Fulton. Fulton was educated by Reverend Samuel Knox and attended Baltimore College. Fulton married his first cousin, Matilda Frances Nowland, in 1823. Fulton served as a corporal in the War of 1812 in an elite Boston volunteer unit during the naval bombardment at Fort McHenry and later served as private secretary to a family friend, General Andrew Jackson, in the Seminole Wars.

In 1829, Fulton was appointed by President Andrew Jackson as the secretary to the territory of Arkansas, replacing the Whig candidate, Robert Crittenden. Fulton and his family arrived in Arkansas in the summer of 1829, and he immediately took over the job as acting governor in the absence of Governor John Pope. During Pope's frequent absences from Arkansas, Fulton often acted as governor or traveled between Washington DC and Little Rock (Pulaski County) on territorial business. Fulton purchased property in Little Rock that included several lots, which he called Rosewood, the present-day site of the Arkansas governor's mansion.

Jackson appointed Fulton governor on March 9, 1835. He is known for his actions during the debate whether to enter Arkansas as the twenty-fifth state in the Union. Fulton was generally opposed to statehood on the grounds that neither the people nor the resources were ready. As a result, he received a great deal of criticism from politicians, newspapers, and the public. Despite this, the state legislature elected Fulton to the U.S. Congress as the junior senator from Arkansas in 1836, joining his friend and fellow senator, Ambrose Sevier, where he spent most of his time until his death in the late fall of 1844.

**Arsenal or 13<sup>th</sup> Street –** In 1836, the same year Arkansas was admitted into the Union, the federal government requested the building of a military installation in Little Rock (Pulaski County). Under Governor James Sevier Conway and Major Robert B. Lee, a site for the Little Rock Arsenal was selected on the outskirts of the city. The site was on a former racetrack used by a local jockey club. At the arsenal's completion, the *Arkansas Gazette* declared it to be "a splendid specimen of masonry." The arsenal was unique in that it had a center Tower

Building, named for its octagon tower. Over the next decade, more than thirty buildings were added to the installation.

Captain James Totten was commander at the arsenal at the beginning of the Civil War. In the days leading up to the Civil War, Governor Henry M. Rector was urged by citizens to seize the installation, but he sought to claim the buildings without violence. In February 1861, Totten surrendered the arsenal to the State of Arkansas. In 1863, Federal troops entered Little Rock and occupied the arsenal and adjacent St. Johns College for the duration of the war. From 1863 to its decommissioning in 1890, the Little Rock Arsenal became more of a housing complex, with weapons stores being replaced with rooms for soldiers and their families. Douglas MacArthur was born at the arsenal in 1880.

The United States Department of War decided to abandon the Little Rock Arsenal. On April 23, 1892 the City of Little Rock received title to the old arsenal in exchange land north of the Arkansas River that the government developed as Fort Roots due to a large donation by the estate of Logan Roots. The grounds of the arsenal were converted to a public park, first called City Park and renamed MacArthur Park in 1942. All the buildings other than the Tower Building were sold or destroyed. In May 2001, the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History opened in the Tower Building of MacArthur Park.

### **Watkins or 14<sup>th</sup> Street**

Isaac Watkins - Major Isaac Watkins was a prominent and highly respected early citizen of Little Rock who was tragically murdered in 1826 over a matter of a stolen hogs. Watkins and his wife, Marie Toncre Watkins, set out from Shelbyville, Kentucky the last day of the year 1820 with them their six year old son George and other relatives, arriving in Little Rock March 11, 1821. Mrs. Watkins diary states that there were but two houses and a few cabins in the town at the date of her arrival. They built a home at the corner of Cumberland and Orange Street (5<sup>th</sup> Street) and owned property east of Mount Holly Cemetery at the edge of the original Little Rock town site and had a farm, some three miles above town, on the south side of the river, about where Murray Park is today. He built the first tavern and grist mill in Little Rock.

