

## **Thomas Oliver Fitzpatrick Family**

**Buried in Loughridge Cemetery: b.Apr.6,1849 d.Feb.5,1940**

**By Paul V. Isbell**

**July 20,2012**

**-In my studies of the local history of St. Francis County, I keep running into the name of Mr. T. O. Fitzpatrick, who, it appears, was the main unofficial historian for Eastern Arkansas, until his passing in 1940. Later on in this narrative, his writings will show that he was a man of strong convictions, and vehement in his beliefs and ideals. He arrived in 1855 with his family from Montgomery County, Tennessee, (he was born in Lauderdale Co., Tenn. where the family was on the 1850 Census) His father purchased 2,000 acres of land from Col. David C. Cross upon arrival, and raised his family just west of modern day Vanndale. First, is his following speech, which was to have been delivered by him at the unveiling ceremony of the Cross County Centennial Marker in Wynne on Feb.22,1938, and when he was unable to be here, it was read by Mrs.T.D.Hare mentioned in the History of Cross County by Robert W. Chowning, in 1955. It is difficult to separate the speech from the other data provided on history of persons in the early days, so bear with the material as presented here.**

**“Ladies and gentlemen, of the great common wealth known as Cross County:When I stand upon this spot and look around, it would require a great effort to imagine that I had been translated to another Planet, so vast and so numerous have been the changes that have been wrought since I first stood here. On the morning of Feb.7,1870, I stood near this exact spot with my surveyors compass and chain, ready to run the dividing line between the lands of Jenkins Newsom and Sam Hambrick. The chain carriers were Alfred Taylor and Elisha Price. Alfred Taylor was an old pioneer and knew much of the early history of the locality. As we started to work he pointed over there toward the stave mill yard, and said, “there is where Yankee Smith took up his donation and built his cabin.” It was then covered with second growth timber saplings briars. Mr. Newsom’s field covered what is now Merriman Avenue. So we conclude Yankee Smith was the first inhabitant of the territory, later to become the town of Wynne. Smith was a native of New York State and got to the territory of Arkansas prior to 1830, as his name appears on the census rolls of that year. Smith was quite a character, among other belongings that he brought with him, was the pattern of an ox yoke, which came into general use. When a boy I drove several teams of oxen, wearing Smith’s yoke. He made several races for the legislature, but was never elected. He did, however, succeed in having the name of this township changed from Franklin to Smith. He was the father of the wives of Washington Hurd, and Columbus Hurd, the very earliest pioneers and founders of Wittsburg. All of the old former residents of this locality remember these two men. That renounced statesman, Champ Clark of Missouri, once remarked that a foreigner coming to Armerica**

would conclude that the New Englanders had made all the history of the country, from the plentitude of markers and tablets in that locality, and their scarcity elsewhere. That is strikingly true of our own locality. We have perpetuated but little of our history and possess nothing but oral tradition. In the hurry of developing our boundless resources we have forgotten the heroes who led the van. Then it may be said that the dedication of this marker ushers in a new Epoch. I think it can be said with complete truth that Col. David C. Cross was the most distinguished citizen that has lived in what we now know as Cross County, and that those individuals through whose efforts this tablet was obtained, are to be commended for their patriotism and Civic pride. Through them the irony of Fate was averted and a historical blunder corrected. Hempstead's was the first general history of the state that was written. At that time both the sources of history and the means of gathering it were meager. Hempstead knew that Judge Edward Cross had at one time been a judge of the Supreme Court of the State and was for a long time, a distinguished citizen. He interred that the county was named for him and so stated in his history. Then when our neighbor, Harry Williams of Jonesboro, wrote his history of Craighead County, he copied the same error in his book. The exact date when Col. Cross reached Crowley's Ridge is not known, but I have documents in my possession bearing his signature that show his presence here before 1844. He was born in North Carolina and in early life came to Shelby County, Tenn., and from there to what was then Poinsett County, Ark. Although he was, from the beginning, a very prominent man, he never sought or held public office. But his influence was predominant and weighty and he was personally known to more people than any other man in this locality. He was known among the early proponents of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad. He was one of the delegates to the Charleston Convention in 1860, from this Congressional District, and favored the nomination of Douglas for President. His argument was that Douglas could be elected and through him war could be averted. He was one of the Douglas electors for the Campaign that followed. In Arkansas the vote for president that year was Brickenridge 28,732; Bell 20,094, and Douglas 5,227. This shows that Col. Cross was in a hopeless minority, but he had the courage of his convictions and the manhood to espouse them. When all hope of averting war was gone, he cast his lot with this state and was one of the first to act in organizing a company for the Confederate Service. This company was formed at old Pineville, and became Company A of the 5<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Regiment of which Col. Cross was chosen Commander. This company contained the flower of the young manhood of this locality. It drew its membership from both the richest and the poorest families, and when its survivors returned at the close of the war and took up the burdens of civil life, there were to the end of their lives, the most substantial and respectable citizens that have ever lived here. Col. Cross was not a man of robust constitution, and the rigor of camp life told on him heavlly, and he resigned from the Army and came home in Feb.1862, and was a constant sufferer from asthma, until his death twelve years later. As I remarked a few minutes ago, our local history is mostly oral, and consequently full of errors. The Arkansas Gazette in its Centennial edition states that no election was held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of the state in 1864. This part of the state was then in the 4<sup>th</sup> district, This statement is not correct. An election was held in Craighead, Cross, and St. Francis counties, and it is from an incident

