**BIOGRAPHIES FROM GOODSPEED: 1889**

**JOHN WILLIAM MOSS**

General merchant at Dyer Station. Was born in Carroll County, Tennessee, in 1848 and is a son of William and Elizabeth Montgomery MOSS. The mother was a native of North Carolina, who came to Randolph County, Arkansas, in 1868 and in 1870 removed to Crawford County, where she died in 1879, a believer in the Christian faith. John William MOSS made his home with his mother until his marriage and has no living relatives to his knowledge outside his wife and children. He had a sister who was burned to death when she was a child. His mother was twice married. He attended school but about six months during his youth and at the age of fifteen began to work as a farm hand, after which he rented land until 1873. He then homesteaded forty acres in Alma Township, and by the practice of industry and economy is now the owner of 240 acres, 100 being bottom land and all of it well situated. He farmed exclusively until two years ago and then started a General Merchandise store in the spring of 1886. He handled farm implements and has a stock valued at $1,800, his annual sales averaging $6,000, He served during the war about eight months in the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry and being captured while at home in Carroll County, Tennessee, was held a prisoner at Camp Chase until the close of the War, when he took the oath of allegiance. In 1867 he married Lucy Caroline James, who died in l888 leaving three children. The same year he wedded Ursula Whittington, a native of Arkansas, by whom he has had four children, three of whom are living. Mrs. Moss' father was a native of Alabama. Mr. Moss is a Democrat and for one year was Postmaster at Dyer. He now fills the position of Assistant Postmaster.

**STEPHEN M. DYER**

Was born in Washington County, Arkansas, in 1842 and is a son of Joel and Sarah Ann Talkington Dyer, natives of North Carolina and Kentucky, respectively. In 1836 Mr. Dyer's mother and her nine children started for Arkansas, some traveling up the Arkansas River in a flat boat and some crossing the plains with stock. They located where Mountainburg now is when the country was a wilderness and sparsely settled. Joel soon after married and lived in Washington County until 1850 when he removed to Dyer Station, in this County. He was of English descent, a well to do farmer, a stock raiser, and a black smith, and died in 1864. The mother died in 1881, and both belonged to the Presbyterian Church. Caleb Dyer, our subject's grandfather was born in North Carolina where he died when Joel was a boy. He was a soldier in one of the early wars. Stephen M. Dyer is the third child of a family of thirteen, six sons and six daughter living. He attended the log house subscription school of the neighborhood until seventeen, then attended a higher school in Washington County, and afterwards attended one term to Cane Hill College. Soon after the War began he joined a company of State troops and afterwards served in the First Arkansas Mounted Infantry under Col. Churchill. In June, 1863 he was transferred to the Twenty-Second Arkansas Infantry, operating in the Trans-Mississippi Department. He was in active service during the entire time and was never wounded or captured. He surrendered at Fort Smith, He accompanied General Price on his raids through Missouri. In 1872 he married Elizabeth Alsobrook, daughter of Stephen Alsobrook, a native of South Carolina who accompanied her father to this County in 1851. Mr. Alsobrook was a Brigadier-General and commanded the Crawford County militia at the battle of Elkhorn in 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Dyer have seven children, and since 1874 had lived adjoining the old homestead at Dyer Station, which was named in honor of the family. Mr. Dyer began life a poor boy, but is now comfortably fixed, and owns and operates a good cotton gin by steam. He is a Democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Seymour in 1868 and has served as Justice of the Peace of Alma Township. He belonged to the Alma Masonic Lodge No. 43 and is a member of the order "Palm and Shell". He is Presbyterian and his wife is a Methodist.

**JACOB F. WELLS**

WAS BORN IN Newton County, Arkansas, in 1842, being a son of Jacob and Rosanet Newcomb Wells. The father was probably born in Illinois and came to Newton County from Missouri in 1838. In 1844 he came to Crawford County settling upon the farm subject now owns and dying in Van Buren in 1865 at which time he was living with his second wife, subject's mother having died soon after coming to this County. The father was of Irish descent and both himself and wife belonged to the Baptist Church. Jacob F. Wells is the youngest of the family of ten children, nine now living and all save one residents of Crawford County.

His brother, Thomas Wells, served from June 1863 until the Battle of Prairie Grove, where he was killed, in Company G, Twenty- second Arkansas Infantry.

Jacob spent three years in active service in the same company, with the exception of six months, when he was disable by gun wounds in his right side, received at the Battle of Helena. He fought at Prairie Grove and Saline and participated in every engagement that his brigade fought in, operating in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. He surrendered at Fort Smith on June 10, 1865.

In 1866 he married Jane Yerton who died in Texas in 1875, leaving four children, and in 1878 he married Martha J. Chastain, also a native of this County, who died in 1887, he having lived with his first wife nine years, three months and twenty eight days and with his second wife nine years, three months and twenty nine days.

