I remember when I was small when my daddy, Floyd Loomis, Sr, built the two houses north of the Baptist Church, one next to the Church was for Jim Yates and in front of our house was for Jim Cummings. Mr Yates had one grown son when he moved there named Ray Yates, Albert was about grown. I was over at the Yates home when they were digging the well in the front yard. I guess that I was in the way and two men took hold of my arms and threw me across the deep hole and it scared me nearly to death. I went home and stayed home until the well was finished. The Yates family did not live there very long until they moved down in front of the Selby place. Mrs. Yates had twins and she and the twins both died. One child was named Ervin Yates, they had Ray Yates, Alfred Yates, Eddie, a girl Lilly, and Ervis Yates. Ray married Martha Coates of 61 Community. Alfred married \_\_\_\_, and the others married after they went to Texas. Mr. Yates also married again after they went to Texas.

After the Yates moved, Will Mason bought the Yates house and ran a store in Dyer before the burn out of all the four stores in 1909. He also had the first telephone in his house from the Alma Telephone System. Dock Brashier also had a store and boarded with Will Mason and family. I was about 10 years of age when they first went into business in Dyer.

I don't know anything about anyone going to Little Rock to pick up salt for the Community but I listened to old folks who went through the Civil War tell about trading the North a pound of sugar for a pound of salt. The southern women would dig up the dirt under which the meat had been salted down and boil the dirt and use the water. Granny Bennett, my husband's grandmother, was the one who told me things. Her husband was killed in the Civil War also Grandma O'Rear who went through the Civil War. She lived in Dyer after the War, I was about 6 or 8 years of age and would sit at her knee on the floor and listen to her talk for hours. Also grandma Julia Davidson, May Stephenson's mother, she was just a girl during the war and she told me a lot about it..

I don't know Aunt Betty Dyer and Laura Wagner's maiden names before marriage. Laura was the youngest and the mother of Kate and Buck Rogers. Their father was off to war, their mother was not at home and the "Bushwhackers"**1** came, they didn't harm them, they just combed and combed Laura's blond hair and left. Aunt Bettie said she was scared to death, afraid they would harm Laura. Betty gave them food to eat.

***1 ~ Bushwhacking was a form of*** [***guerrilla warfare***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare_in_the_American_Civil_War) ***common during the…***[***American Civil War***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War)***…***

No one named Mason ever lived in the Loftin house. The house was known as the Loftin house but I don't know who built it.

Wylie Chitwood and Fronia Rhodes Chitwood wed and they were the first family to live there. Their oldest child, Dorothy, was born there. I would go there often and rock Dorothy for hours in a rocking chair. They lived there up until 1902 and then moved down on Widow Street (Main Street).

Then Mark Loftin and Delia Mason moved there. Grandpa Mason may have bought the place for them. Grandpa Mason lived where Cecil and Lucille Chastain live now. It was a big log house as far as I can remember. Delia Loftin was his daughter and his sons were: Will, Mack, Laurence, and Horace Mason.

George Robert's mother and Lon Gillenwater's mother were sisters. Lon's two aunts took the twins when Sadie died. Lon Gillenwater's and Sadie Haydon's wedding was the first to be held in the Methodist Church. Addie Dyer was her bridesmaid.

When Nelson had a store in the original four, the family lived in what we know as the Floyd house.

Rev J.O Calloway married Nep Dyer. The first person that he baptized was Florence's mother and he almost drowned her.

Joel Dyer and family lived in the two room log house where his granddaughter, Susie Bennett, built her new home after her husband, Marset, died in the year of 1919. She used the old log house for a barn. Joel Dyer's children were:

Will Dyer who became a Methodist preacher;

Cy Dyer moved to California in 1887;

Walter Dyer also moved to California at the same time;

George Dyer lived in Community and is buried in Dyer Cemetery;

Charlie Dyer moved to Alma and is buried in family cemetery;

Rebecca Dyer married James Patton, both buried in Dyer Cemetery;

Neph Dyer married a Mr. Hardin;

Steve Dyer lived in Community and is buried here;

George Dyer lived in the old home place until his death.

James Patton had a store in Van Buren then moved to Dyer in early 1880's and built a store where the Post Office was later located. It was on his property that he built his home across from Frankie's Rhodes store and built a small house on the north side of his home and brought a colored family to reside there, the only colored family to live in Dyer until the Aloma's came here.

This was joining the school property and across from Uncle Dan Chitwood home. They worked for Mr. Patton and others. She washed for my mother. I remember that I would hide behind something and peep at them as they washed. I was so afraid of them because they were black. Mr. Patton finally bought a large farm in the bottoms. He lived in Dyer until his death. His children were:

Walter Patton who wed Lena Humphrey;

Fred Patton who wed Dora Carter;

Callie Patton who wed Bill James.

