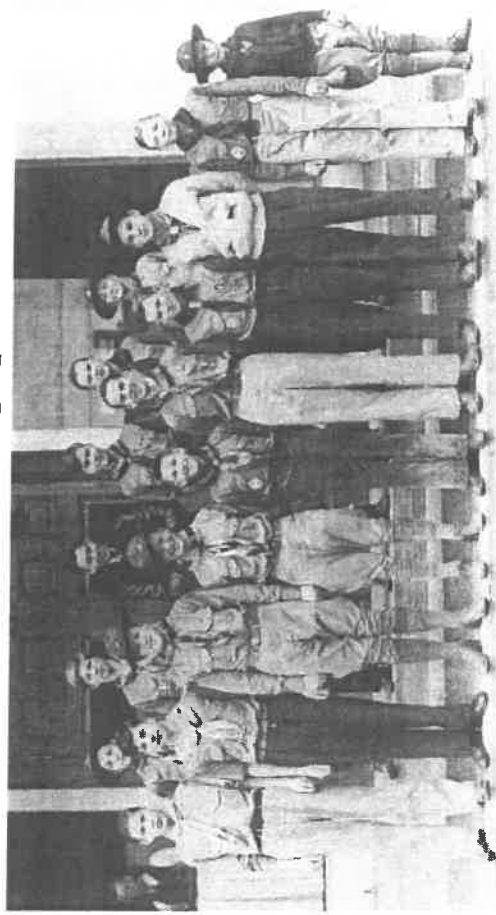


dren. Those of Prairie Grove who attended the funeral in Mulberry were her son-in-law, Mr. John Rogers, her grandchildren Park Rogers, Mrs. McCuiston. and Mr. James Shoffner.

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Fayetteville Scouts in Photograph Identified



On page 6 of the November 1999 issue of *Flashback*, there was a photograph of Boy Scouts in front of the Fayetteville Administration Building about 1937-39. This was part of a history of the Boy Scouts in Washington County. Only one of the Scouts was identified, and a question, "Who are the others?" appealed to readers for assistance. Dr. James Mashburn has been able to identify all but two of these Scouts. They are, front row: Donald Martin, Jack Hall, Billy Rowland, Jimmy Wages, Buck Guthrie, Lloyd Andrews, Warren Seagraves, _____, Allen Patterson, and Harry Wages. Back row: Edward Brooks, Hugh Browne, Elwood Martin, Frank Gordon, _____, and James Mashburn. *Photo from Washington County Historical Society files, Shiloh Museum of the Ozarks.* ❖

JACOB OXFORD OF OXFORD BEND WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

by *Russell Pierce Baker*

Jacob Oxford was born on December 28, 1801, apparently in Buncombe County, North Carolina.¹ He was the oldest son of Abel Oxford and Edith Rogers Oxford, who moved west with their family and settled in Giles County, Tennessee as early as 1812.² Sometime after 1820 they moved west again and settled for a short time in McNairy County, Tennessee where Abel Oxford left his name on "Oxford Creek."³

By 1830, the family's westward wanderings brought them to the new county of Washington in northwest Arkansas.⁴ Here they settled along the White River east of Fayetteville in what is now the Wyman Community.⁵ Jacob Oxford, Abel's eldest son, received a land grant in McNairy County, Tennessee in 1829; he is listed on that county in the 1830 U. S. Census.⁶ However, he soon joined the rest of his family to Washington County, initially settling near his father.⁷ In 1870, it was recalled that he moved to the area "39 years" ago.⁸

