

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Jerry McKelvy, Editor

Vol. 7 – No. 5

May, 2007

*****<http://sandyland.nevada.ar.us/>*****

MT. MORIAH

One of the oldest communities in Nevada County is Mt. Moriah located near the center of the county about five miles north of Rosston on Hwy. 371. This was the first county seat of Nevada County when the county was formed in 1871 from parts of Hempstead, Ouachita, and Columbia counties. The county seat at Mt. Moriah lasted from March to October of 1871. It was then decided to move the seat of government to Rosston. The county seat was later moved to Prescott after the railroad came through and Prescott became the most populated town in the county.

The first term of circuit court was held in the church building at Mt. Moriah in July, 1871. One case tried there was that of W. E. Atkinson for assault and battery upon a preacher. He was convicted and fined \$15. Atkinson would later serve as the Attorney-General of Arkansas.

A post office was established in 1852 at Mt. Moriah with James Munn as the first postmaster. The Munn family was a prominent family in the area at that time and an 1865 map of the area shows Munn's Saw and Grist mill. The post office was discontinued in 1916 with Edna Cofield Weaver as the last postmaster.

As with most old communities, the church was the center of the community. According to a 1933 newspaper article, the earliest church was made of logs and split boards and was built several years before Arkansas became a state. This building was located "in front of what is now the Wilbur Clark home" (in 1933). No written records of that Baptist congregation remain.

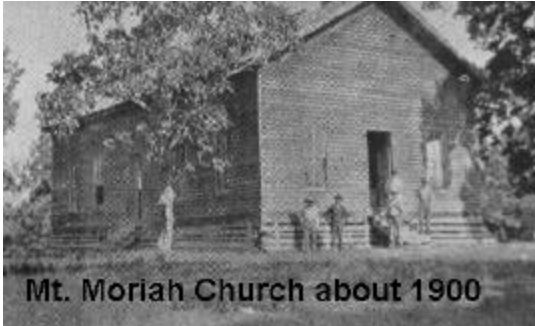
The present Mt. Moriah church was established in 1857 as the Mt. Moriah Cumberland Presbyterian Church. A Methodist Protestant Church was organized at Mt. Moriah in 1872. This church is unusual in that both groups use the same building, but have separate pastors and keep separate records, but cooperate in all other aspects of their worship. The Methodists were in charge the first and third Sundays of the month, and the Presbyterians on the second and fourth Sundays. Attendance in 2007 is usually 15-20 with Sunday Bible school and guest speakers since there is no full time preacher at this time.

The church has made many improvements over the years—adding classrooms, making necessary repairs to the building, purchasing new pews, building a fellowship hall, and recently completing a water hook-up from Rosston after the water well caved in and could not be repaired.

The original building at the present site was built three years before the Civil War and was made of lumber sawed at the James Munn mill, one of the first in this part of the country. The quality was such that when the house was torn down in 1928 and the present

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

one erected, the massive sills and much of the ceiling were used again. It also served as a schoolhouse for the community.



Descendants of the early Mt. Moriah settlers say the elders of the church were assigned seats on either side of the pulpit in the “amen corners”. Ladies sat on the left side and the men on the right. They say that each man had a certain tree or hitching post where he tied his buggy horses to and that this practice was strictly respected. Mothers carried blankets for the small children to nap

on and switches for older ones who became fidgety during the long services. There was a great deal of formality. It was a solemn occasion and those attending were expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

Two family names that are found in the list of elders of the first Mt. Moriah church are Weaver and Munn. Wilson Weaver is the patriarch of the Weaver clan at Mt. Moriah. He gave the land upon which the church and cemetery stand. He was a native of North Carolina, was a veteran of the War of 1812 and took part in the Battle of New Orleans. He married Mary Jane Munn, came to Arkansas and settled near Serepta Springs near Mt. Moriah sometime in the late 1830's or early 1840's.



Duncan Munn was Wilson Weaver's father-in-law and the father of James Munn, the first postmaster and owner of a steam powered grist mill and saw mill on the Washington to Camden Road known as the Middle Road. Locally, it was known as the Munn's Mill Rd.

Some of the well known family names associated with Mt. Moriah are: Munn, Weaver, Kennedy, Dillard, Gentry, Alsobrook, Waddle, Loe, Edwards, Martindale, Hendrix, Stokes, Fincher, Fuller, Clark, East, and Nesbit.