December 22, 1887 he was married a third time, Mrs. Sarah C. Dover, nee Rozell, becoming his wife. She also is a native of Crawford County and is a Methodist. Mr. Wells and his first two wives many years ago united with the Baptist Church. Mr. Wells is a blacksmith. a woodworker by trade, and has a nice farm of 162 acres, on which he has lived fifteen years. He has been engaged in blacksmithing eighteen years. He is a Democrat and cast his first presidential vote for Greeley. In 1888 he was elected Justice of the Peace of Vine Prairie Township, and he has filled the offices from Junior Deacon to Worshipful Master in the East in the Pleasant Hill Masonic Lodge no. 233.

**MONROE LIPSCOMB**

Monroe Lipscomb was born June 9, 1827, in Person County, North Carolina. He was one of thirteen children, twelve boys and one girl, the last child was a girl. He fought in Civil War. Girl was Francis Lipscomb Wells Cottrell. Monroe and four of his brothers fought for the North while seven of his brothers fought for the South. After the Civil War he settled in Dyer, Arkansas.

Monroe was a prominent land owner and he had gotten his land from the Government. He acquired a large amount of land and was well thought of in the Community.

Monroe married a girl and she wanted children so much and it seemed she was never to realize this dream when they found she was soon to have a child. When the time came she gave birth to a baby boy whom they named Frank Columbus Lipscomb, but after his birth his mother died leaving Monroe with the baby to raise by himself. At first he boarded little Frank out but he felt he was being mistreated so he started looking for someone to help raise the little boy.

One day a woman by the name of Elizabeth (White) Garrett was washing clothes at Monroe's spring. He got acquainted with her and found she was a widow with one little girl. He soon asked her to marry him which she did.

Together they made a good home and soon they had another little girl, Columbia; time passed very swiftly and before long all three children were grown. Frank left home to become a bridge contractor. Elizabeth daughter married Frank Hayes. and Columbia married John Nelson. Elizabeth died and her brother came to stay with Monroe for now he had a serious heart condition. Monroe died in 1896 of a heart attack at home and is buried in Lipscomb Cemetery in Dyer.

**JOHN NELSON**

John Nelson was born February 7, 1852, in De Site, Sweden, a small place near Stockholm. He had one sister. Their mother died when they were very small and their father had to work, being Lutheran, they had a god-mother and she brought them up in the Church.

It was the custom in Sweden at that time to give military training to all boys. After John finished school and military training he was nineteen years old and he left Sweden and came to America He found work on the railroad and soon became a section foreman. He could not speak English but soon learned with some training from others. His work on the railroad brought him to Dyer where he met Columbia Lipscomb, daughter of Monroe Lipscomb. After much planning and preparing and cooking for several days they had a big wedding at Columbia's home in Dyer. He remained section foreman after they were married which took them to several different places to live. While they were living in Little Rock he was hurt in a wreck in a handcar. He was in hospital for six months, after he recovered he went back to railroad for awhile.

When they got the word that Monroe had died they came back to Dyer. Since Monroe's brother-in-law was living at homeplace, they had to find another place for awhile. Monroe owned a house where Frank Rhodes store is now located. Since Columbia was expecting a child very soon they lived there until the child was born. They already had three children, Monroe (Tuff), Kristeen, and Lizzie. The baby was born and was a little girl whom they named Lucy. When Lucy was two weeks old they moved to the homeplace. The house they moved from was soon sold and later bought by Elsie Cottrell and she owned it until she died, and it still belongs to the Cottrell family.

John Nelson owned a store in town for a short time, and then he mostly oversaw the farming as they had hired hands to do the work.

John never missed taking the children to the circus in Fort Smith and this was a real treat; they went on the train and stayed overnight in a hotel.

He never saw his family in Sweden again after coming to America. People liked to listed to him talk for he spoke with broken English. He died on 16 May 1912 and was buried in Lipscomb Cemetery in Dyer, Crawford County, Arkansas.

**FLOYD LOOMIS**

He was born in Homer, Courtland County, New York on March 5, 1847, and came to Dyer in 1876. He was a carpenter by trade. He left his hammer marks on the Community.

This place was a wilderness when he came here, no school, no churches, no stores, no doctors, no depot. People went to Alma to buy groceries, also for a doctor. He bought 40 acres of land across from where the Baptist Church is now and built his house on this land.

On 18 of November 1879 he married Fannie Strine, who was born in Van Buren, Crawford County, Arkansas, on February 18, 1861. She moved to Dyer in 1866 and was reared in Dyer, attended school in Old Valley School.

There were eight children born to this union, seven survived and were reared and schooled in Dyer.