In October of 1838, he purchased several nearby parcels of land from the Federal Government in Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 29 West.⁹ This property lay just to the north and west of the White River, where the road running east from Fayetteville to Kings River crossed the White River in what is now the Habberton or Goshen Community. Later this road would be known as the Oxford Ferry Road; it is now state highway 45.¹⁰ Soon after Jacob settled there, the area became known as Oxford's Bend or just Oxford Bend.¹¹ Here he built his home and began a large farming operation. It is possible that he had a racetrack at the Bend for he had a reputation for "keeping fast horses."¹² He also had a repu-

tation as a good neighbor and "at various times he took in widows and orphans, somethings even strangers sick or well were welcome."¹³ Jacob's first wife, Avy, died about 1838 and soon thereafter he married Rebecca Culwell.¹⁴ Over the next quarter century, Oxford continued to build up a prosperous farm at Oxford Bend. By 1861, he owned some 600 acres of land, three slaves, seven horses, and fourteen cows and had some \$2,000 "lent out at interest."¹⁵

In the Fall of 1861, shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, William M. Montgomery, a major in the Confederate Quartermaster Department and a close associate of General Ben McCulloch, who was stationed in Fayetteville, began making arrangements for quartering McCulloch's troops during the upcoming winter. On October 19, 1861 in behalf of the Confederate Government he signed a contract with a Benton County miller, Peter Vanwinkle, to build seventy-six cabins at "Cross Hollow" in Benton County and thirty-nine cabins at "Oxford Bend" for this purpose. Evidently, those at Oxford Bend were located on or near the Oxford farm. Each "eighteen feet by thirty-six feet" cabin was to contain two rooms, with a chimney in the center and a fireplace in each room. Each room was also to be furnished with one door, a window, and a floor. For this work, Vanwinkle was to receive \$230 for each cabin completed. Moreover, he was to construct at Oxford Bend five stables, each to house 175 horses. Payment was to be made "when funds are received for that purpose" and the work was to be finished by December 10, 1861. When this project was completed, Vanwinkle presented a bill for some \$18,620 for the Oxford Bend work to the Confederate Government.¹⁶

Camp Oxford Bend¹⁷ continued as a Confederate installation until October 28, 1862, when at dawn, elements of the Union Army fell upon this "rebel camp."

After a sharp engagement lasting an hour, the Confederates, numbering some 3,000, were routed, leaving eight dead on the field along with all of their camp equipment and several wagons. Since "all of their camp equipment was destroyed" it is likely that the "cabins" were destroyed as well.¹⁸ No doubt, it was the approach of Federal forces that caused Jacob Oxford and his family to flee to Texas about this time, if not sooner, where they remained until the War ended. Afterwards, when Oxford returned to Oxford Bend, he had "lost much of his wealth."¹⁹ In 1867, he and his neighbors established "a public school called Oxford Bend in White River" near his home.²⁰

Jacob Oxford died at Oxford Bend on August 29, 1872 and is buried in the Oxford Bend Cemetery near his home.²¹ He and his first wife became the parents of the following children: Lucinda M., William D. (Dock), Thompson, James T., Willis, Louiza M., and Louisa. He and his second wife became the parents of: Avy, John W., Jacob J., Joshua G., Isaac W., Nancy E., Thomas J., Andrew L., and Mary N. (Mollie).²²

End Notes

1. Lloyd McConnell, *Cemeteries in Washington County, Arkansas* (1980), p. 304; James E. Wooley, *Buncombe County, North Carolina Index to Deeds, 1783-1850* (1983), p. 371; Shiloh Museum, *History of Washington County, Arkansas* (1989), p. 1263-1264, hereafter cited as *Washington County History*; and "Family Group Sheet Abel Oxford," Family Group Sheet - Ancestral File from FamilySearch.com; hereafter cited as "Oxford Family Group Sheet." This last source indicates that Jacob was born in Tennessee. However, his father obtained several parcels of land in Buncombe County, North Carolina between 1802 and 1804.
2. Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Index to Early Tennessee Tax Lists* (1983), p. 153.
3. *The Goodspeed History of Tennessee Henderson, Chester, McNairy, Decatur, and Harden Counties* (1883, reprint 1978), p. 819.
4. *Washington County History* op. cit.; "Oxford Bend," Washington County Historical Society *Flashback* (vol. 4, no. 1, Jan, 1954); "The

Oxfords of Oxford Bend," *ibid.*, (vol. 8, no. 6, Oct., 1958), p. 39; hereafter cited as "The Oxfords"; and "Oxford Family Group Sheet," *op. cit.* The last source cited states that Abel Oxford died in Washington County, Arkansas in 1850. No independent confirmation of this information was located.