One of the earlier settlers in Dyer was Columbus Lipscomb. He moved to Dyer from Van Buren in the year of 1867. He bought a lot of land east of Selby place. It ran south quite a ways, north beyond the railroad tracks. The railroad went across his land. The farm ran east a long ways. This farm was called the Nelson farm after Mr. Lipscomb died. He lived in a big log house on the farm. It is called the Nelson house today. He and wife Lizzie had three children and a foster child. Their names were: a son called Boy Lipscomb; Alice Lipscomb who wed Frank Hayes in 1879; Columbia Lipscomb who wed John Nelson in 1886; Fannie Strine, a foster daughter, who wed Floyd Loomis in 1870; Fannie was six years old when the Lipscomb family moved to Dyer. All these children went to school in the Old valley school. The Lipscomb would grow enough cotton to spin their thread. All the family would pick the seed out of the cotton with their fingers then would card it and spin it into thread then knit their socks and stockings. The Nelson Cemetery is on the Lipscomb farm. The Lipscomb, Nelsons, Loomis families are entombed there as well as some other families. Frank Hayes who married Alice Lipscomb was an early settler. They had two children: Will Hayes and who wed Mode Fowler in 1902; and Hattie Hayes who wed Lawrence Mason in the 1900.

Steve Dyer, a son of Joel Dyer, owned and operated the first gin and saw mill also a grist mill in Dyer. He had one of the first stores and his son, Walter, ran the Post Office in the store and another son had a drug store in the store, so that was a "three in one" store. His business was located in the first store on the street facing the railroad tracks which ran east and west.

I remember buying candy at Steve Dyer's store and his son who had the drug store was named Stevie, Jr. I could be mistaken about this part.

STEVE DYER AND SETTLE ALSOBROOK

Stevie Dyer never married;

Horatio Dyer married Emma Westbrook;

May Dyer married Herbert Cravens;

Annie Dyer never married;

Bessie Dyer died young;

Addie Dyer married Dan Harrison;

Clem Dyer died at home when 20 years old.

I was at the Dyer home when Clem was on his death bed, and the family had a minister come in and baptize him by sprinkling. The mother was a Presbyterian and a wonderful woman. They were called Uncle Steve and Aunt Betty. May Dyer and Annie were Methodist. May was one the first Sunday School teachers after the Methodist Church was built in 1902, and Annie taught Sunday School for many years. Addie was a Baptist after the Church was built in 1894.

Another early settler was Floyd Loomis of New York. He came to Dyer in 1877 and was a carpenter by trade. He bought 120 acres of wilderness land south Dyer and had already bought 40 acres east of Baptist Church where he built his home and married Fannie Strine who was the Lipscomb's foster child.

The place called Dyer was a wilderness for miles each way. Wild animals, snakes, panthers, bears, and wild hogs. Floyd Loomis went hunting one day in the Arkansas River bottoms below Dyer. He met a panther, Floyd was so scared that he forgot that he had a gun, and he and the panther stood and stared at one another until the panther jumped in the canebrakes and ran off. After Floyd got his land cleared of timber, he rented the farm until his boys were large enough to farm it.

He built houses in Dyer, Alma, Van Buren, and the countryside. There were no school houses, churches, nor stores in Dyer. No doctors, no depot. Dyer was a flag stop,

Columbia Lipscomb became Columbia Nelson in 1886 and in year 1887 they moved to Dyer and lived in a house where Frankie Rhodes has a store today. The store sits over a well which was on the back porch. John Nelson had a General Merchandise Store in one of the four stores facing the railroad and one that burned in 1909. At Mr. Lipscomb's death the Nelsons inherited part of the Lipscomb property. They moved to the Lipscomb family home which we all know as the Nelson home and reared their family there.

John and Columbia Nelson's children were:

Monroe Nelson who married Sylvia Meadors;

Tennessee Nelson;

Lizzie Nelson who married Pete Cottrell and Voyt Hunter;

Lucy Nelson who married Oliver Thomas;

Dillard Nelson;

Olga Nelson who married Bill Andrews.

At these early times the settlers used oxen teams for farming and hauling and logging and traveling to Alma for groceries and supplies. Later years they used horses and mules for this task.

I don't know the year that your grandfather, John William Moss, moved into his hotel which my father built for him and was located where Earnest Cottrell lives today in the old two story house that was there. The Moss' were living on what we know as the Thurman Hurd farm before he moved to town. He owned that place and the land reached into the edge of Dyer where his hotel was built and then south down into the edge of the Dyer bottoms. Your father told me that he was a big boy when he lived on the Hurd place and that he walked to the Old valley School which was built on Percival Morse farm which was across the road from where Percival lived. I believe that your grandmother Lucy Moss died when they were living on the Hurd place

Samuel Carter Morse built his house north of Dyer across the road from the Old Valley School which was a part of his farm. He married Jane Henson from off the Ridge. She was the daughter of a Methodist Minister. They had four children and were named:

Lige Morse who married Mariah Chitwood;

David Morse who married Julia Griffin;

Lular Morse who married Joe Minyard; ***[Lula? Lulah?]***

Sam Morse who married Sally McCabe .

