

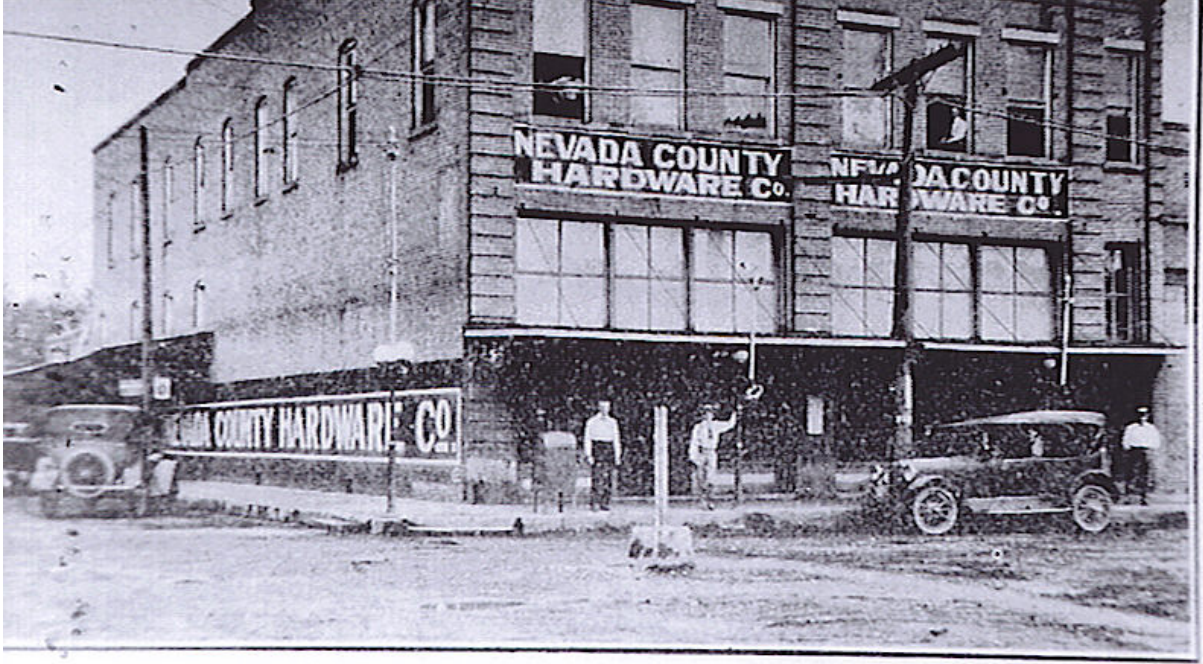
Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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THE NEVADA COUNTY HARDWARE CO.



I
The Nevada County Hardware Co. was located on the corner of Second St. and Main St. in Prescott. I'm pretty sure it was in the same spot where the Prescott Police Department is today in the building formerly occupied by the Liberty Valu-Mart supermarket.

This business was profiled in the April 19, 1928 issue of *The Nevada News*. The article says the building was 75 feet by 100 feet and was one of the largest and most complete hardware stores and was a pioneer enterprise of Nevada County.

The officers of the company in 1928 were A. M. Westmoreland, president, P. S. Harrell, vice-president, and E. Y. Blakely, secretary-treasurer. The article stated the business was established “forty or more years ago” which puts the establishment date somewhere around 1888. It was originally known as McDaniel Hardware, but the name was changed in 1918 to Nevada County Hardware Co. with the same management. The phone number was only one digit—Phone No. 6.

Many hardware stores in those days had an undertaking department and the Nevada County Hardware was no exception. Fletcher Parker was the manager of the undertaking and embalming department and D. B. Westmoreland was in charge of the furniture department.

The business carried a full line of hardware including farm implements, wagons, buggies, stoves, tools, sporting goods, home furnishings, and undertaking supplies.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE NEVADA COUNTY HARDWARE

Thanks to Neva Grauberger of Colorado for contributing these nice photos of this business. She included some additional information about the photo above.

In the interior photo of the store, my great uncle Leonard Miles Westmoreland is on the left, holding a gun, and his brother, Arthur Mansfield Westmoreland, co-owner of the store, is at far right behind counter. Don't know who the man in the middle of photo is.

