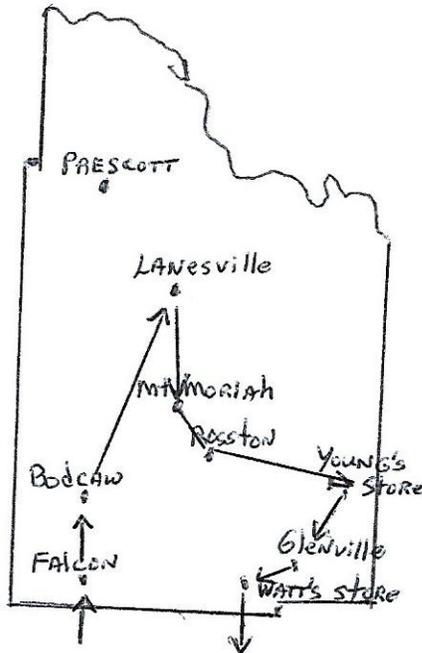


SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

TOUR OF SOUTHERN NEVADA COUNTY IN 1885

A reporter for the Arkansas Gazette newspaper traveled through parts of Nevada County in 1885. Here is what he had to say about the communities he visited. The words in italics are mine. This map shows his route through Nevada County.



From here (*Lafayette County*), I went to Falcon, some ten miles north, which, too, is one of the "has beens" killed by the building of the Iron Mountain road (*railroad*). It was once a flourishing town, home of a number of reputable businessmen where energy and enterprise have since been utilized in building up other places, among whom may be mentioned Messrs. Bayless, J. R. Giles, Dr. Royce, the Bryants of Hope, Samuel Carson, W. R. White of Prescott,

and Col. Hardy and son of Camden. A post office and one or two business houses remain here which seem to fill the place of sentinels to keep the owls away.

Thence I wended my way by Bodcaw post office into the Bright neighborhood some ten miles southeast from Prescott. All the intelligent, thrifty people occupy this neck of the woods. Here I found Mr. Bassett Bright and Jas. W. Brooks erecting a fine steam mill and gin. A new post office has been established near this mill called Lanesville. It is quite a convenience to the people who have long felt the necessity of better mail facilities.

As space forbids further minute details, I must leap over ground more rapidly. From Mt. Moriah, I directed my course to old Rosston, now known as Bourland's Store, which is a good business point, notwithstanding the many disadvantages with which it has to contend. Messrs. Fincher, Tidwell, McLure, and Bourland, merchants and businessmen of this place, joined in the assertion that more cotton is bought here than any place its size in the state, hence I conclude the merchants do a fine business.

From here I went east ten miles to Young's store. Mr. Young has located in a progressive neighborhood and is doing well as a merchant. Much complaint is made about the mail facilities at this place.

From this place I struck southwest to Pipkin's Store. A new post office has just been established and the place will

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henceforth by known as Glenville. Mr. W. L. Pipkin, postmaster, is a good businessman and an affable gentleman.

A ride of about eight or ten miles brought me to Watt's Store. The Watts brothers do a good mercantile business at this place without opposition, yet they have been injured to some extent by the too close proximity to McNeil on the railroad.

Thence I proceeded as far south in Columbia County as Killafore's Landing, then direct to this place.

It is interesting that Laneburg was once called Lanesville. It was named after B. T. Lane who had a store there. Rosston post office was first known as Rosston, then it was changed to Bourland's Store, and later the name was changed back to Rosston.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SPORTSMAN (from The Camden Evening News— Feb. 11, 1928)

This article may give you a different impression of Abraham Lincoln from what you learned in school. I never thought of Abe Lincoln as being such a sportsman.

If the young man of the house spends some of his evenings at the bowling alleys, don't discourage him. He is merely following in one or two of the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln.

Those were the days when Lincoln was only a congressman. He served in the House from 1847 to 1849 and apparently wanted to continue, but there was no

overwhelming demand for him in his Illinois district.

While in Washington for those two years, however, he took keen delight in hurling the old cannon ball down the alley and he was fairly good at it., judging from the meager accounts of his prowess now available.

He bowled match games with other members of Congress at the alley in James Caspari's hotel, known as Congress Hall Refectory on Capitol Square, opposite the House of Representatives. The hotel has long ago disappeared and its site is now part of the Capitol grounds.

He played the game with great gusto, according to the only account of Congressman Lincoln's sporting activities that the writer can locate. "Whether he won or lost, it was all the same to him. His gaunt figure added to the bystander's entertainment. When he played, a large crowd gathered especially to hear his jokes; some of which were reduced to the appreciation of a mere man."

