**TOWNSHIP OF DYER**

1820 Area of Dyer was surveyed by the Government for land sales.

1828 William Morse paid taxes on land located in Dyer.

1828 Again this area was surveyed.

1830 The Mulberry Camp Ground was established.

1831 This area was surveyed again.

1836 There were only two Grist Mills in the County. One was at Natural Dam and the other

was owned by the Stewarts in Lancaster. Perhaps this is the mill that people of Dyer

carried a "Turn of Corn" to be ground into meal.

1838 The Plat Map for Dyer shows only the farm of Billy Heard under cultivation. The Heard Branch was called the Sumac Creek.

1838 James Heard purchased 122 acres in this area.

1838 John Knight bought what we know as the Nelson land from the Government.

1838 John Knight bought land which later was Roy Porter's home.

1840 Again we find the Government surveying Dyer land.

1850 Joel Dyer settled upon land beside the Wire Road that passes by the City Cemetery. This was the stop for the Stage Coach.

1859 Jonathan Fines turned a herd of cattle loose in the cane breaks of the Dyer Bottoms on his move from Texas to Fine Springs.

1860 Townships in the County were: Van Buren, Richland, Lafayette, Jasper, Mountain, Cedar Creek, Lees Creek, Upper Township, Sheppard, and Vine Prairie.

1863 The Battle of Helena sustained great losses. Jacob Wells slightly hurt in the back.

1863 The Civil War was raging. Have only found these men's names connected with the War from Dyer: Stephen Dyer, Jacob Wells, and Robert Wagner.

1867 Columbus Lipscomb moved to Dyer from Van Buren.

1870 Monroe Lipscomb bought land from Benjamin Smith. Later it became the land of John Nelson.

1870 John William Moss moved to Dyer from Randolph County, Arkansas, with his wife Lucy James and son Thomas William Moss, a year old.

1875 Lines between Crawford and Franklin Counties defined.

1876 In April the first train passed through Dyer Station or Dyerbourgh on the way from Little Rock to Van Buren, crossing Arkansas River on the ferry to Fort Smith known as the Iron Mountain line, later as the Missouri Pacific line.

1877 The Depot was a one room Station located at the West crossing with Cyrus Dyer as the Agent. Charlie Dyer had a small lot of groceries in the Depot. Stephen Dyer had a store across the street facing South and the railroad.

1877 Thomas J. Davidson was the Post Master at Mine Prairie. (Vine Prairie).

1878 A petition made to change road between Dyer and Alma.

1878 About the time Old Valley School was started. A one-room log building. This was on Preserved Morse's place. A picture of this school with school items.

1879 The first one room Depot burned.

1880 A Gin and Grist Milt owned by Stephen Dyer located on the Bill Renfroe place.

1880 Stephen Dyer purchased land from the railroad.

1882 Stephen Dyer sold land to Floyd Loomis.

1883 Joel Dyer was County Coroner.

1883 George Dyer organized a Sunday School which met at the school.

1884 The Press Argus stated that Dyer had two stores, a sawmill, Gin, Blacksmith Shop.

1884 John William Moss and George Dyer laid out the town in lots and named these streets: Main, Washington, Kurkendall; these three streets ran North and South. And they named Paul and Hazel Street for the youngest Moss children..

1885 Up to this time this Community had been called Dyerbourgh according to the report that Walter Dyer sent in to the Postal Department, and they asked that the name be Dyer at that time.

1885 On March 9, Walter A. Dyer became the first Post Master at Dyer.

1885 The Shiloh Methodist Church was organized by Rev. Younger Coleman and revivals were attended by people from Dyer.

1886 The school was brought into town and built where the Baptist Church is today. A one room building amid large oak trees.

1886 Floyd Loomis built a Hotel for John William Moss where Ernest Cottrell is living and a General merchandise store for Moss on South Washington Street.

1886 I am told that Jack Sullivent built the first store and the first Depot that burned.

1887 Dyer Methodist Episcopal, South was in the Clarksville District and Rev. H. A. Story was the pastor.

1888 First Cotton Gin and Grist Mill was owned by Stephen Dyer.

1888 The Arkansas River froze over so deep that wagons could drive across it to Dyer.

1889 On the 16 of June, Dyer was Incorporated. The first Mayor was a Mr. Davis who was a minister and a teacher here.

1890 Sorghum Mill was built upon the hill outside of Dyer.

1890 A second room was added to the one room school building. Brother O'Rear was the teacher.

1890 Dr. Livingston was the first doctor I am told. Then Dr. Ayres came to Dyer as a young man sometime before 1900 and boarded at Moss Hotel until he married. Other doctors were Dr. Westbrook, who lived in part of the old Boarding House operated by Florence Wells. Quince Galloway who was teaching here and he would go with Dr. Ayres to see the patients.

1892 John Shelton Chastain had a store and the Post Office located on West side of South Washington Street.

1892 Floyd Loomis built the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on South Washington. This was first Church in Dyer.