The cemetery, one of the best kept rural cemeteries in the county, is older than the present organized church. Many interesting stories are told of its origin, but the most commonly accepted one is that the first grave was for a certain Jason Dillard, who was killed in a neighborhood feud. Some say he was killed in a bar at Mt. Moriah. Soon afterwards, another member of his family was placed there, and from this beginning as a family burial ground, the cemetery has become the final resting place of over 1100 people. Another acre of land was recently cleared to expand the cemetery.

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

My wife and I recently did a complete survey of this cemetery. We did not find a grave marker for Jason Dillard mentioned as the first person buried there. We did find a flat concrete marker with the name F. Dillard. The grave of Wilson Weaver who gave land for the cemetery and church is well marked as are those of Duncan Munn and James Munn. The oldest marked grave is that of Duncan Munn who died August 1, 1860. (see photo)

This year (2007) marks the 150th anniversary of Mt. Moriah church. An old fashioned singing has been planned for the Saturday before Mother's Day in addition to the annual Mother's Day program on Sunday.



Mt. Moriah church as it appeared in 1993

Some information for this article was obtained from:

1. Article in *Old Time Chronicle* entitled "Mt. Moriah—An Old Community on the Munn's Mill Rd"—Vol. 4 – No. 12 (Dec., 1991)
2. Newspaper article published in *Prescott Daily News* May 10, 1933; written by Clyde Holloway Whitten
3. Interview with Charles Cross in 1984 by Phena Fincher (Depot Museum web site)
4. Cemetery survey by Jerry and Jeanie McKelvy in 2007

WEAVER FAMILY REUNION AT MT. MORIAH IN 1960 (from the 7-28-1960 issue of the *Nevada News*)

Eighty one members of the Wilson Weaver and Mary Jane Munn Weaver family met at Mt. Moriah church Sunday, July 24 to commemorate the annual reunion of the Weaver clan. The fore-parents of this group are early American stock. The mother was a native of Montgomery Co, North Carolina and Duncan Munn, a native of Scotland, was her father. From the best information available, Wilson Weaver was a native of North Carolina and of

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Scotch-Irish descent. The parents of Wilson and Mary Jane moved to Carroll Co., Tennessee about 1810 and were married soon after they moved to that section. Wilson Weaver enlisted in the Tennessee Volunteers. He took part in the Indian wars and was with General Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1814.

Wilson Weaver came west in 1835 to see what the future had in store for he and his family in Arkansas. When he passed through Camden in that year, only one log house stood on the bluff of the Ouachita to represent the thriving city of Camden today. He found vast areas of public lands covered with virgin pine, stately oaks, and the lowlands covered with wild cane. Nevada County at that time was a part of Ouachita, Hempstead, and Columbia counties. The country was a wilderness just like God and nature had made it. Vast areas were untouched by human hands except the Indian camps near water sources. This is a part of the conditions Wilson Weaver and Mary Jane Munn found when they came to Mt. Moriah to make their home about 1840.

The children were William, Isaac, John H., James W., Dr. Josh W., Andrew J., Eliza Jane, Green J, and Samuel W. The reunion was made up of descendants of this group of children of the Wilson Weaver family.

Wilson Weaver gave the land for the church and cemetery. The church, a Cumberland Presbyterian and Methodist faith, was erected about 1857 and the first burial in the cemetery was made about that time. Wilson Weaver and his wife, Mary Jane were charter members of the Presbyterian faith and remained in the church until their death. Wilson Weaver lived to the advanced age of over 90 years and was placed to rest in the ground he gave for that purpose.

The reunion was a fellowship meeting and the spirit of love existed throughout the day. A basket lunch was served in the shade of a large oak near the church at the noon hour. A mutual conversation was carried on during this period. It was a scene of renewed friendship and an exchange of love and greetings for all. The meeting was a spirit of true family relations and kindly feelings throughout.

Espie Weaver, son of Dr. Josh Weaver, was the master of ceremonies. He made a brief talk on the early history of the family and asked each of the descendants of the family group to stand together for their picture. After family farewell greetings, the meeting was adjourned until another year. The day had been a love feast for all. (written by W. E. Hirst)

EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST

“East is east and west is west, and never the twain shall meet”. This is the first line in a poem written by Rudyard Kipling. I thought of this recently when I was doing a survey of Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Nevada County.