The records don't seem to disclose whether Lincoln learned to bowl here or at the Illinois state capital, while a legislator. Lincoln had prodigious strength—and in his early Illinois days was fond of physical recreation of the simpler sort such as wrestling.

"In sports requiring either muscle or skill, he took no little interest," wrote Herndon, his law partner and biographer. "He indulged in all the games of the day, even to a horse race or a cock fight."

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Lincoln's reputation for fairness and ability to enforce his decisions caused him to be selected as umpire when there were arguments about the outcome of a cock fight according to Herndon. "Townsmen of New Salem looked up to him for his prodigious feats of strength. Once, by an arrangement of rope and straps harnessed about his hips, he was enabled one day at the mill to astonish a crowd of village celebrities by lifting a box of stones weighing near a thousand pounds."

"There is no fiction, either in the story that he once lifted a barrel of whiskey from the ground and drank from the bung; but in performing this latter almost incredible feat, he did not stand erect and elevate the barrel, but squatted down and lifted it to his knee."

At his first stump speech in Pappsville, near Springfield, Illinois, a free-for-all fight broke out and when Lincoln noticed one of his friends getting the worst of it, he stepped down and threw the assailant some 12 feet.

Lincoln was a popular congressman here, but was not regarded as presidential timber. In the Thirtieth Congress, through which he served, there were such senatorial giants as Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, and Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. Among his colleagues in the House were Alexander Stephens of Georgia and Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.

Legislatively, Lincoln's two main distinctions were his bills to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia and his opposition to the Mexican War.

However, the bill could not be forced to the floor.

The Lincoln's lived at a boarding house very near the Capitol along with several other congressmen. Dr. Samuel C. Busey, who sat nearly opposite Lincoln at the table wrote:

"I soon learned to know and admire his manners, kindheartedness and amusing jokes, anecdotes, and witticisms. When he was about to tell an anecdote during a meal, he would lay down his knife and fork, place his elbows on the table, rest his face between his hands and begin with the words, "that reminds me". Then everybody prepared for the explosions sure to follow. I recall with vivid pleasure the scene of merriment at the dinner after his speech in the House of Representatives, occasioned by the descriptions, by himself and others of the Congressional mess—of the uproar of the House during his delivery."

One Washingtonian used to tell how, when Lincoln borrowed some law books from the Library of Congress, he wrapped them in a bandana handkerchief and ran a stick through a knot in the handkerchief, carrying them away on his shoulder.

Allen C. Clark, a Washington lawyer who has studied Lincoln's life here, suppose that Busey meant the speech Lincoln delivered in July, 1848 against the presidential aspirations of General Cass.

In this speech, during which he ridiculed the general's pretensions to a valiant military record, Lincoln expressed the hope that if the opposition Democratic party ever made him a presidential candidate, they would "not make fun of

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me, as they have of General Cass, by attempting to write me into a military hero." Probably no one, including Lincoln, had the slightest idea that he would ever run for the presidency.



I was surprised that I only got a few correct answers for the "Who Is It?" in the last issue. Maybe everyone was too busy with Christmas to read it.

You may not know who this is, but you've carried him around in your pocket or purse all your life. This is FDR (President Franklin D. Roosevelt) whose picture is engraved on our dime coins.

Those with correct answers—Irma Evans, Jeanie McKelvy, Bill Carman; Bill Sellers,

ROSSTON RESOURCES—A VISIT TO THE PLACE DEMONSTRATES THAT THERE'S LIFE IN THE OLD TOWN YET

The following article appeared in the July 21, 1906 issue of The Nevada News. Probably no place in Nevada County outside Prescott is better known than Rosston. Located near the center, it became as it were a gateway for passage of most travel through the county north and south, and has tributary to its

markets a large scope of valuable territory. W. H. Hendrix and Bob Fairchild do a thriving mercantile business while Dr. T. J. Mendenhall has a small stock of drugs and stationery in the post office building.

The principal pursuit of persons in the vicinity of Rosston is farming and they seem to be prosperous. The soil produces well, and it is good, strong sandy land.

Around Rosston strong evidence of iron appears plainly in the rock that abounds in abundance on the hills close by. No actual test has yet been made of the exact amount of iron to the ton of ore, it is our opinion that with proper capital and ample transportation facilities, the mining of iron could be made profitable.

Coal also exists in the neighborhood. Within two miles of Rosston is a strata of good coal in limited quantities. A saw mill this past winter operated with this fuel taken from a 3 ft. vein that lies near the surface, and it is believed this vein is but the outshoot of a bed of coal that may make this section rich.

There is still left an abundance of pine timber in this section, although the mills of the Cotton Belt a few years ago ran a spur into this territory, and took away considerable of the the choicest bodies of yellow pine.

