

Continuing on down the road for possibly a mile, we came to the home of Mr. Kinkead's father, built in 1876. It is now unoccupied but in a fair state of preservation. It is located on what was once a high bank of the river, a short distance below the Natural Steps. The river has now receded far to the north and there is a field of a hundred acres or more between the high bank and the river. Across the road from Mr. Kinkead's place, to the north, Mr. Max A. Mehlburger owns a farm. His barns and lot are built on top of what is left of the "Natural Steps." Much of it was once blown away with dynamite to secure rock for building. It is now overgrown and can only be seen on the river side by descending through brush and vines. The river is several hundred yards away.

Mr. Mehlburger has bought up land here and developed a farm in recent years. Mr. Kinkead inherited his from ancestors some of whom lived here more than a hundred years ago. Mr. Kinkead grew up in this community and has a stock of stories relating to its history. One is that in Civil War days it was a rendezvous of Bushwhackers and that here they wrought many bloody deeds.

Another is that here once lived an Indian who would go into the woods in the morning and have an understanding with his son to meet him with a wagon at a certain place about 8 a. m. When the son arrived, the father would have already slaughtered five or six deer. These would be brought to Little Rock and sold for \$5.00 each.

Another legend is that Maumelle Mountain, now called "Pinnacle," derived its name from "Maumee" or Mammy, because the twin peaks suggested to an early French pilot on the river the breasts of a woman when he first saw them, and he exclaimed "Maumee," or Mammy.

Mr. Kinkead also remembers that his aunt who lived near the base of Pinnacle once told him that in the early morning as the sun rose over the mountain, she had seen as many as seventy-five deer silhouetted in the sunlight on the side of the mountain. He also recalls that as a youth he earned money by rowing people across the river at this point. His charge was 25 cents per passenger when the river was high, 10 cents when the river was low. This place was also once a picnic ground visited by groups that came up on excursion boats from Little Rock.

The cemetery, the church, the overgrown river bank, and the Kinkead home are about all that is left as evidence of what was once the community of Natural Steps, but ghosts of the past haunt the area. Even an Indian grave was opened a few years ago less than fifty feet from the Kinkead residence.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MINING IN PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

By Philip J. Sterling, Arkansas Geological and Conservation Commission

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