An account by Territorial Governor John Pope describes this deplorable tragedy of his murder. Sometime in the year 1826, Major Isaac Watkins visited his farm. He had been greatly harassed by having his cattle and hogs stolen and determined to ferret out the culprit. On this trip to his farm, he discovered the heads of two of his hogs recently killed lying in a cane-brake near the road. Nearby the road was the cabin of the man Smith, whom the Major suspected of the crime of hog-stealing. On his return to town, he met Smith on the street, and charged him with the offense. Smith indignantly denied the charge and applied some vile epithets to Major Watkins, who struck him with a small stick which he was carrying. Smith attempted to retaliate, but the interference of bystanders prevented any further hostilities at the time.

The next day, however, Smith rode into town carrying his rifle across his saddle. About the same time Major Watkins walked into McLane & Badgett's store, the largest and finest mercantile store of the day, and took a seat, tilting the chair back against the counter,

presenting his left side to the front door. Smith, observing the Major enter the store, reined his horse up to the sidewalk, and, without dismounting, took deliberate aim and fired upon his victim, the ball striking a vital spot; Major Watkins fell from the chair mortally wounded, and died in a few hours in great agony. Amidst the excitement that followed, the assassin made his escape to the dense woods, a few hundred yards distant, and was never heard of afterwards, although diligent search was made and large rewards offered for his capture. Smith was indicted for murder, and long after the case of "The People of Arkansas versus John Smith" was regularly called at the court, and the sheriff as regularly responded, "Not in custody." The case was finally stricken from the docket.

**Maria Watkins**  
**Wife of Isaac Watkins**  
**Mother of George Watkins**  
**Grandmother of Calborne**  
**Watkins**



George Watkins - The Watkins' son, George Claiborne Watkins attended Litchfield Law School and upon his return to Little Rock, formed a partnership with fellow Litchfield Law School graduate Chester Ashley that continued until Ashley was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1844. He entered state politics serving first as Attorney General of Arkansas in 1843. Watkins formed a second partnership with James M. Curran of Curran Hall fame and later served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas from 1852 to 1854. In 1854, Curran died and Watkins resigned from the bench to take control of their law firm. He served in the Confederacy during the Civil War and lost three sons in that war.

In 1865, George Watkins partnered with another prominent attorney Uriah M. Rose, and that firm endures today as the Rose Law Firm. The Rose Law Firm of Little Rock is the oldest law firm west of the Mississippi River.

**Woodruff or 15<sup>th</sup> Street** – William Edward Woodruff’s life spanned the years of Arkansas’s territorial days, statehood, Confederacy, and Reconstruction. Although best known today as the founder of the *Arkansas Gazette*, the state’s first newspaper, Woodruff became one of the state’s most important and colorful historical figures through his other business interests, political connections, and efforts to promote Arkansas.

William Woodruff was born on December 24, 1795, on a small farm at Fire Place on Long Island, New York, the oldest of five sons born to Nathaniel Woodruff and Hannah Clarke Woodruff. His father died when Woodruff was twelve; two years later, his mother apprenticed him to Alden Spooner, a Sag Harbor, New York, printer who published the *Suffolk Gazette*. His original indenture document still exists, held at the Arkansas State Archives. Woodruff married Jane Eliza Mills, the daughter of Abraham Mills, on November 14, 1827, in Little Rock. They had eleven children—four sons and seven daughters.

Following the creation of Arkansas Territory on March 3, 1819, Woodruff bought on credit “a small stock old printing material,” arriving at Arkansas Post on October 30 or 31, 1819, about six weeks after leaving Tennessee. He published the first issue of the *Arkansas Gazette* on November 20. In 1821, he published the first book printed in Arkansas, the 152-page *Laws of the Territory of Arkansas*.

