



Hollywood School, circa 1915

Hollywood

Americans began to settle on the fertile land along the Terre Noire Creek as early as 1811. The community that has come to be known as Hollywood was located there along the old Military Road, also called the Southwest Trail. That community claims a long and distinguished past.

After Arkansas became a separate territory in 1819, one of the first regiments of militia organized in Arkansas Territory mustered near Hollywood in 1820. The company's first colonel was James Ross. He was followed by S.M. Rutherford, and then Jacob Wells, who served until 1828. Among other officers of the regiment were Joseph Hardin, David Fish, Abner Thornton, Samuel Gentry, and Thomas Drew. Drew later became governor of Arkansas.

After the Civil War, growth of Hollywood proved to be sufficient for the city's incorporation in 1880 with a population of 103. A post office had opened in the community in 1850 under the name of Anvil, so named because of the early-morning hammering of the local blacksmith, according to local historian Farrar Newberry. Later, in 1860, it became Hollywood because of the beautiful holly groves in the area. The office's name was changed to Spoonville in 1871 and back to Hollywood in 1877; it served the area until closing in 1954. Postmasters in the nineteenth century included David Stewart (1860-1866), Stroud Tweedle (1867-1868), L.E. Bridges (1868), Mary Ellis (1869-1876), John Gordon (1877), John Garrison (1877-1886), James McNutt (1886-1888), William Curtis (1888-1889), John Jordan (1889-1890), Addie Jordan (1890-1897), and Joseph Jackson (1897-1901).

By 1890, several businesses served the growing community: Huddleston and Little Grocery & Hardware, G.A. Maddox' General Merchandise, Fannie Huff's Grocery & Confection, a branch of the McNutt Supply Company of Arkadelphia, and R.H.

Rutherford's Drug Store. Later businesses included those of Hudgens & Davidson, Dan Ray, Ben Kimbrough, and J.C. McAnally. By the mid-1900s, however, Gerald Clark's store was the only one remaining in Hollywood.

Hollywood's first school was built about 1861. It was a two-story frame structure, with the second floor serving as a meeting place for the local Masonic Lodge. Area students attended classes there until 1931, when high school students went to Arkadelphia High. The grade school continued in the community after that time, but in 1950, all grades consolidated with Arkadelphia. Among those to teach at the school in Hollywood were Walter Rowan, Nelly Jordan, Myrtle Moore, Annie Lee Moore, Eva Moore, Marvin Sloan, Sutah Sloan, Mammie Holder, Charlie McAnally, Oscar Burrough, Arvin Ross, Hansel Hughes, Ola Mae Tweedle, Ruth Key, Ethel Bobo, Connie Bobo, Margie Bobo, Joy Smith, Miss Smithton, Marguerite Holland, Josephine Arnold, Opal Clark, and Gwendean Wilson.

Another well-known Clark County landmark, the Davidson Campground (Methodist), is about three miles southwest of Hollywood. In the campground's center sits a large shed for services. Revivals and meetings have been held there every summer (except 1905) for well over a century. The largest gathering may have been in 1925 when an estimated four to eight thousand people were reported.

In 2002, the Clark County Historical Association published a volume of articles about Hollywood and its people called "News From Hollywood." The articles tell about day-to-day life in the community and were gathered from area newspapers and other sources dated 1869 to 1912, all compiled by the late Allen B. Syler