1893 Loomis built First Baptist Church located by the School.

1893 Maxey Township, Mulberry, was annexed to Crawford County.

1894 Formby School located in Vine Prairie Community. W. J. Brannon was the teacher. A school there through 1884-1895.

1895 "Thar's gold in them thar hills" they tell me in the caves above Dyer that Indians hid there when they lived here.

1898 Arkansas River overflowed and damaged Riverside built on the river banks south of Dyer.

1898 Board sidewalks were built down Washington Street.

1902 It was 18 degrees below. 22 inch thick ice on the Arkansas River and wagon crossed from Arbuckle Island to Dyer on the ice.

1902 The two room School was sold to Herbert Cravens and he built the house where Tom James lived so long.

1902 A new four room white frame school was built farther South than the old school. Many of us started to school here. This school had two room on first floor and two on top floor.

1903 Telephone Exchange was discontinued until 1918.

1903 Dyer Gin Company erected the first up to date gin which burned in 1923.

1904 The "Dinky" train came into dyer from the East at 10 A.M. and returned from West at 4 P.M.

1906 W. E. Fox built the first steam packing gin.

1906 E. D. Chastain bought the old Riverside School and built the two story house where Bertha Stephens lives except when she remodeled she left off the second story.

1907 J. D. Brannon built an electric gin on South Line Street.

1907 John William Moss sold the Hotel to Harve Chastain. Moss bought the Patton place on Washington Street. His barn burned soon afterwards, having caught a spark from a passing train.

1908 The first Barber Shop was operated by Ed Osborn in back of Moss Store.

1909 The merchants at this time were John Moss and Will Mason on the South side of the railroad. On the North side were Richardson, John Nelson, and W. N. Brasher. Jake Wells also had a store.

1909 Bank of Dyer was established by David T. Bryan. Henry Burrough was the first Cashier. R. L. Lester was president of bank. T. J. James was vice-president.

1909 June 30, the stores facing the railroad (Richardson, Nelson and Brasher) burned that night.

1909 Monroe Nelson had built a frame building for a Barber Shop beside the Patton store.

1909 John William Moss sold the corner lot to Terrell Rhodes for Post Office.

1912 School was crowded in four room building so the first two grades were moved to the Methodist Church.

1912 Concrete walks replaced the board walks.

1912 Loomis opened up a street across his 40 acres across from the Baptist Church, and the street was named Loomis Street.

1913 Dyer Community was surveyed again.

1914 Dyer Trading Company owned by Bob Lester and Dan Harrison.

1915 The two story store building built on corner of Railroad Street. Lodges Hall built in second story.

1915 Telephone Exchange on Washington and Alma Streets. Joe Jeans operated it.

1915 Other Streets names such as: North, South, Alma, Loomis, Hancock, Line, and Railroad Streets.

1916 "Calaboose" built on Kurkendall Street near railroad.

1916 Town leased land from railroad east of Washington Street to be used as a street.

1916 Auto ordinance sign placed at entrance to Dyer: "Close your cutout and cut your speed to 10 miles an hour."

1917 Dyer granted franchise for electricity.

1917 School Board bought land East of the school from H. A. Bennett to build the new six room brick school.

1917 April 6, World War I was declared against Germany. June 26, some of Dyer boys landed in France.

1918 July 15, Battle of Chateau Thierry. ***[Per internet: 03 Jun 1918 - 26 Jun 1918.]***

September 26, Argonne Forest Battle. ***[Per internet: 26 Sep 1918 through 11 Nov, 1918.]***

**November 11**, Germany surrendered. Armistice signed.

1918 In October the United States had a influenza epidemic.

1918 May 11, Fort Smith celebrated the opening of the Free Bridge.

1918 Post Office built beside Nelson Barber Shop and where old Patton Store had been operated by Mr. Oxford. The store had burned.

1919 Women won the right to vote. Women working out in the world. Long dresses still worn, hair bobbed, and have cut down to "two petticoats."

1919 Thomas William Moss, a local citizen, was elected to represent Crawford County in the Arkansas State Legislature. Elected three terms.

1920 Beginning of the Great Depression.

1920 Crawford County Fair celebrating the Centennial.

1920 Radio entertainment replaced family gatherings around the organ in the evenings singing.

1920 Pink Winfrey built the three brick stores which are standing today. One was a Hardware Store and Furniture store which Henry Burrough operated. The North Store was a General: Merchandise which John Smith ran.

1921 George Weaver was given the "green light" by the Town Fathers to operate a movie in the two story building.

1921 Shorter dresses, bobbed hair, and silk stockings.

1923 General Assembly accepted the land on Petit Jean Mountain as the first State Park although no work was done on it until 1933.

1923 December 29, oil well at Alma burning.

1923 J. D. Brannon gin burned and replaced with an electric one.

1924 Uncle Mack Dyer built the first filling station West of Dyer.

1925 October 12, Farl Nichols from Ozark opened a store in Dyer.

1926 The first Strawberry Festival held in Van Buren.

1926 Big Overflow. Mail dropped off at Mulberry for Dyer. Brought in a boat to West side of Little Mulberry and picked up by car and carried to Dyer Post Office.