Shortly after he arrived at Arkansas Post, Woodruff had his first run-in with Territorial Secretary Robert Crittenden. Haughty, aristocratic, and taking advantage of his almost unlimited power as acting governor, Crittenden was a force to contend with. However, Woodruff refused to allow Crittenden to dictate his editorial policy, and the die was cast. In short order, Woodruff jumped into the life of this new land, embroiling himself in the fiery—sometimes deadly—politics of the times. He chose sides as a Democrat and aligned himself with the powerful lawyer Chester Ashley, who became his close lifelong friend.

When the territorial capital moved to Little Rock, Woodruff moved too. Woodruff owned the ferry at and a steamboat called *The Little Rock*. In 1823. He formed a land agency that was so successful that it brought him far more wealth than his newspapers ever did. Woodruff also held local and state public office. Although he was never a candidate for a major office, it was said he commanded more political influence than any territorial governor except John Pope.

**Pope or 16<sup>th</sup> Street** - John Pope served variously from 1798 to 1842 as a U.S. senator and congressional representative from Kentucky, secretary of state for Kentucky, and the third territorial governor of Arkansas. Initially affiliated with the Democratic-Republican Party, he joined the Whig Party in the 1830s. During his tenure as territorial governor, he worked to establish a legislative program to promote migration and economic development and to rid the region of its reputation as a violent and politically unstable frontier.

John Pope was born in February 1770 in Prince William County, Virginia, the eldest son of Colonel William and Penelope Edwards Pope. The Pope family moved near Louisville, Kentucky, in 1779 at the height of the American Revolution. After an accident on his family’s farm necessitated the amputation of Pope’s arm, his father sent him to a private school in Bardstown, Kentucky. He graduated from William and Mary College, studied law in

Lexington and established a practice in Shelbyville, Kentucky. Pope married three times and twice became a widower.

In 1798, Pope began a nearly fifty-year political career. Pope later became a political ally of Andrew Jackson in 1819 and enthusiastically supported the frontier hero's presidential candidacy in 1828. After Jackson's election as president of the United States, he appointed Pope as the territorial governor of Arkansas in the spring of 1829.

Early in his first term, he expressed his vision for Arkansas: that it might become "by a wise and just course of policy, the enterprise, public spirit, intelligence, and elevated character of the people, a bright star in the political constellation." Almost immediately, Pope introduced policies designed to turn this vision into a reality. Influenced by his adherence to the Jacksonian principle of expansive democracy, Pope made many of the territory's offices elected rather than appointed. These policies formed the framework of Pope's desire to increase migration to the territory and diminish its reputation as a place of violence and corruption that was unsuitable for settlement by virtuous families. Pope demonstrated his commitment to this ideal by becoming the first territorial governor of Arkansas to move his family to the raucous territory when he arrived on May 31, 1829.

Pope's most persistent and belligerent opponent during his tenure in Arkansas was Robert Crittenden, another former Kentuckian who led the territory for more than a year due to the delayed arrival of Governor James Miller. Fortunately for Pope, he gained the powerful allegiance of Colonel Ambrose Sevier and the *Arkansas Gazette*; both shared his vision of Arkansas as a land ripe for positive improvements. These allies proved valuable during the peak of Crittenden's opposition, as the encounters with the Crittenden faction were at the center of most of Pope's difficulties in office.

Jackson did not appoint Pope to a third term as territorial governor in 1835 but instead replaced him with William S. Fulton. Pope's vision of organization and reform, and the policies that gave shape to that vision, clearly set the stage for statehood. Pope County was named in his honor to recognize his role in the state's development.

**Russell or 17<sup>th</sup> Street** - The first white settler near the "little rock" is believed to have been William Lewis, a hunter. In July 1812 he built a small hut and planted a few pumpkin seeds so that he could file a homestead claim. In 1819 a land speculator from St. Louis named William Russell had acquired Lewis' claim, and by May 1820, he had staked out a town site. Later that same year, members of a rival faction led by another St. Louis land speculator, William O'Hara laid out a second town site that they named it Arkopolis. In 1821 Russell's Little Rock settlement was chosen as the capital of Arkansas Territory. When tensions between the two opposing groups touched off fears that the capital would be moved elsewhere, the speculators resolved their differences amicably, and the site was authoritatively named Little Rock. However disputes over land titles would continue on for decades after.