Jerry Gilbert Westmoreland, Sr, grandson of Jeremiah Gilbert Westmoreland, told the story of how his grandpa was helping at his son's (Arthur) store one day, when a woman came in and asked about a punch bowl. Jeremiah (grandpa Jerry) said, "Perch pole?", which is what he thought she said, because he liked fishing, and always had fishing on his mind. (I thought this was a cute story, and to think that the hardware store probably carried punch bowls as well as perch poles!)

Neva Grauberger, great granddaughter to Jeremiah Gilbert Westmoreland

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RAINFALL STATISTICS FOR 2014 (MEASURED AT CAMDEN)

December rainfall—1.8 inches
Total rainfall in 2014—53.8 inches

Normal annual rainfall—52.5 inches
Wettest month—August (8.2 inches)
Driest month—September (0.6 inches)

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

THE LAST CONFEDERATE VETERAN IN NEVADA COUNTY

In July, 1925, the *Nevada County Picayune* published a list of all the living Confederate veterans residing in Nevada County. That got me to thinking about who was the last Confederate veteran buried in Nevada County. I took the list of names and tried to find the date of death for each one, but it turned out to be a harder job than I thought. Some of the names only had initials instead of the full given name so I couldn't be absolutely sure if I had the right person. After researching the cemetery records, newspaper obituaries, and the Internet, I came up with the following information.

C. M. Andrews—could not find any information on this person; not found in Nevada Co. cemetery records

P. E. Bryson—Patrick Ebenezer Bryson; served in McMillan's Co., 2 Arkansas Cavalry; died October 27, 1931; buried at Liberty Cemetery

W. P. Buchanan—William Preston Buchanan; served in Co. H. , 33 Arkansas Infantry; died October 24, 1928; buried at Smyrna Cemetery

C. M. Buchanan—could be Chelsey M. Buchanan; died June 30, 1932; buried at DeAnn Cem.; no dates on his marker; death date from his obituary

Sam Cantley—Samuel Cantley; served in Co. B., 20 Arkansas Infantry; died June 2, 1930; buried at Moscow Cemetery

W. M. Carruthers—could be William Morris Carruthers; found a marker for W. M. Carruthers at Pleasant Ridge Cem. with no dates. Also found a double marker for a William Morris Carruthers (death date Dec. 18, 1936) and wife, Sarah Jane. Dates fit, but not sure if this is the Confederate veteran.

T. P. Callicott—Thomas Pleb Callicott; died Nov. 26, 1931; buried at Laneburg Cemetery; no military marker

M. H. Caudle—listed in 1970 cemetery records as being buried at Corinth Cemetery; the records had no dates but showed his age as 99; we were not able to find his marker in the 1997 cemetery surveys

G. M. Franks—served in Co. C., 20 Arkansas Infantry; died Oct. 21, 1938; buried at Harmony Cemetery

James M. Gage—died January 8, 1928; buried at Dunn Cemetery; no military information on marker

John W. Gann—served in Co. I, Georgia Volunteers; died Sept. 9, 1925; buried at Laneburg Cem.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

J. A. Gleghorn—James A. Gleghorn; served in Co. D. 24 Arkansas Infantry; died June 11, 1927 as per Nevada County Death Index; buried at Forest Hill Cemetery; no dates on his marker

D. P. Hazzard—Dempsey P. Hazzard; served in Co. H, 19 Arkansas Infantry; died Dec. 4, 1930; buried at Mt. Moriah Cemetery

W. A. Hatley—could be Wiley Andrew Hatley; died June 12, 1930; buried at DeAnn Cemetery

J. M. Holland—could be Jessie M. Holland; died March 9, 1926 (from Nevada Co. death index)

H. S. McMillan—died March 2, 1930; buried at Falcon Cemetery; no military information on his marker

J. K. Munn—James Knox Munn; served in Co. C., 30 Arkansas Infantry; died Dec. 8, 1930; buried at Union Cemetery

A. Norman—died Feb. 5, 1927 (from Nevada Co. death index)

J. F. Odom—could not find any information on this person; not found in Nevada County cemetery records

J. H. Pinkerton—could not find any information on this person; not found in Nevada County cemetery records

James K. Prescott—served in Co. H. 3 Mississippi Cavalry; died June 6, 1941; buried at Shover Springs Cemetery in Hempstead Co.