The mail facilities of Rosston are excellent. A daily route from Prescott carries the mail there, where it is distributed by rural free delivery through Caney, Jackson, Taylor, Parker, and a part of Albany townships. The mail that heretofore went to Caney, Young,

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Brisbane, and Irma post offices is now supplied out of Rosston, and these offices have been abolished. Carriers also pass the post offices of Bodcaw and Willisville, and furnish mail to many former patrons of these two places. Route No. 1 is in charge of J. T. O'Keefe, who travels east, supplying the Caney and Young neighborhoods. W. H. Bolt is the carrier of Route 2, which goes by Brisbane and Bodcaw, while J. W. Holloway carries No. 3 south supplying Irma and Willisville. Inspectors have been at work recently, locating other proposed routes, which will probably be passed upon soon. Dr. T. J. Mendenhall is the postmaster and has a neat office conveniently arranged with modern furniture.

Rosston is in strong hopes of securing a railroad. It is said that the Ouachita and Valley Road, which is coming west from Lester on the Camden branch, is destined to Rosston and on to Hope. The road is already built several miles into Nevada County, and the survey for a considerable more has been made.

Rosston is one of the old towns of the county, and was once the county seat. During the early 70's it was the home of a number of prominent lawyers and politicians and was quite a lively place. But after Prescott was chosen as the capital of Nevada County, most of the people left Rosston and for a while it went down. But recently there has appeared a new spirit in the place. The putting in of telephone systems that run in every direction, the establishment of rural routes, and the prospect of a railroad are some of the enterprises that destine

Rosston to a renewal of her old-time vigor.

Some of the best people in the county live here. They are alive to their interests, public spirited in matters of civil improvements, and are in comfortable circumstances. You only have to call in mind Z. W. Bailey, Tom Whitehead, W. H. Hendrix, T. J. Mendenhall, the Fairchild's, the Haynie's, the O'Keefe's, the Wortham's, the Luck's, the Holloway's, the Dixon's, the Almand's, the East's, and dozens of others to convince yourself of this truth.

Rosston has one of the largest woodsmen's camps in the county. They recently built a splendid hall, and sovereigns are all enthusiastic in their work. The Masons also have a lodge, one of the oldest in the county.

Rosston supports a good school 6-8 months of the year, the last one taught by Prof. J. B. Silvey. District 29 always votes a full 5 mill tax.

At present, quite a few are interested in stock raising and several citizens are dealers exclusively in horses and mules.

Another contemplated improvement is a new post office and store building to be erected soon by Dr. T. J. Mendenhall on the vacant lot in front of his present building. The new structure will also serve as a post office.



Current Population Sign

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A couple of months ago, I had an article about Randolph P. Hamby who served a mayor of Prescott for 36 years. The following tribute to him was published on the front page of The Nevada News after his death.

A TRIBUTE TO RANDOLPH P. HAMBY

Randolph Peden Hamby, son of the late Christopher C. Hamby and Isabella Blake Hamby, was born at Prescott on September 24, 1886, and died at his home here on January 30, 1969. He obtained his early education in the public schools of Prescott and later attended Tennessee Industrial College in Nashville, Tennessee, and the University of Arkansas. In the summer of 1903, he began work in his father's law office as a stenographer and later there studied law. He was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-three in 1909, and practiced law in Prescott from that time until his death, first in partnership with his father and the late Judge George R Haynie, and later alone. On June 26, 1912, he was married to Miss Irene Royston, the daughter of Captain Charles E. Royston and Mary M. Andrews Royston of Hempstead County, Arkansas. Two daughters, Mary Isabelle Wathen, who now lives in Dallas, and Irene Royston Smith of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were born to this union.

Mr. Hamby served his community and state unselfishly, faithfully, and well in many offices of trust. He was mayor of Prescott from 1912 to 1948, and his thirty-six years in this office equaled the

entire tenure of the twenty-one mayors who preceded him. The municipal water and light plant was in debt when he assumed office. He zealously guarded the operations and when he left office the plant was free of debt and worth several hundred thousand dollars and is the most valuable asset of this community. At a dinner in his honor upon his retirement as mayor, the businessmen of the community present him with a check, which he glanced at quickly and mistakenly and assumed to be for \$150.00. When he later saw the correct amount was \$1500.00, he was characteristically amazed at this expression of gratitude to him.