Russell Street commemorates this early land owner and he is credited as founder of the Town of Little Rock. Russell's Addition east of the Quapaw Line is named for him.

**18<sup>th</sup> Street** – At the extreme southwest corner of the map of the Original City of Little Rock was a very short un-named street that would later become 18<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Wright Avenue** - Dr. Weldon Edwards Wright was born in Hampton Roads, Virginia, in 1814 to James Wright and Mary Williamson. Wright married Lucy Macon Green and had 4 children. He made his home on a 100 acre tract of land south of the original city. Wright platted the first addition south of the Original City of Little Rock and named the street bounding the original city Wright Avenue. Wright Avenue connected to the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Pike to the west, a part of the old Military Road the main road southwest of Little Rock.

In Wright's Addition, 19<sup>th</sup> Street was platted one block south of Wright Avenue, adding one extra street, Wright Avenue, to the system of numbered streets. This created confusion in address assignments that persists to this day. The 1900 address assignments are south Wright Avenue instead of south of 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Weldon E. Wright is also noted for financing Elisha Baxter in the Brooks-Baxter War, furnishing \$30,000 from his own resources. The Brooks-Baxter War, which occurred during April and May 1874, was an armed conflict between the supporters of two rivals for the governorship—Joseph Brooks and Elisha Baxter. The violence spilled out of Little Rock (Pulaski County) into much of the state and was resolved only when the federal government intervened. Estimates put the number killed in confrontations at more than 200.

President Ulysses S. Grant asked his attorney general for a decision on who should be governor. The last week of April, U.S. Attorney General George H. Williams began meetings with representatives of the two factions in Washington. Prominent Little Rock attorney Uriah M. Rose, along with Albert Pike and former senator Robert W. Johnson, presented the case for Baxter. Senators Clayton and Dorsey represented Brooks. Williams issued his opinion May 15 declaring that Baxter was the legal governor. That day, the president issued a proclamation indicating that because the legitimate government of Arkansas was Baxter, he would provide federal aid in suppressing insurrectionary forces and ordered all those opposed to the existing government to disperse. With no hope of support from Washington, Brooks disbanded his forces and the war was ended. The result of the war brought a practical end to Republican rule in the state and thus ended the era of Reconstruction.

## **Part 4 - Baseball Association of Arkansas and Jacobi Grove**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch - Take me out to the Ball Game**

By William Hung, 1908

Take me out to the ball game,  
Take me out with the crowd.  
Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack,  
I don't care if I never get back,  
Let me root, root, root for the home team,  
If they don't win it's a shame.  
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,  
At the old ball game.

### **Little Rock Baseball Association**

The Little Rock Baseball Association was a professional baseball team that operated in 1886. The team played 19 games, going 12-7, including two games against the world champion St. Louis Browns. Games were played at Association Park. The 1886 Little Rock Baseball Association began as an attempt to create a state league, though the league failed to operate that year. Nevertheless, Little Rock proceeded to play an enthusiastic schedule of games. In an effort to beat the Hot Springs club early in the season, Little Rock acquired numerous minor league players, resulting in the first ever professional baseball team in Arkansas. Among those signed were long-time big leaguer Tommy Corcoran, convicted murderer Charles Smith, part-time circus acrobat Floyd Lauman, and several other professionals.

Little Rock went on to beat Hot Springs to become the self-proclaimed Champions of Arkansas. The team even felt confident enough to take on several semi-pro teams from St. Louis, and win. However, the season reached its apex when the St. Louis Browns of the National League played in Little Rock on October 28th and 29th. The Browns were billed as "the champions of all that portion of the world except Little Rock." However, after St. Louis beat Little Rock in back-to-back games, Little Rock was forced to admit that the Browns were indeed entitled to the Championship of the whole world.