that occurred in the campaign that preceeded the election that I am enabled to state with absolute certainty that the county was named in honor of Col. David C. Cross. Although the war was going on and all able-bodied men' were needed at the front, there was a full corps of candidates for all the offices from Congressman to Constable. Buck Fountain, whom all old timers remember, was elected Constable of Searcy Township. Professor Alexander M. Winn, who represented Poinsett County two years before when Cross was formed, and, who was then a resident of Cross, was a candidate for re-election. He was opposed by Grandisom M. Sharp. Sharp accused him of not only having been luke-warm toward forming the new county, but of secret hostility and at one of their speaking dates called upon Col. Cross, who was present, to prove his charge and in the cologuy which followed it was brought out that the county was named for Col. Cross. It may not be amiss for me to give a minute description of that particular debate as it will give a glimpse of life as it was lived at that time. The meeting took place at old Pineville in a grove that then stood just west of the William Snowden. It was Sharp's turn to open the debate. He mounted the platform and as he approached the table, unbuckeled a belt with a brand new holster and six shooter and laid it on the table. He then let loose a veritable salvo of accusation against his opponent. When Winn rose to reply, he approached the table cautiously and eyed the artillery on it for nearly a minute. Then he turned to Sharp and said, "Quite an armament! You ought to be out front, you might scare a Yankee, but you can't scare me." He then defended his action by saying that he had been elected to represent Poinsett County and had done his duty and that no reasonable person would demand an apology or expect one. That the population of St. Francis was equally distributed over the county and she would not be materially affected by the loss of part of her territory. But the new county would take from Poinsett the bulk of her territory and wealth and leave her one of the least populous and poorest counties in the state. And this was true. Poinsett did not have 2000 people until 1880. Sharp's pomposity and bombast proved his undoing. He was badly defeated. A platform was erected and a table set upon. But the Legislature never met. The Confederacy collapsed shortly after. In the election in 1864, Benjamin C. Brown of Madison was a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney, but there were no courts that anybody knew about. Brown, after the war, became prominent and for years was chief Council for the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad. Dr. Philip Van Patten was a candidate for Congress against the sitting member, T. B. Handley of Helena. Van Patten got practically all of the votes cast, but the returns never got to Richmond. The doctor charged that they were "marmaduked" on the way. "Marmaduked," at that day and time, was slang parlance for stealing. At the next election in 1866, the war had closed and candidates for all the offices were as thick as hops, and they budded out in the Spring nearly as soon as the leaves did. There were four candidates for Congress and each according to custom, heralded his candidacy with a circular. Dr. Thomas M. Jacks, a large land holder and long time resident of Helena, based his claim on the fact that he had been an out-spoken and consistent Union man, and that the logic of events proved he was right. Col. Asa Hodges of Crittenden County, a large slave holder and planter, based his claim on the ground that he had early in the contest, seen the Error of Secession, and had tried to convert others to his faith. Judge