Mr. Hamby was a man of many talents. As a young man, he served as official court reporter for the Eighth Judicial District under Circuit Judges J. M. Carter, George R. Haynie, and James H. McCollum. During this interim, he reported in shorthand the last speech of a condemned man hanged for murder, as well as that of former President William H. Taft given at Prescott in 1917. On a number of occasions, he was honored by his fellow lawyers by election to serve as Special Judge of both the Circuit and Chancery Courts, and in each instance, he served with distinction. He was Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for twelve years and also served as Referee in Probate for a number of years. He was a Mason, an elder in the Presbyterian church, and president of the school board from 1931 to 1935. He served at secretary of the Democratic Central Committee from 1924 until the time of his death and knew the state election laws as well as any living person. During his tenure, no charge of fraud was ever

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aimed at any election held under his supervision. He was intensely interested in local history, and possessed many valuable photographs of Nevada County landmarks, people, and events, and was the author of many articles of historical interest.

This community can ill afford to lose such a man as Randolph Hamby. He was blessed with a keen intellect and possession of a ready wit and a quick and active mind. Those who engaged in friendly repartee soon found this out. He despised sham and hypocrisy and enjoyed puncturing an inflated ego. He was sincere, thorough, and painstaking in any task he undertook. He was a wise counselor and a soul of honor, and had not brief for those who engaged in trickery, sharp practices, and double dealing. He was strong in his beliefs and had the courage to uphold his convictions. He knew neither malice nor envy and there was not a selfish bone in his body. He was intensely loyal to his friends and they to him, and no confidence entrusted to him was ever betrayed. He was endowed with a kind and generous heart, and invariably sought to hide his true feeling under a gruff exterior. His memory will live in the hearts of those privileged to count him as a friend.

In the passing of Randolph Hamby, the community and state have lost an outstanding and useful citizen of many years unselfish service, his colleagues and associates a beloved friend, and his family a beloved and devoted husband and father who has left them a wonderful heritage. ---- A FRIEND

DEATHS IN 2018

Bluff City Cemetery

Angeline McBride –Jan. 10

Charles H. Farr – June 18

Jim Billingsley – July 2

Luttie Deloise Hicks – Aug. 27

Doyle Jerry Tippitt – Sep. 24

Sandra Ann Walker – Oct. 17

Jerald “Pete” Walthall – Dec. 22

Ebenezer Cemetery

James Dale Ammons – Feb. 23

Glenda K. Curtis – Dec. 16

Caney Cemetery

Lucy Glass – Jun. 23

Kay Purtle – Jul. 12

Ruby Wicker – Aug. 30

Bradice Wicker – Sep. 17

Bettie Bell Eades – Oct. 24

Union Grove Cemetery

Cullen Ray Gulley – May 31

Ruby Jean Gulley-Zachery – July 5

St. John Cemetery

Geneva Haynie – Sep. 11

Brandon DeWayne Sims – Nov. 2

I just received word of the sudden death of Barbara Rushing Lyerly of Jonesboro (originally from Chidester). Barbara contributed several articles for this paper in the past. She will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with her family at this time.

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HERE'S A PUZZLE

In Missouri, where they raise more mules and children than in any other place in the world, a certain resident died possessed of seventeen mules and three sons. In his will, he disposed of the mules as following: One-half to the eldest son, one-third to the next, and one-ninth to the youngest. The administrator who went to divide the property drove a span of mules out to the farm, but when he went to divide the seventeen into halves, thirds, and ninths, he found it was impossible with live mules. Mules not being very valuable, he unhitched one of his own, putting it with the other seventeen, making eighteen which he proceeded to divide as follows: One-half, or nine, to the eldest son, one-third, or six, to the next son, and one-ninth, or two, to the youngest. Adding up nine, six, and two, he found that it made seventeen, so he hitched up his mule and went home rejoicing.

(from the Picayune in 1915)

U. S. HISTORY QUIZ

1. Which president is pictured on the \$2 bill?
2. The faces of which four presidents are carved on Mt. Rushmore?
3. What was the name of George Washington's home?
4. Who killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel?
5. Which Indian woman accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition?

6. What was Abraham Lincoln dedicating when he delivered the Gettysburg Address?
7. Which president died one month after taking office?
8. How many years is fourscore and seven?
9. What is the oldest town in the United States?
10. What song begins ---"Oh, beautiful for spacious skies...."?

RAINFALL FOR 2018

Normal Rainfall – 52 inches

January –	3.5 inches
February –	14.1 inches
March –	7.8 inches
April –	7.4 inches
May –	1.1 inches
June –	3.5 inches
July –	3.3 inches
August –	2.3 inches
September –	10.8 inches
October –	5.6 inches
November –	7.3 inches
December –	13.8 inches

TOTAL 80.5 INCHES

Answers to Quiz – 1. Thomas Jefferson; 2. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt; 3. Mt. Vernon; 4. Aaron Burr; 5. Sacajawea; 6. Cemetery; 7. William Henry Harrison; 8. 87 years; 9. St. Augustine, Florida; 10. America the Beautiful