5. Desmond W. Allen and Bobbie J. McLane, *Arkansas Land Patents: Washington County* (1991), p. 132; hereafter cited as Allen and McLane and "Abel Oxford," Washington County Tax Records 1837 on microfilm at the Arkansas History Commission at Little Rock, Arkansas. See also *Washington County Deeds Book D*, p. 540, on microfilm at the History Commission.

6. Byron Sistler and Associates, *Tennessee Land Grants Surnames N-O* (1998), p. 26 and 1830 U. S. Census, McNairy County, Tennessee, p. 118.

7. Allen and McLane, *op. cit.*; "Jacob Oxford," Washington County Tax Records 1837; and *Washington County Deeds Book A*, p. 312-313.

8. *Fayetteville Democrat*, June 11, 1870, p. 3, col. 2. This article contains an "Old Folks List" of early area settlers.

9. "Entries for Section 36, township 17 North, Range 29 West," *Washington County Abstract of Original Entries - Land*, on microfilm at the History Commission. The pages in this record are unnumbered.

10. "Township 17 North, Range 29 West," *Washington County Original Survey Plat*, on microfilm at the History Commission and "Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 29 West," Gordon V. Skelton, *Atlas Map of Washington County, Arkansas* (1894); hereafter cited as *Atlas Map of Washington County*. The pages in this work are unnumbered.

11. *Goodspeed's Northwest Arkansas* (1888, reprinted in 1978), p. 998.

12. *Fayetteville Democrat*, *op. cit.* and 1850 Agriculture Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, p. 557.

13. *Washington County History*, *op. cit.* and 1850 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, p. 191.

14. 1840 U. S. Census, Washington County, Arkansas, p. 274. He had evidently not remarried by the date of this census.

15. "Jacob Oxford," 1861 Washington County Tax Records, p. 101.

16. Contract: Major W. M. Montgomery to Peter Vanwinkle. Oct. 19, 1861, photocopy in possession of the author; "Major William M. Montgomery," Individual File, Arkansas History Commission; *The*

War of the Rebellion Records (OR), Series I, vol. III, p. 107; hereafter cited as *OR* and Wiley Britton, *The Civil War on the Border* (1890), p. 197; and 201. See also the Fayetteville, *Arkansas War Bulletin*, Feb. 15, 1862, p. 3, col. 2.

17. Letter: Abraham L. Black, Camp Elm Springs to Col. Thomas Black, January 12, 1862, Small Manuscript Collection (SMC), Box V, no. 1, on microfilm at the History Commission.

18. *OR*, Series I, vol. XIII, p. 20 and 344.

19. "The Oxfords" *op. cit.* and *Goodspeed's Northwest Arkansas*, *op. cit.*

20. Washington County Deeds Book Q, p. 423-424.

21. *Washington County History*, *op. cit.*

22. *ibid.* Also compare Jacob's children as listed on: "Jacob Oxford," 1850 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, 1860 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, and 1870 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas.

[Russell P. Baker, author of this article, is archival manager of the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives in Little Rock.] ♦

Well, Congratulations Again

From the *Flashback*, March 1957, Vol. 7, No. 2:

"FLASHBACK takes pleasure in congratulating the Prairie Grove folks whose devotion and hard work secured an appropriation of \$50,000 from the Arkansas legislature for development of Battlefield Park. It is planned to acquire additional land and erect a Battle Museum when the money becomes available. The Battlefield Foundation sends out periodic "Reports," which can be obtained by writing to Fred McGuiston, director of activities, Prairie Grove, Ark."

We are glad those folks were able to do that!

Read in past *Flashbacks* about the great things done by people in Washington County over the years to preserve history and historic sites. ♦