**William Byers of Batesville based his claim on the fact that he had been absolutely neutral during the war, and that he neither raised his finger or his voice either way. Hence while he might not be entirely acceptable to anybody, he would not be objectionable. Hence he was equipped to represent both Unionist and Rebels with facility and fidelity. Byers logic won him the nomination of a Rump Convention held at Jackson Port. Doctor Van Patten based his claim on the fact that the war was over and that he was again a full fledged American citizen, with all the privileges and perogatives pertaining to citizenship. He refused to abide the action of the Rump Convention and ran as an independent. In the election that followed, Byers was elected, but the Doctor lost nothing by his defeat as Byers was never admitted to his seat. Doctor Van Patten was one of the most skillful physicians and best educated men who have lived in Cross County until his passing in 1890. It was my good fortune to know him well in my early youth. I often think of him with gratitude and reverence.**

**It has been stated that Col. Cross died in abject poverty and was given refuge in his last days by an old friend an neighbor. This is not literally true. At the time of his death he still owned real estate and choses in action in the county and until a few days before his death lived under his own roof. He was attacked by his old malady, the asthma, which quickly developed into pneumonia. Then Perry Wilkins, his neighbor moved him to his home where he died. At the time of his death he had a son, William Reddick Cross, who was a prosperous merchant of Bartlet, Tenn.**

**At this point the question may be asked, "Who was David C. Cross and why did he spring so suddenly from obscurity?" Really, he was obscure only to the historians who did the guessing. David C. Cross was born in North Carolina and in early life he moved to Memphis, Tennessee, I have documents and deeds in my possession which show that he was dealing in lands in Poinsett and St. Francis Counties, Arkansas, as early as 1845. These documents show that at that time he was a man of considerable means. He finally located on one of several farms which he owned in Poinsett County just north of the St. Francis county line two miles and a half south east of the present town of Vanndale. When I moved to Arkansas in 1855, Col. Cross was the most prominent man in that locality and by far the most extensive land holder. My father bought a two thousand acre tract from him in the south end of Poinsett County. The aggregate of Col. Cross' business transactions exceeded those of anyone else in that locality. Wittsburg was then the head of navigation on the St. Francis river and the shipping point of all of Crowley's Ridge clear up to Scatterville in Greene County (later to be Boydsville in Clay County). Surrounding Wittsburg was a thickly settled community of well to do farmers, mostly slave owners. Madison, the county seat of St. Francis and Harrisburg, the county seat of Poinsett county, were fifty miles apart, and people in that locality, no matter whether they lived in St. Francis or Poinsett had to go twenty-five miles to court. So they began to clamor for a new county. I heard the matter discussed by P. Van Patten and Zack Stoddard, rival candidates for the legislature from Poinsett county in 1860. They also discussed the "Wilmot Proviso," but I was not old enough then to understand what that measure provided for. Stoddard's friends charged that Van Patten was a Yankee from**

**New York. Van Patten countered by saying that honors were even. That he was born in rural New York but that Stoddard was born in the rough part of the city. Van Patten was elected. When the war came on Van Patten volunteered as the surgeon for the 13th Arkansas Infantry and Stoddard represented Craighead county in the Confederate legislature. The Legislature of 1860 did not create the new county, it was too busy discussing the impending war. Col. Cross attended the Charleston Convention in 1860 and espoused the candidacy of Stephen A. Douglas for president. In the convention a personal altercation occurred between J. C. Hindman and a man named Hooper who edited a newspaper at Madison called the Madison Journal. After the convention it was rumored that Hooper had challenged Hindman to fight a duel and that Hindman had refused on the ground that Hooper was not his equal. It was stated that Col. Cross was Hooper's second and would take the matter up and that Hindman could not deny that Cross was his equal. Shortly after the convention Col. Cross published a card about it in the "Old Line Democrat" of Little Rock. I read it the week it was published and again a year or two ago in the files of that paper in the State history commission at Little Rock. Col. Cross was one of the Douglas presidential electors for Arkansas in 1860, and held for the Union as long as there 'was hope of saving it. When the state seceded he contributed largely to the expense of equipping a company of volunteers for the Confederacy, which was raised in his neighborhood. This company became Company A of the fifth Arkansas infantry and Cross was elected Colonel when the army was organized at Pocahontas and Chalk Bluff in August, 1861. Col. Cross was not a robust man and in early life became a sufferer from asthma. The rigor of camp life soon got him down and he had to resign as Colonel of his regiment. He returned home in February 1862. When the campaign for members of the Confederate Legislature renewed, Col. Cross was one of the leading proponents, and headed the delegation that went to Little Rock to push the matter through the legislature. It is probable that most of the members of his delegation knew as little of Edward Cross as the guessing historians knew of David Cross. When the delegation left home it was understood that if they succeeded, the county was to bear the name of their leader. The bill to create the new county became act No.2 of that legislature so they must have worked pretty fast. S. L. Austell, named in the bill as County Judge and J. N. Dobson as the sheriff; both lived near Wittsburg. Dr. B. D. McClaren, the clerk, lived near a Little hamlet called Pineville, six miles north west of Wittsburg, The doctor could roll the biggest pills of any man in the world. This I know from horrible experience. A term or two of the county court was held at Pineville near Dr. McClaren's residence and the records were kept at his house where he rolled the big pills when he could get the materials. No term of the circuit court was ever held while the county was under Confederate jurisdiction. Some time in 1864 the county court ordered an election for commissioners to select a permanent county seat. Things were in a chaotic state and when McClellan failed an election most people realized that the confederacy was on its last legs. John Applewhite, W. H. Barnes and John McElroy who had been elected commissioners deferred action until the result could be known as it was feared that the county might die "a borning" as the county had been created by a rebel legislature and the Federal authorities had refused to recognize its existence. When the crash came in April 1865 and Gov. Murphy recognized the county and**