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

In this cemetery, I found the graves of Carry Mae West and A. C. East buried side by side. To be precise, you could say that Carry Mae West is buried south of A. C. East and A. C. East is buried north of Carry Mae West.

AD FOR MALARIA MEDICINE IN 1928 (from the September 14, 1928 issue of The Camden Evening News)

MALARIA IS ONE OF CHIEF CAUSES OF LAZINESS IN THE SOUTH

Statistics prove that there are more deaths caused by MALARIA than by automobiles and it is a fact that most of these deaths could be prevented if treatment had been given in time. There are thousands of people who have Malaria and do not recognize it until it has sapped their vitality and put their system in a weakened condition.

The South has a reputation for being lazy. It is not the climate so much as it is disease—the dreaded Malaria that gives that tired, worn out, achy feeling. Constipation and biliousness are caused by this disease and make one sluggish and without usual energy.

Recent years have given us a new discovery—in fact, the greatest discovery in the annals of medicine for malaria infested districts in our South. The new discovery, NASH'S CHILL AND LIVER TONIC, is the result of many years experience and experiments to correct the two main troubles of Southern people, malaria and biliousness. Chills and malaria can now be controlled and prevented if the right treatment is taken in time. NASH'S CHILL AND LIVER TONIC is pleasant to take, stimulates the glands of the liver, and evacuates the lower bowel. At the same time, it combats the malaria germ! It increases the appetite, aids digestion and puts red corpuscles in your blood, and best of all, gives you the pep and energy you are lacking.

This tonic is highly endorsed. Though just introduced in Camden, dozens of bottles have been sold with astonishing results. Numerous testimonials are being received by the manufacturers almost daily attesting to the wonderful merits of this discovery. Local druggists who are selling this preparation are surprised at the enormous sales and the satisfaction which it gives their customers.

And, this tonic is absolutely guaranteed. Take a few doses and if you are not satisfied with results, your druggist will gladly refund your money.

Look out for these symptoms : If you are tired all the time—hate to get up in the morning—feel lazy and no account—have headache or backache—floating specks before the eyes—are nervous—stomach out of order—If you have any of these symptoms, you are no doubt affected by malaria and biliousness, so don't wait. Order a bottle of NASH'S CHILL AND LIVER TONIC and note the improvement after a very few doses. Some people are so foolish as to wait until they have a chill to begin treatment. This is the wrong idea as it is better to prevent the chill than to have to cure.

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Warning to Mothers : Watch your children! Perhaps they need this tonic. Don't wait until they have chills to begin treatment. Watch the youngsters—if they seem cross and unruly, don't spank—they probably are not well. Watch for the coated tongue, yellow complexion, bad breath, restless at night. Give a few doses of this wonderful tonic and note how quick it will put roses in their cheeks. Absolutely harmless, and pleasant to take.

Ask doctor about this formula: NASH'S TONIC contains the most active Alkaloid of Cinehons called "Ouinidine"—tasteless quinine. This ingredient kills malaria germs. It also contains the extract of Podophyllum, commonly called May Apple, which produces a more frequent flow of bile, this stimulating the glands of the liver. It also contains Phenolphthelein, which evacuates the lower bowel, thereby eliminating all poisons and waste matter from the system.

Price: 50 cents per bottle. If not satisfied, purchase price will be refunded without question.

Reading this old advertisement brings back memories of my childhood in the mid-1940's when we were given doses of Groves Tasteless Chill Tonic whenever our parents thought our appetite was not as good as it should be. The tonic may have been "tasteless", but I remember it having a gritty texture. Best I remember, it did make our appetites better or maybe we just started eating more to keep from having to take it. I'm sure most of you who were born before 1950 can remember some of these old medicines, especially the ones that tasted bad. Remember Hadacol, 666, castor oil, Fletcher's castoria, Groves chill tonic, Geritol, and others. I remember an ad for Serutan—"Nature's spelled backward". It's a wonder we ever survived until adulthood.

If you remember an interesting experience with these or other old time remedies, send it in. I'm sure others would like to read your story.