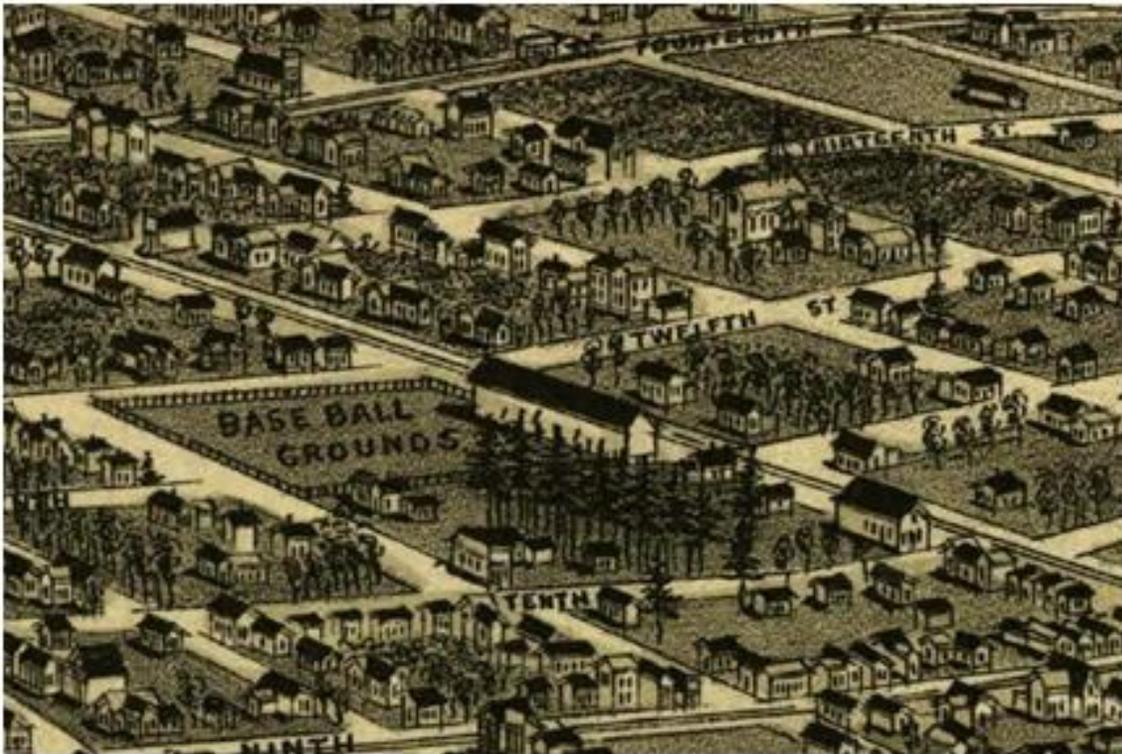
The final three games of the year were played against a team reported as the National League's St. Louis Maroons. However, only 4 of the Maroons regular players made the trip to Little Rock. The rest of the team was comprised of various St. Louis professionals. Either way, the Maroons won 2 of the 3 series games, ending Little Rock's season with a record of 12-7.

Little Rock disbanded for the season, though a new professional team was created the next year, The Little Rock Giants became a member of the 1887 Southwestern League, the first minor league in Arkansas.

### Association Park at Jacobi Grove

Early organized baseball teams played first played at City Park on the old Arsenal grounds and later at Jacobi Grove. Association Park, also known as the High Street Grounds, was a baseball park in Little Rock and was the home field of the Arkansas Travelers Base Ball Club in 1885, the Little Rock Base Ball Association in 1886 and the Little Rock Giants in 1887.