Jane was bedfast the entire nine months before Sam was born. Help was hard to get then. She gave Fannie Strine, just fifteen years old then, her board and clothing to take care of her until after Sam was born, then their home burned and Samuel rebuilt where his home had been.

Mrs. Steve Dyer asked Fannie to come and live with her as a member of the Dyer family. She lived with the Dyer's for two years until she married Floyd Loomis on November 1879. The Dyers were like parents to Fannie and she loved them dearly and took their advice gladly. Some of her girlhood chums were: Neph Dyer, Rebecca Dyer, Viva Chastain, Mary Woods, Nan Woods, Columbia Lipscomb, Alice Lipscomb, these are the ones I remember.

The Morse Branch was named for the Morse family as it crossed their property. The Morse Cemetery is on the east side of the Morse property. Names of the Morse's:

John Morse;

Frank Morse;

Preserved Morse;

Charley Morse who married Jane Chitwood who lived on Georgia Ridge;

Lucinda Morse who married John Roe;

Jennie Morse who married Danny Chitwood;

Ann Morse who wed Jim Brady.

John Morse's children were:

Alice Morse

Beckie Morse

Lafayette Morse

Preserved called young Preserved for a distinction between him and the older Preserved Morse

Frank Morse's children:

Bell Morse

Dora Morse

Lizzie Morse

Silas Morse

Paul Morse

Jim Morse's children:

Little Charley Morse

Joe Morse

Nora and Mary Morse

Big Charley's children and wife Jane Chitwood:

Ervin Morse who married Mildred James

Earl Morse who married Ola Campbell

Big Charley married after Jane's death—Serena Jordan:

Selmer Morse

**Shelton Chastain** settled on Georgia Ridge when they came to Arkansas from Georgia. The Chastain Schoolhouse and Cemetery was named for him, and he donated the land for these. I don't know the year he came to Dyer with his first family. His children by his first wife were:

Vina Chastain who married W. C. Fox;

John Chastain;

Edward Chastain who married Mamie Echord;

James Chastain who married first Mable Henderson;

Milton Chastain who married Maud Henderson;

Harvie Chastain who married Emma Haney.

Mr **Shelton Chastain** married second Sophia Crittendon:

Daisy Chastain who wed Node Renfroe;

Jewel Chastain who wed Mildred Smith;

Nancy Chastain who wed EIton Whitlow;

Shelton Chastain;

Mary Chastain who wed Bill Little.

Mr Chastain had the Post Office where Leonard Davis house now stands. It was a long building at that time, but it has been turned around and more rooms added to the back. The two front rooms were the Post Office.

I don't know the year that the Selby's came to Dyer. Frank, the oldest, told me he was a grown boy when they moved to Dyer. They lived in a two story house where Olin Selby lives today.

Their children were:

Frank Selby never married;

Robert Selby wed Lou Humphrey;

Marvin Selby wed Belle Davidson;

Hermon Selby wed Sallie Montgomery;

Pierce Selby wed Ola Moss;

Selma Selby wed Delia Chitwood;

Florence Selby wed Joe Wells;

Lou Earl Selby wed Dew Burkhead;

Oma Selby wed John Keifer.

In later years Frank built a new house for his mother where the old

First Banker was Henry Burrough, 2nd was Walter Patton, and 3rd was Ervin Morse. Bank went "for Broke" while Ervin Morse was the banker in the late 1920s.

Here is another item you might be interested in about the Methodist Parsonage. The entire place south of the Church where Aunt Myrtle Morse now lives was owned by the Methodist Church. It was the Parsonage for years. Mulberry was with us then in sharing a pastor and they wanted the Parsonage at Mulberry so the Church sold this property and gave the monies to Mulberry Methodist Church to help build a parsonage there. I remember visiting the McAnnally girls when Bro. McAnnally was pastor at the Methodist Episcopal Church.

We all have some sweet memories of the Church, Epworth League, Lodge meetings, Farmer Union supper, school days, hikes, and swimming parties. Have you forgotten my swimming suit I made down to my knees. We would go back of Sam Morses and wade in the branch. You got such a kick out of my bathing suit that you took a little piece off it for a souvenir. I had as much fun as you girls did. After you married I still went on trips with the league with Charley and Ruth [Woods] Moss before they were married. I was the chaperone.

Here is a last thought: I was at the ordination service at the Methodist Church when Elisha Dyer and Julius Faust were ordained to be ministers. I will never forget the words that Mr. Elisha spoke when he said he would give Nellie Dyer to be a Missionary if the Lord wanted her. She was about three years old and was such a pretty child that it almost broke my heart. Give my love to Miss Dora. I will never forget her as my school teacher, also in the Ladies Aid as we quilted together, then we were Rebecca sisters. Dude and H. A., our sons, went to school to her. We have so many sweet memories of the seventy years spent in the old home town.

***Filename: WeRememberDyer post-1986 Book 03, 054-059 ~ assorted letters***