**SOME STATISTICS OF DYER**

The Town of Dyer is located in Northwest Arkansas, in Crawford County, near the Oklahoma State line.

It is served by Highway 64 and 1-40 which runs East and West, and both Highways lies North of the city.

The Railway runs East and West and is located in center of the town. In 1986 there are no Passenger Trains using railway.

We have mild winters and hot summers.

We receive water from Alma Community. Once we had individual wells from which we drew the water.

For heating we have used wood, coal, Butane gas, and now Natural Gas.

The Town has had electricity since 1917.

Today we have a Volunteer Fire Department with a fire chief and a new fire Station and a new fire truck added to one already had.

A Mayor and a Council form of local government since 1889.

Telephone service is through the Allied Telephone Company.

People work in Alma and Fort Smith

We are rated as a second class township.

Trash is collected by someone hired by the Council.

A City Hall located on Washington Street.

One Grocery Store operated by Frank Rhodes.

A Library named in honor of Dora Bell Haydon Moss.

A Branch of the Alma Commercial Bank.

Art and Craft Shop located in Nelson Barber Shop.

Catfish Cove at East entrance to Dyer on Highway 64.

School Gym has been made into a Community Center.

Children ride a bus to Alma to Attend school.

Dyer has 206 Water Users and use about 25,000 gallons of water daily.

Dyer has one Town Marshall to keep the peace.

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| **POPULATION THROUGH THE YEARS** |
| 1840: 1850: 1860: 1870: 1880: 1890: 1900: 3431910: 4331920: 6091930: 425 | 1940: 5131950: 3981960: 4501970: 4861980: 6081990: 5022000: 5852010: 8762013: 858 |

***[Editor's note: The original book went through 1980 ~ I added 1990 through 2013.]***

**THE COUNTY OF CRAWFORD**

Crawford County is bound on the North by Washington County, on the East by Franklin County, on the West by Indian Territory and today the State of Oklahoma and on the South by Sebastian County and the Arkansas River.

On the East of the County lies Little and Big Mulberry Creeks, and on the West by Clear Creek.

The Osage tribe of Indians were the first known tribe to occupy Crawford County and later the Cherokee Indians were moved in from Tennessee.

**DATES FOR CRAWFORD COUNTY**

1819 Pleasant Hill Settlement on Mulberry Creek is the oldest approach to a town between the Arkansas and White Rivers. Natural Dam is the oldest settlement in the County.

1820 October 18. The State General Assembly, which met at Arkansas Post, passed an Act to create the County of Crawford. It was the first County to be formed by the Territorial Legislature. The first County Seat was at the home of John Jay which was the center of the county.

1821 The County seat was moved a few miles from the Jay home. Then it was located on Arbuckle Island.

1822 The County was hurt because of lack of' school funds.

1823 First Mail Route into Crawford County was from Little Rock to the old County Crawford Courthouse. In 1831 this route extended into Van Buren.

1825 The Indians moved into Oklahoma and the white man was back in Crawford County.

1825 United States acquired the present Territory of Crawford County from the Osage Indians.

1828 Cherokee Indians settled in Arkansas before 1828.

1828 First Mercantile store traded with the soldiers and Indians. First steamboat into Fort Smith. October 22: part of the Cherokee County attached to Crawford County.

1828 May 6: Cherokee Indians relinquished their rights and became a part of Crawford County on 22 of October.

1832 Post Office established at Lees Creek.

1836 The first Grist Mill and Saw Mill operated by William Steward at Lancaster Community, north of Alma. First and second grade McGuffey readers in use.

1838 The next move for the County Seat was to McLain's Bottoms, now called Roseville. Next it was moved to Old Crawford Court House on Arbuckle Island. Next was the Whitson Place for County Seat located where the Beneaux farm is today, near Mulberry. Next move to Crittenden on Little Mulberry Creek. Known as Pleasant Hill today.

1838 Moved to Van Buren and finally established that it should remain there.

1841 First Courthouse built in Van Buren.

1842 The first County Newspaper was the **Arkansas Intelligencer** published at Van Buren until September 1859.

1846 The lines between Crawford and Washington Counties defined.

1846 The lines between Crawford and Scott Counties defined.

1850 Sebastian County was carved out of Crawford County.

1851 Sugar Loaf Community changed to Sebastian County in March.

1853 Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad organized. Took in six miles on each side of railroad.

1857 Mountain View Massacre. 120 emigrants left Arkansas for California At Mountain Meadow, Utah, they were met by a band of Mormons and Indians who murdered all except 17 children who later were returned to Arkansas.