Association Park was built in 1885 for the use of the amateur Arkansas Travelers. The grounds were surrounded by 11th, 12th High, and Victory streets in Little Rock. The park was first known as Jacobi Grove named for early owner, Henry Jacobi, and included a vineyard and a saloon on the block to the north.



### **Association Park at Jacobi Grove 1887 First park dedicated to league baseball**

In 1886, the ballpark became known as Association Park when the Little Rock Base Ball Association, the city's first professional baseball team, leased the grounds. The association built a grandstand and a 10-foot fence, making Association Park Little Rock's first enclosed baseball grounds. That fall, Association Park hosted a series of exhibition games between Little Rock and the major league St. Louis Browns and St. Louis Maroons. In 1887, Association Park was the home of the city's first minor league team, the Little Rock Giants following the founding of the Southwestern Baseball League.

Association Park continued to be the center of baseball in Little Rock until 1901 when a new field was built in West End Park and the field became Little Rock's main baseball park. West End Park was located where the Central High School Quigley Stadium is now located. In 1915 after the death of William Marmaduke Kavanaugh, a former Travelers Baseball owner and president of the Southern Baseball Association, the West End Park ball field was named Kavanaugh Field.



**William Marmaduke Kavanaugh (1806 – 1915)**  
**Editor, banker, County Judge, U.S. Senator**  
**President, Southern Baseball League**

Some early records from team history renders the quotes that follow.

"The greatest drawback to base-ball in Little Rock has been in getting suitable grounds to play on. This has been remedied to a great extent, the Arkansas Travelers Base-ball Club of last year having got permission from Mr. Dutlinger to use the grounds near Jacobi's Grove, Eleventh and High streets. The management have gone to the expense of putting the grounds in proper shape, leveling, etc., and practice is indulged in every evening. In a few days lovers of the national game will be again treated to the sport which they have been deprived of so far this season."

"A back stop has been built on the new grounds in the shape of a fence, seven by Thirty-two feet. The game can now proceed without delay."

"The grounds at Eleventh and High streets are to undergo a change soon. The diamond will

be placed back and to the right of where it now is, some sixty-five or seventy feet, thus securing a longer outfield. Seats will probably be erected at an early day in the rear of the diamond, from the sale of which the boys hope to make expenses."

"The proposition of Col. Zeb Ward to furnish a park with all improvements at the corner of Eleventh and High streets at a rental of \$300 a year, was accepted. The grounds were leased for three years with the privilege of renewing for five year once the lease expires. Work will commence on the grounds tomorrow. The park will be enclosed by a ten-foot fence and a grand stand fifty-feet one way and 100 another in the shape of a quadrangle, will be constructed on the west side of the enclosure. The grand stand will accommodate about 800 persons."

### **Henry Jacobi and the story of Jacobi Grove**

**Henry Jacobi's Horse** – In 1885, the Statehouse is undergoing a major renovation that included the removal of the original stair cases in the central hall and replacing them with circular stairways. There is an old folk tale that has persisted through the generations about a horse that climbed the circular stairway in the old Statehouse. Although staff at the Old Statehouse Museum say the story was likely once published, it has not been established as fact and may not be true. Nevertheless, the old tale is wonderful to tell and goes like this:

In early Little Rock, no boast could go unchallenged. When a circular staircase was under construction in the new Statehouse to replace an original staircase, a number of men, among them Albert Pike, were discussing horses. One man said he could make his horse go up the circular staircase. A contest was arranged with the rule that no force could be used and wide publicity was given to the event. A great crowd gathered on the appointed day to watch. Only one horse, that of Henri Jacobi, performed the feat successfully!

**Henry and Sarah Jacobi** – Henry Edward Rudolph Albert Nicholas Cohen Augustus Jacoby was born February 10, 1813 in Prussia and was of noble lineage. He was educated by a wealthy Aunt and soon after travelled Europe worked as a wine merchant. He travelled to America in search of adventure and married Sarah Ann Jewell whose father was a cobbler of fine foot-ware. Jacoby lived in Philadelphia for a time binding books and making purses. He became a Mason. He obtained his American citizenship in Pennsylvania on October 17, 1844 and soon after, moved his family to the western frontier staying for a time in Galesburg, Illinois. By 1850, he is listed on the census of Little Rock. Like many others of the time, he changed the spelling of his name and was ever after known as Henry Jacobi.