THE STRANGE CASE OF ED KIMBROUGH (from the 6-23-1910 issue of the Prescott Daily News)

Ed Kimbrough, a laboring man, living just outside the corporate limits, is languishing in the city jail as a result of a 50 cent debt which he refuses to pay.

The case is a peculiar and stubborn one. Mr. Kimbrough's cow recently crossed the city line and was soon taken up by a boy and turned over to the City Marshal and placed in the pound pen. Mr. Kimbrough, learning of this, went to Marshal Johnson and demanded the cow on the grounds that he was not a citizen of the town, and that his stock was not amenable to the city stock law.

Marshal Johnson assured him that all stock found loose in the city looked alike under the law whether it was taken from the immediate vicinity, or Malvern, or London, or Egypt, the law covered the case just as though the owner was a citizen of Prescott. Mr. Johnson did agree to deduct his fee of 50 cents if Mr. Kimbrough would pay the boy 50 cents for putting

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

the animal up. This he refused to do. Mr. Johnson even agreed to loan him the half dollar, but Kimbrough thought of another way, and proceeded to tear down the pen and secured his cow.

For this offense, he was arrested and fined \$5.00 and costs, amounting to \$10.50. He refused to pay the fine or to allow any of his friends to pay it, and was placed in jail. He has been assigned to work out the fine on the streets, but says he won't work.

A ball and chain was placed on Mr. Kimbrough this morning at 9 o'clock and he was assigned to street work at the corner of West Main and Third streets. Although a spade was stuck in the ground at his side, he refused to touch it, and took his seat on a convenient block, and is working out his time that way.

To friends who came to watch, Mr. Kimbrough stated: "I want you to understand that I don't have to wear these things. I can have them taken off any minute by paying my fine which I am able to do, but I am not going to do it."

Mr. Kimbrough was transferred to different portions of the city during the day. The officers are handling the case cautiously, and will punish Mr. Kimbrough to just what extent the law will permit, and is being advised in the matter conservatively.

In the next issue of the paper, we find this:

Ed Kimbrough, who was fined for tearing down the pound pen and placed with a ball and chain on the street, sent for the marshal last night and paid the fine, deducting the two dollars allowed for the two days time he had served.

INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS FROM DAYS GONE BY

Prescott Daily News (9-10-1910)

The team hitched to Guy N. Garner's milk wagon became frightened in front of Hesterly Drug Store while Mr. Garner had left them to make a delivery, and they started at a run out East Elm St. Mr. Garner started in close pursuit, and actually overtook the team before they had gone a block, climbed into the side door, and checked them in front of the Presbyterian church. The only thing broken was a sprinting record by Mr. Garner.

Prescott Daily News (9-12-1910)

Distinguished orator, William Jennings Bryan, made a 25 minute speech in Prescott. He arrived by train accompanied by Gov. Donaghey. The crowd in town was estimated anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000. At least 3,000 heard Mr. Bryan speak.

Prescott Daily News (10-6-1910)

Our town was thronged with people last night who had been attracted by the county fair. Every hotel and boarding house was taxed, and Sheriff Hood allowed a number to use the courthouse as a sleeping apartment.

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Prescott Daily News (7-3-1916)

Residents were warned to seek professional care for Fourth of July tetanus or lockjaw caused by accidents involving fireworks during the upcoming holiday.

FOUR BEAN SOUP

1 Lb. Hamburger	½ cup Ketchup
1 Can Ranch Beans	1 Tblsp. Mustard
1 Can Pinto Beans	¼ cup Brown Sugar
1 Can Great Northern Beans	1 Tblsp. Vinegar
1 Can Navy Beans	1 cup Water
1 Can Original Rotel Tomatoes	1 Onion (chopped)

Brown hamburger meat. Add meat along with other ingredients to crock pot and cook on Low overnight or all day.

Mary Ann
Arkansas

COLESLAW

1 head shredded green cabbage
1 shredded carrot
1 chopped green pepper
1 chopped onion
Salt to taste

Mix the above ingredients.

Sprinkle with 1 cup sugar.

Bring to boil:

1 cup white vinegar
¾ cup vegetable oil
1 tablespoon dry mustard
1 tablespoon celery seed

Pour over vegetables and stir. Cover and refrigerate 4 to 6 hours. Stir again. Drain to serve. Keeps well in the refrigerator.

*Joanne
Texas*