recommissioned its officers the commissioners to locate the county seat asked for donations for citrus. Several were offered, all near the geographic center. Col. Cross offered to donate his residence for a court house and each alternate lot on a 53 acre tract of land around it. His offer was accepted. Col. Cross had the town site surveyed and platted and a nice lithographic map made and the sale of lots advertised to take place on November 25, 1865. The sale was well attended and a number of lots were struck off to purchasers but I did not see a single dollar change hands. The town to be had previously been named Cleburne, in honor of Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, and not for a pioneer, as is stated in "Folk Lore of Romantic Arkansas". At the end of the civil war Wittsburg was emphatically a deserted village. Not a single business house had been open for more than three years, nor more than a dozen families lived there, and only two of the prominent business men of former years were anywhere near. So it was not even a contender for the county seat at that time. But it was quickly revived and being the logical location for the county seat began to clamor for it and a new set of commissioners moved it there in 1868. The contest over the removal was a hectic one but Wittsburg won by a narrow margin. Cleburne, the county seat from 1865 to 1868 soon gathered within its bounds a very formidable array of legal and medical talent, enough in fact to have met the requirements of a very large town. But for the exception of a month or so its business enterprises were confined to one small store. So the professional men had to scatter. Charles S. Cameron, an ex-Federal Colonel, the nominee of the democrats for Congress in the first Arkansas district in 1868, lived there at that time. I last met him in Chicago in 1880. He was then the prosecuting attorney for the County and the City of Chicago. Herndon's history states: Samuel Filingin who got to what later became Cross County in 1797, was the first man to settle in that locality. This is an error. Although Filingin was doubtless the first *permanent white* settler, he was not the first one, nor did he get there in 1797. Professor Josiah H. Shinn, in preparing data for his work "Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas History," (Note 1) made an extensive search of the records of the general land office at Washington, D. C., to ascertain the date of settlement by the Claimants of the Spanish grants taken up while the country was under Spanish rule. He found that John Taylor in 1797 took up and settled on grant No. 498 on the waters of Copperas Creek. State highway 64 runs through this grant about a mile west of Levesque. At least a dozen others of these grants were up about the same time within ten miles of this one. William Russell, a land speculator, who figures largely in land matters in other parts of the territory, bought nearly all of these grants, including Taylor's and the one taken up by Enos Chastinee, on which the town of Wittsburg was laid out. In 1820, twenty years after Taylor took up his grant Filingin bought it from Wm. Russell, Taylor's vendee. The question asked why did Filingin buy land from Russell when boundless area of the public domain lay all around him. The answer to that, he had to buy from Russell if he bought at all, as no one else had land for sale. The survey of the public land had just been started and a land office for the sale of public lands was not opened at Batesville until two years later. From Samuel Tyer, the grandson of Samuel Filingin, I got the following information: In 1815 Samuel Filingin with his own family and his son-in-law, Wright Tyer, and his sons, Samuel and Ajax, and his daughters Sallie and Macey, moved from east Tennessee to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. In 1816 Filingin and Tyer left