Jacobi initially purchased 40 acres of land just outside the City located south of what was then the State Penitentiary, now the State Capitol. He built a home there and later planted a vineyard for his love of wine. He engaged in many endeavors during his time in Little Rock and eventually acquired an extensive land holding including acquisition of the original patent for 160 acres at the northeast corner of what is now Shackleford and Markham. There were additional purchases that eventually totaled 740 acres in Pulaski and Saline County.

He opened a store on Main (or Louisiana) Street and sold books, stationary, and book binding, an important service for all of the hand written records of the time. In 1858, he advertised the opening of a new store on Markham Street. In March 1862, he advertised amusement and recreation at the rathskellar (beer hall) that he was part owner in. For a time, he was listed as trustee of a school for girls. By 1863, his wife Sarah advertised a store at 115 Main Street that sold millinery and fancy goods and it mentioned she lived at the store. He also served as a long-time Justice of the Peace and for a time as Pulaski County Coroner.

Following the fall of Little Rock to Union forces on September 10, 1863, Jacobi lost his home when Union troops burned it to the ground. Perhaps this was done so in preparation of the Union defenses of Little Rock in which Fort Steele was constructed as well as a series of batteries (Battery Street) that surrounded the City to the south and west. His many businesses suffered greatly and he lost nearly everything but two tracts of land. But all was not lost.

**Jacobi Grove, Baseball and Association Park** – Henry Jacobi's built and operated one of several early, private parks in Little Rock on a two-block portion of Jacobi Grove bounded by 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, Victory and High Street, now Martin Luther King Boulevard. Many of these early parks featured a biergarten (beer garden), tables and benches, food sales and perhaps a flower garden, dance floor, or band stand. Jacobi Grove featured a vineyard and saloon in a grove of shade trees. In 1885, a baseball field was constructed on the southern portion of Jacobi Grove becoming the first home of the amateur-league Arkansas Travelers. Prior to this, baseball was played at City Park on the old Little Rock Arsenal grounds.

**Saint Vincent Infirmary** - By 1888, a portion of Jacobi's original 40 acre land holding was owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese. In the early 1900s, the new 50-bed St. Vincent Infirmary hospital was built on the location. It was St. Vincent's third location since the founding of the 10-bed Charity Hospital in 1888. The Saint Vincent Infirmary remained at this location until construction of a new hospital in 1954 at the corner of Markham Street and Hayes Street, now University Avenue where it remains today.

Henry Jacobi retired several years before his death, turning his affairs over to C. Duttlinger of 911 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Duttlinger negotiated the lease of Jacobi Grove to the Baseball Association and hosted Henry's funeral. Henry Jacobi died on June 23, 1887 and his wife, Sarah Ann died December 31, 1905. They are buried in Mount Holly Cemetery. Jacobi descendants still live in Little Rock today.

**THE END**

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### Special thanks to:

- Henry Jacobi Family History as contributed by Mark Jacobi, 5<sup>th</sup> generation Jacobi in Little Rock
- Line drawings of the Town of Little Rock and the Original City of Little Rock contributed by Thomas Melton, Little Rock Planning and Development District
- Vera Stevens, Beach Abstract Company, early maps of Town of Little Rock

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**Take the Quiz** – Take the quiz on the next page before you look at the answers