L. S. Snead—could not find any information on this person; not found in Nevada County cemetery records

G. A. Sudsberry—George A. Sudsberry; served in Co. B. , Wright's Regt. Arkansas infantry; died June 22, 1932; buried at Bluff City Cemetery

W. N. Sutton—William N. Sutton; served in Co. D, 24 Arkansas Infantry; died Feb. 17, 1931; buried at Harmony Cemetery

H. C. Sampson—Howell Cobb Sampson; served in Newton's Co., Arkansas Cavalry; died Jan. 30, 1929; buried at Caney Cemetery; no dates on his marker; dates from Internet

B. F. Steele—Benjamin F. Steele; served in Co. D., 10 Arkansas Cavalry; died Aug. 10, 1932; buried at Moscow Cemetery

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

O. R. Sayles—could not find any information on this person; not found in Nevada Co. cemetery records; also checked different spellings (Sails, Sales)

W. A. Thomasson—could not find any information on this person; not found in Nevada Co. cemetery records

J. K. Waddle—Joseph K. Waddle; served in Co. C., 12 Arkansas Infantry; died Jan. 15, 1928; buried at Mt. Moriah Cemetery

J. G. Westmoreland—Jeremiah Gilbert Westmoreland; was too young to serve in the war, but he and his father worked in a Confederate gun factory in NC and was entitled to a Confederate pension for his service; died January, 1929; buried at Westmoreland Cemetery

J. W. Ward—could be John W. Ward; died Aug. 14, 1925; buried at DeAnn Cemetery; no military information on marker

George Ware—served in Co. C. 20 Arkansas Infantry; died in January, 1932 (from newspaper); no dates on marker; buried at Harmony Cemetery

Jas. M. Wells—James M. Wells; served in Co. C. 1 Arkansas Infantry; died Jan. 10, 1933; buried at Piney Grove Cemetery

H. M. White—could not find any information on this person; not found in Nevada Co. cemetery records

W. T. Williamson—William T. Williamson; served in Co. F 10 Alabama Infantry; died in 1925 (from Nevada Co. death index); buried at DeAnn Cem.

J. T. Young—could be John T. Young; died March 30, 1926; buried at Lebanon Cemetery; no military information on marker

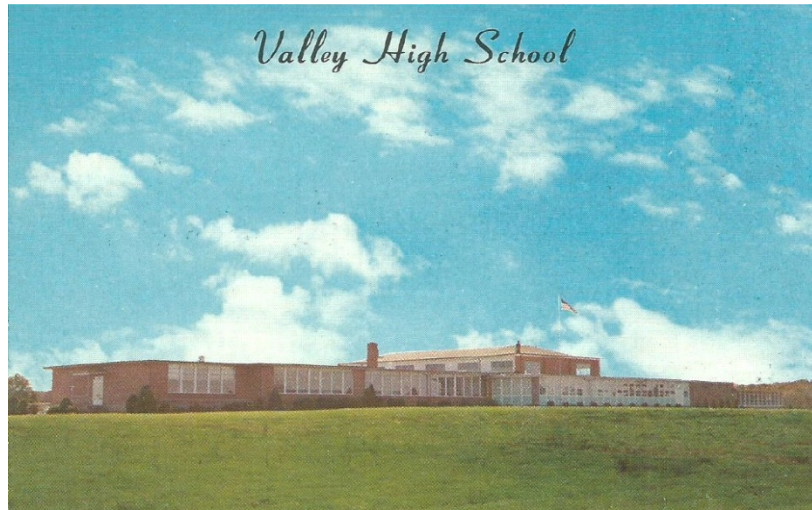
After all this work, I still don't know who the last Confederate veteran was buried in Nevada County. James K. Prescott was the last surviving man on this list so far, but he is buried in Hempstead County.

It could be G. M. Franks who died in 1938 or maybe M. H. Caudle whose death date is unknown, but was said to be 99 years old. Or it could be one of the others for which I could find no information. If you have information on any of the names shown in red, please let me know and maybe I can figure out who was the last Confederate veteran buried in Nevada County.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

SCHOOL DISMISSED EARLY

Back in the late 1960s, I got a job teaching in a small rural high school in Caledonia, Missouri. Valley High School had about 200 students in grades 9 through 12. The school district covered a large sparsely populated rural area. Some students had to ride the bus over an hour one way to school. We had twelve teachers. This post card shows what the school looked like when I was there.