**their families at Cape Girardeau and came down to what was then Arkansas County in Missouri territory and made a crop on what is now a part of Section 26, Township 8 N. and Range 3 East. One mile east of where the village of Pineville later sprang up. The next year they brought their families down and became permanent settlers. Ajax Tyer died near Hydrick in Cross County in 1866. Samuel Tyer died three miles north of Wynne in 1891 in six miles of where he settled 74 years before. Macey Tyer and Sallie Tyer each married a brother of Mark W. Izard, the president of the second Arkansas State Senate and later governor of Nebraska territory. Wright Tyer died in 1831. Samuel Filigin Jr. represented St. Francis and Monroecounties in the 18th session of the territorial legislature. When Tyer got to Arkansas in 1855 Ajax Tyer was the internal improvement commissioner for Poinsett County. Some people contended that a boy cannot acquire an education in a wilderness. Ajax did and so did Sam. Samuel Tyer and Ajax will always remain outstanding characters in the history of Cross County. In their youth they helped their father. Wright Tyer, clear his farm on Copperas Creek and when they reached manhood, they entered from the Government the northwest quarter of section 3, township 7 north, range 3 East and settled upon it. This tract later became the home of Squire Rensaleor Vann. In 1840 Ajax Tyer secured the establishment of a post office there called "Mill Ridge." He served as postmaster for 12 years. He was succeeded by Isadore Schisler and he by Squire Vann until it was discontinued. Mill Ridge, now long forgotten, was a post office years. before they had one at Wittsburg.**

#### **Location of Burial Site for Family Members**

**:**

**David Fitzpatrick-(Father)-b.Feb.19,1813 d.Mar.11,1873 (Mount Zion Cemetery, Cross Co.)  
+ Mrs. Clementine Walker-No Children (Wife 1)**

**+Mrs.Pamelia m.Hargrove Fitzpatrick b.Oct.1,1820 d.Apr.30,1881 (Buried in Mount Zion Cemetery, Cross Co., Ark.) Wife 2**

**(Three Children in Bio of T.O.-Marietta, T. O., Isabella)**

**Mr. T. C. Fitzpatrick-dates unknown-Loughridge Cemetery**

**Mrs. Mattie or Marietta m.Fitzpatrick Ford-(Buried in Mount Zion Cemetery, Cross Co., Ark.--b.Aug.23,1850 d.Apr.12,1916**