1859 A school for the blind located at Arkadelphia was later moved to Little Rock.

1859 July 4: Publication of Van Buren **Press Argus** which has run continuously except when interrupted by the Union Army. It is the oldest non-daily paper West of the Mississippi River.

1850 Beginning of the Civil War.

1862 Fayetteville taken by Federal soldiers. There were skirmishes at Cane Hill, Marks Hill, Pine Bluff, Jenkins Ferry, Poison Springs, near Camden.

1863 July 5: the great battle of Helena. We were repulsed with great losses. Battle lasted seven hours.

1864 First free schools in Arkansas.

1865 Civil War was over.

1868 Bills to aid the railroads were passed by the Legislature.

1868 First road in Arkansas used by white man were Indian Trails.

1874 People overthrew the Carpet Bag Government.

1876 June 4: The first train into Crawford County was from Little Rock to Fort Smith and known then as the Iron Mountain line, later known as the Missouri Pacific line. It crossed the Arkansas River on a ferry to Fort Smith.

1877 First Public School opened in Van Buren.

1877 March 24: County Courthouse in Van Buren burned, and records from 1838 through 1877 were destroyed. Our earliest record is April 16, 1877.

1880 First telephone service given in Van Buren with 6 phones.

1881 The lines between Crawford and Washington Counties defined again. This put Winslow in Washington County.

1882 Crawford County Bank opened in Van Buren.

1882 Horse drawn street cars used in Fort Smith. One route was to the Ferry and on to Van Buren.

1886 Citizens Bank of Van Buren organized.

1887 First hospital in Fort Smith was Sparks.

1891 General Assembly required paying for Annual Poll Tax.

1893 First water worked in Van Buren.

1893 Street lights and street cars changed to electricity.

1896 An Act to change the boundary line between Crawford and Franklin Counties by which change Mulberry became a part of Crawford County.

1897 First electric lights in Van Buren.

1896 September: Judge Parker's Court closed forever.

1898 Tornado in Fort Smith. 50 people killed.

1898 Overflow in Dyer bottom which washed out Riverside: Arkansas River.

1898 Lines between Crawford County and Franklin County changed.

1902 Mulberry Bank organized. David T. Bryan as cashier.

1904 "Dinky" train. 3 coaches. ½ of coach for mail and ½ for express. One coach for passengers.

1904 Electric Park built where Fair grounds are today.

1904 Street cars went from Main Street in Van Buren to Garrison Avenue in Fort Smith.

1902 Bank of Alma organized.

1909 Commercial Bank of Alma organized.

1911 First airplane in Fort Smith.

1911 The gas tank was under the front seat in a car.

1912 First free bridge across the Arkansas to Fort Smith.

1914 First paper cup presented at the Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair.

1915 First gas well located in Kibler field. The Germans sank the Lusitania ship.

1917 First draft for World War I.

1918 United States entered the War.

1918 Flu epidemic.

1919 Women wearing such high heels and we bobbled around on them. The "Charleston" Fox Trot and Black Botton ***[Editor's note: a Google search suggest black botton is a "Traditional Jazz & Ragtime" dance.]*** were the popular dance steps. Divorces were more common.

1920 We listened to these radio program: Lum and Abner; Amos and Andy; and Kate Smith as she sang, "When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain."

1927 Silent pictures took a back seat and sound movies took their place.

1927 Overflow that had Van Buren almost isolated.

1929 First woman juror to serve at Court.

1930 Dyer school consolidated with Alms school.

1930 Dust from Oklahoma was bad. Skies were red from dust.

1930 Still Depression days. WPA was organized to help men put food on the table.

1930 Bank of Alma and Commercial Bank merged.

1931 CCC Camp program for young men from 18-20.

1931 Banks began closing doors but some opened in a year's time.

1931 Business went bankrupt. People lost jobs. "Feed sacks" was the popular dress materials for dresses.

1931 Street cars were removed from the streets of Fort Smith.

1934 Street cars made their last run.

1936 Arkansas celebrated its 100th birthday.

1945 World War II ended.

1945 Arkansas River overflowed. Bridge washed out across the river.

1957 "The Shot that was heard around the world." Integration in Little Rock High School was heard around the world.

1936 Social Security started and now we live on it.

1986 And now Arkansas is celebrating its 150th birthday, so we celebrate the Sesquicentennial.

2036 And this year Arkansas will celebrate its 200th birthday which will be the Bicentennial for Arkansas.