The class size was quite large. I had over 30 students in some classes. I had to get used to a different grading system. Schools in that area used E, S, M, I, and F instead of A, B, C, D, and F like we used in Arkansas. Actually, that grading system made more sense. The letter E meant excellent, S meant superior, M meant medium, I was inferior, and F was failure. Instead of calling their classes “periods”, they used the term “hour” as in “my third hour class”. In sports, the girls played volleyball and the boys played basketball and competed against other schools. We had no football team. There were no black students. I also had to get used to the local rural Missouri dialect and they had to get used to my south Arkansas dialect.

The school was located in the middle of a very large field about a mile or two from the small historic village of Caledonia which had a population of about 200 people. No other buildings could be seen from the school building. It was a peaceful setting with gently rolling land and small mountains visible in the distance.

The place has changed a lot in the last 45 years. Students now have a greater choice of subjects to take. Baseball has been added to the sports department. The elementary and junior high schools are now on the same campus as the high school. Five monolithic domes were constructed for the elementary school instead of the usual type construction. They are said to be tornado proof, hurricane proof, fireproof, and are cheaper to construct than regular type buildings. The monolithic domes are becoming popular in other states now, but the small town of Caledonia was one of the first to try them. They constructed two domes in 2001 and have now added three more to house a cafeteria, gymnasium, and more classrooms. They have a modern futuristic look--something you would not expect to see in a rural area. From what I have heard, everyone is very pleased with this type of school construction.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE



Two of the five monolithic domes at Valley R-6 Elementary School

Now, let me tell you a little story about my first week of teaching in this rural school. Soon after the school year began, I went back home to Bluff City, Arkansas for the weekend to get more of my stuff. My father grew watermelons back then for sale and that particular year he had raised some melons weighing fifty pounds or more. On my trip back to Missouri, I decided to take one of the best melons to give to the superintendent of the school. He was a nice man and I just wanted to show him what nice melons we grew down in Arkansas. Ours weren't nearly as large as the giant melons that made Hope, Arkansas famous, but anytime we grew a fifty pound melon we celebrated.

The melon I picked to take to Missouri weighed close to 60 pounds. I presented it to the superintendent and he said he had never seen a melon that large. He seemed glad to get it. I wondered what he would do with such a large melon since his children were all grown and it was just he and his wife at home.

A few days later, we were notified that school would be dismissed an hour early on a Friday afternoon for a teacher's meeting to be held in the cafeteria. When the bell rang about 2:00, the kids boarded the buses and left for home. The teachers made their way to the cafeteria wondering what the meeting was all about.

I was surprised when I entered the cafeteria to see my 60 pound watermelon sitting on one of the tables. The superintendent had decided to serve it to all the teachers. I don't think any of them had ever seen a melon that large. I secretly hoped that the melon was a good one and not too ripe since it was late in the season.

A large butcher knife was brought out and the melon was cut. It was at the perfect stage of ripeness and everyone enjoyed an unexpected watermelon feast. That was the only purpose for calling the special teacher's meeting--to eat my Arkansas watermelon.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

PHOTO CONTEST

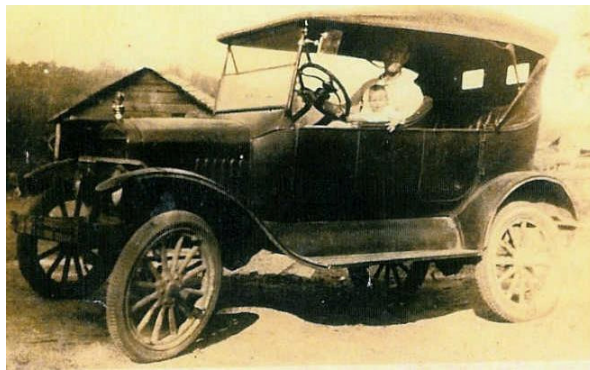
Below are five photos of old vehicles from my photo collection. Which of these is your favorite? Just send me the number of the photo you like best and I'll tell you the winner in the next issue.



1—William Hezekiah and Mary C. Barlow



2 Walter Moore



3 Thomas Walker



4 Unidentified Girls



5 Benjamin Franklin Green family