Floyd built the first school in 1886 on same land the Baptist Church is on but just South of the Church. Built the first Church for the Methodist in 1893 and Baptist Church in 1894. He gave his free labor in these buildings. Built the first hotel for John William Moss in 1884. Built first depot in 1887 and built houses in Dyer, Alma, and Van Buren. He also built the Parsonage, served as a Steward on the Methodist Church and was school director until 1917. He died in 1920.

He also built coffins, now called caskets to bury the dead; he furnished materials for some who were not able to pay.

**THURMAN HURD**

Thurman Hurd was born July 28, 1855, in Hancock County, Tennessee. Died March 1849 at Dyer and buried in Dyer Cemetery.. He was the second child of seven children born to Joseph Hurd and Lydia Miner Hurd, both of Hancock County, Tennessee. His father was of English descent. His mother was half Cherokee Indian, and her father was a member of the clan of people that you find living in the pockets of East Tennessee Mountains that do not know where they originated. Mr. Hurd's father died before the Civil War, and he told many stories of hardship that his family endured during the War years. His mother hid the family and their belongings many times in caves in the mountains from the bushwhackers. They had their home burned, all their furnishings, their barn was burned and their cows were slaughtered. Mr. Hurd's father was a logger on the Clinch River.

After the death of his father, his mother later married for a second time, Mr. James Goodman. He was a school teacher and he taught his step-children at home. This way he obtained a fair education for his day and time.

He was married to Miss Rutha Moore, daughter of John C. and Mary Polly Bledsoe Moore also of Hancock County, Tennessee. He lived in Tennessee for a short time and then they moved to Arkansas, stopping for a short time in Missouri. When he came to Dyer he brought with him his family and his cousin's son, Patton (Pat) Lawson; no relation as far as we know to the Lawson family that was already living here.

Mr. Hurd came to Dyer about the year of 1889. He came here to work with the railroad, he liked Dyer so he stayed. He said when he first came here that there were very few families living here. He mentioned the Valley School many times and said that the town had been incorporated a very short time when he arrived in Dyer.

The first place that he lived was on the River Road where Mr. Sefton lives now. He then bought some property from Mr. John Moss and on the place was a two room log house with an upstairs in it. He later bought some land that joined it from Mrs. Bryant, then later added 40 acres of land that he bought from Mrs. Leavitt. This is now the property owned by the heirs of Rob Wilson where Mr. Jr. Hale lives.

To this marriage was born eleven children:

 Anderson Hurd was born 1877 in Tennessee;

 Roberta Hurd was born 1881 in Virginia (Mrs. Bertie Wagner);

 Lena Bell Hurd was born 1878 in Virginia;

 Mary Elizabeth Hurd was born 1882 in Virginia;

 Joseph M. Hurd was born 1886 in Tennessee;

 Samuel T. Hurd was born 1884 in Tennessee;

 Andrew Hurd was born 1888 in Missouri;

 Martha Jane Hurd was born 1891 in Dyer, Arkansas;

 Richard Hurd was born 1892 in Dyer, Arkansas;

 Lloyd Hurd was born 1894 in Dyer, Arkansas;

 Fred Hurd was born 1895 in Dyer, Arkansas.

In 1901 they took a foster daughter Abbie Kibbie into their home. Lena Bell, Mary Elizabeth, Samuel, Martha Jane, and Lloyd all died when they were small children. Andrew was killed in a gun accident at the family home December 24, 1898. Richard died September 27, 1928, in the Veterans Hospital in Dawson Springs, Kentucky. Fred was killed in a tractor accident in the Dyer bottoms in 1953. Joe married Anna Mae Crisswell and raised a family in Dyer. Roberta married James A. Wagner and they raised a family in Crawford County. Anderson married Sally Sleeper and they were the parents of Alice, Ruth, Lucy, and Thurman. After Anderson died and his wife Sally died, Mr. Hurd raised the four children.

Mr. Hurd was a farmer and a blacksmith. He was a Baptist in faith and was a charter member of the Dyer Baptist Church. His wife was also a charter member of the Church. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Dyer, Lodge No. 250.

He was a member of the Dyer School Board. A member of the Farmers Union where he is listed in 1916 as being a shipper and grower of strawberries and other fruits and vegetables. He served on the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist in 1906. He was active in church and civic affairs of the Community. He was a Republican and did not fail to exercise his right to vote every chance.

One of his favorite tales was a story when they moved from the River Road to the one he bought from Mr. Moss. Mrs. Hurd had made a new feather bed and they had bought a new coal oil lamp. She was sitting on the feather bed holding the lamp and the baby. When they reached the Heard Branch as he started up the other side of the bank the feather bed slid off the wagon. Mrs. Hurd, feather bed, lamp, baby, and all went into the Branch. But the lamp did not break nor did the baby get wet.

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