### Answers to the Quiz

1. a. Military Road, a portion of this road was later named Stagecoach Road
2. c. The home of Samuel McHenry located on the Arkansas at White Oak Bayou
3. d. Rock Street on the Arkansas River
4. b. William Lewis, William Russell a St. Louis investor eventually acquired this claim
5. b. False, many streets have been renamed over the years
6. c. The steamboat landing and warehouses were at Commerce Street
7. a. Mathew Cunningham was the first Mayor, first family
8. d. Judge Andrew Scott, first Superior Court Judge
9. c. Governor John Pope, advocate for Arkansas
10. c. Baseball, followed by horse racing and boxing
11. d. Jacobi Grove on High Drive
12. a. The stone arch on Markham at Arch Street
13. a. Chester Ashley, prominent attorney and land owner, he has two streets named for him
14. b. Baring Cross railroad bridge

**Little Rock Historical Firsts - Quiz**  
**Pulaski County Historical Society – September 11, 2016**

1. The first U.S. road to pass through Little Rock was known as the:
  - a. Military Road
  - b. Stagecoach Road
  - c. Broadway Street, Highway 70
  - d. Arkansas Post Road
  
2. The first seat of Pulaski County, Missouri Territory, was located at:
  - a. Little Rock
  - b. Cadron
  - c. The home of Samuel McHenry
  - d. Argenta
  
3. Where is the “Little Rock” from which Little Rock gets its name located:
  - a. Granite Mountain
  - b. City Hall grounds
  - c. Ferry Street
  - d. Rock Street
  
4. In 1812, the first settler with an established U.S. land claim at Little Rock was:
  - a. Markham Brothers
  - b. William Lewis
  - c. William Russell
  - d. William O’Hara
  
5. Which of the following statements concerning the first map of the original Town of Little Rock is false:
  - a. The town had just 21 or 22 named streets
  - b. All of the original streets still bear the same name
  - c. Chester Ashley and William Russell prepared the first town map
  - d. The first town was laid out in 1821 when the territorial capital was moved to Little Rock
  
6. Commerce Street derives its name from:
  - a. The first business district that was located here
  - b. The Commerce Bank of Arkansas
  - c. The steamboat landing and warehouses located here
  - d. Settler James Commerce
  
7. The first Mayor of Little Rock was also husband to the first woman to live in town and father to the first white child born in the town:
  - a. Dr. Mathew Cunningham
  - b. Jim Dailey
  - c. Albert Pike
  - d. Charles Taylor

8. Scott Street is named for:
  - a. Scott Hamilton, the first President of the Little Rock Business Men's League
  - b. Conway Scott founder of Scott, Arkansas
  - c. The ancestors of Scott Carter, City of Little Rock historian
  - d. Judge Andrew Scott, first Superior Court Judge in Arkansas
  
9. This territorial governor established a fund and commenced construction on the new Statehouse and the first state penitentiary:
  - a. Robert Crittenden
  - b. George Izard
  - c. John Pope
  - d. James Miller
  
10. The most popular spectator sport in the U.S. in 1901 was:
  - a. Boxing
  - b. Horse Racing
  - c. Baseball
  - d. Football
  
11. Organized baseball games were first played ball at City Park on the old arsenal grounds. The first permanent home field dedicated to baseball was located at:
  - a. The grounds of modern Dickey Stevens Park in North Little Rock
  - b. Kavanaugh Field at West End Park
  - c. Ray Winder Field at the old Fair Grounds Park
  - d. Jacobi Grove on High Street
  
12. Arch Street gets its name from:
  - a. A stone arch on Markham at Arch Street that led to the old Lower Maumelle Road (River Road)
  - b. The view of the graceful arches of the Broadway Bridge
  - c. Michael Arch, the first county judge
  - d. The old viaduct over the Rock Island Railroad
  
13. This man was considered to be the wealthiest citizen of early Little Rock:
  - a. Chester Ashley
  - b. William Russell
  - c. Roswell Beebe
  - d. Governor John Pope
  
14. Name the first bridge built over the Arkansas River:
  - a. Junction Bridge
  - b. Baring Cross
  - c. Free Bridge
  - d. Broadway Bridge