1926 Dyer and Mulberry Banks closed their doors.

1927 Opening of Highway 64 North of Dyer business section.

1928 Beginning of West Ark College in Fort Smith with a two year College.

1928 Train "catcher pouch" began in Dyer.

1928 December 19, Mulberry High School burned about 5 o'clock.

1928 Alma Bank robbed of $1,500.00 at noon time.

1929 Depression days are becoming more "depressing."

1929 Moss store robbed. Story in paper. October 11.

1929 Wages are $1.50 per hour. $11 dollars a week. Stock market crashed.

1930 May 1, Dyer School consolidated with Alma High School.

1930 Lindberg School burned.

1931 Hot Lunch program in Dyer school.

1932 Canning Kitchen set up in old Bank Building in Dyer.

1932 July 31, leaky ferry boat burned to water and sank.

1933 CCC Camp established for boys age 18-20.

1936 Depot removed from Dyer.

1940 This generation was called the "War Babies." Cokes were a nickel, remember?

1941 December 7th, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

1941 December 8th. United States declared war on Japan.

1943 Overflow washed out bridge between Van Buren and Fort Smith.

1945 We hear a lot about Television.

1945 United States dropped A-bomb on Nagasaki, Japan.

1945 After bomb dropped Japan surrendered.

1946 MO-PAC ceased operation.

1947 January 31, World War II ended.

1947 The Wet-Dry Election.

1949 Natural Gas piped to Dyer so we are "Cooking with Gas".

1950 Through 1955. The Korean Conflict. ***[Per internet: 25 Jun 1950 - 27 Jul 1953.]***

1955 August: dial telephones were installed.

1956 Streets of our town are being black-topped.

1957 Russians sent first man-made Sputnik into Outer Space.

1958 January 31. America answered with Explorer I.

1959 Established Corporating lines according to Court Orders in 1889 when Incorporated.

1960 Doctor Kirksey "Not Retired, just Slowed Down" after 40 years.

1960 Into 1970.The "Mod" Look and age of Ladies Pant Suits.

1960 Last passenger train through Dyer on way to Fort Smith.

1964 Through 1975. The Vietnam War. ***[Per internet: 01 Nov 1955 - 20 Apr 1975.]***

1966 First time that one could vote without paying Poll Tax.

1969 Water piped into Dyer. "A Bathroom building Boom."

1969 Farms on. River bank fell into Arkansas River.

1971 Town Council bought a Fire Engine. Volunteer fire fighter Group organized.

1971 September. City Hall built where two-story store located.

1971 October 6. Sexton House, a Landmark, was victim to fire.

1971 Brick School House sold and demolished.

1972 October 29. Library established in City Hall. Later Library given name of DORA MOSS LIBRARY.

1972 Sidewalk poured in front of City Halt.

1962 Mail Crane removed from railroad that picked up Mail Pouch.

1973 February 4. Freight train of 29 cars loaded with grain derailed at Dyer. Tracks blocked 18 hours.

1974 "Stop and Yield" signs put at strategic spots on streets.

1974 Town Council hired Rufus Land as Town Marshall.

1975 Tony and Susan Alamo Foundation moved in.

1975 April 26. Dyer raised the Bicentennial Flag at the City Hall.

1976 January. Clay Cottrell moved into new Post Office on South Main Street.

1976 Alamo Foundation built a Church on Washington Street.

1976 Meadors Lumber Yard at Alma burned.

1976 May 15. Dyer observed Bicentennial with between 400-500 present.

1976 July. The Dora Moss Library Board purchased the old Post Office for the Library since we had outgrown the old one.

1977 March 5. Mary Lou Kelly opened a Thrift Shop in Barber Shop.

1980 Clay Cottrell retired as Post Master after serving 40 years.

1980 Jean Stratton appointed Post Master.

1981 Train loaded with chemicals threw a wheel and ran off tracks.

1981 A section bought and added to the Cemetery.

1981 Dyer has obtained a second class rating.

1982 A Tornado tore up the Community of Red Hill located east of Dyer.

1983 A Night Watch has been organized against crime.

1983 At the suggestion of Velta Fern Peevy, Dyer began observing the Fourth of July with a Community Picnic again. An idea that had really grown.

1983 Street Markers with names of Streets have been installed.

1983 Commercial Bank of Alma established a Branch of Alma Bank on Washington Street and Highway 64 in Dyer. The first bank since 1926 when Bank of Dyer closed its doors.

1984 Second Celebration of an old fashioned Fourth of July.

1984 Stephen Loris appointed as Post Master at Dyer.

1985 Third Celebration of the Fourth with about 500 present.

1985 Council built a new Fire Station on Washington Street.

1985 A Woman's Club was organized.

1986 Dyer will observe the Arkansas Sesquicentennial on May 17. It is sponsored by the Dora Moss Library Board.

1989 16 June. Dyer will be one hundred years old and can celebrate its Centennial since Incorporation.