**+ Rev. C. H. Ford**

**Charles Dennis Ford b.1889**

**Mrs. Isabella m.Fitzpatrick Sanders-Married in 1874 b.Sep.2,1854 d.Sep.24,1936**

**+ Mr. Eldridge Hunter Sanders., Judge b.Jan.18,1848 d.Feb.18,1921-Obit Below**

**Mr. Thomas Oliver Fitzpatrick- b.Apr.6,1849 d.Feb.5,1940 (Loughridge)**

**+ Mrs.Sarah E. m. Eldridge Fitzpatrick-b.Aug.7,1849 d.Oct.5,1927- (Loughridge)**

**Five Children-Eola, Garnett, Ernest D., Kate, and Lee Garfield)**

**Mr. Ernest D. Fitzpatrick-last known in 1927 in Chicago, Illinois**

**Mrs.Kate (Catherine)m.Fitzpatrick Miller-b.Apr.6,1879d.Mar.4,1927Loughridge**

**+Mr. Riley Joe Miller**

**Elizabeth Miller b.1906**

**Mr. Lee Garfield Fitzpatrick-b.Dec.13,1881 d.Aug.11,1962 (Loughridge)**

**+Mrs. Ethel M. Anderson Fitzpatrick -b.May 20,1886 d.Nov.8,1958(Loughridge)**

**Miss Charline Fitzpatrick b.Jul.27,1914 d.Aug.17,1982 (Loughridge)**

**Mrs. Eola m.Fitzpatrick (L.G.) Landon-b.1874 d.1957-Brookside Cem., Indiana**

**+ Mr.Lewis G. Landon b.1868 d.1954 Brookside Cem., Indiana**

**Raymond Landon A. b.1896 d.1918 Brookside Cem.-Obit-In Army**

**Eugene Landon in Army**

**Loyd E. Landon in Army**

**Thomas Landon b.1909 d.1974 Brookside Cem.**

**Robert Landon b.1917 d.1975 Brookside Cem.**

**Louise Landon b.1901 d.1980 Brookside Cem.**

**Evelyn Landon b.1907**

**Mrs.Garnett m. Fitzpatrick Prewett-b.1876-(in1940 Forrest City) Widow**

**+ J. W. Prewett died before 1930 census**

**Sarah E. Prewett b.1905**

**Here is the Goodspeed Biography from 1884:**

**Thomas Oliver Fitzpatrick, a successful resident of St. Francis County, is of Scotch-Irish descent, his great-grandfather having been obliged to come to this country from Ireland for political causes. He struck for the liberty of his countrymen. Upon arriving in the United States in the forepart of the eighteenth century, he served in the Revolutionary War. His son, Edmund Fitzpatrick, (grandfather of our subject) took part in the War of 1812, in which he held the position of captain. He had a family of nine children. David Fitzpatrick, the father of Thomas O., was born in Charlotte County, Va., on February 19, 1813. He was twice married; first to Miss Clementine Walker, a native of Virginia, and next to Permelia (or Pamela) Hargrove who was the mother of three children: Marietta (the wife of Rev. C. H. Ford), Isabella (wife of E. H. Sanders, of Little Rock whom she married in 1874) and Thomas O. David Fitzpatrick was engaged in speculating in real estate until the panic of 1837, when he was financially ruined, after which he followed farming in Arkansas (he and his wife are buried in Loughridge Cemetery). Thomas O. was born in Lauderdale County, Tenn., in April, 1849. He spent his younger days on the farm, and attended the common and high schools of his county, and also had the advantages of a private tutor. On his return from school he was appointed county surveyor of Cross County, which position he held, also giving his attention to teaching, until 1871. He then started the Wittsburg Gazette, the first paper published in that county, which he continued to operate until he was elected clerk of the circuit court, and in this capacity remained until the adoption of the new constitution in 1874, when he was again a candidate on the Republican ticket, but was beaten by seventy votes. Coming to St.**

**Francis County he embarked in farming, and also erected a steam-gin, which has proven a very profitable enterprise. In April, 1872, Mr. Fitzpatrick was united in marriage to Miss Sallie E. Eldridge, and they have five children: Eola, Garnett, Ernest D., Kate and Garfield. In 1883 Mr. Fitzpatrick was appointed postmaster of Forrest City, holding that office until Cleveland's administration. In September, 1886, he was elected county clerk, and still discharges the duties of that position with satisfaction to the community, and with credit to himself. He has also been a candidate on the Republican ticket for State senator. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., K. of L., K. of H. and of the County Wheel. Goodspeed's Biography 1884 .**

**From the History of Cross County, by Robert W. Chowning, in 1955, is a sketch in his own words:**

**The following sketch of his life, Col. Thomas O. Fitzpatrick, written by him for the Wynne Progress Centennial Edition in 1936. He came to Cross county in 1855 and later moved to Forrest City. "I probably reached what is now Cross County at a time farther back in time than anyone now living except Peter Crews, "fiddler," who If still alive resides near Cherry Valley. On Oct.31,1855, when I was six years old, my father settled on13 T8N R5E, three miles west of the present site of Vanndale. Peter Crews' father was a "squatter: on the land and had to move. I saw Pete in Cherry Valley five years ago, and we had a long chat over "old times." My connection with our own county centennial I sent to Washington and procured a photostatic copy of the census rolls of St.Francis county on the north, and the line between the two counties was approximately the same as the present line between Cross and Poinsett. Two townships in St. Francis county, as it then existed, Franklin and Mitchell, composed what is now Cross County. The list which I enclose gives the names of the heads of families who lived within the present limits of Cross county in 1830. It includes the name of Sarah Filingin, who was the wife of Samuel Filingin, who no doubt was the first white settler in Cross County (Except John Taylor). Mr. Filingin bought 80 acres from William Russell, and on his death it passed to his son in law, Wright Tyer, the progenitor of all the Tyers in Cross County, and a still larger number in Texas. Wright Tyer died in 1831, and both He and his father-in-law, Samuel Filingin, are supposed to be buried in the almost forgotten cemetery on Highway 64 between Wynne and Levesque. Isaac Wofford, who founded Wittsburg, and laid it out into lots, is buried there. Note:William Cooper was a Revolutionary army soldier, and lived at the present site of Cherry Valley. The Gazette of July 31,1831, contains the notice of his death. That part of Cross County west of the L'anguille was settled between 1856 and 1860 by emigrants from east Tennessee and north Georgia, whose forebearers were the followers of Andrew Jackson, and they believed that "Old Hickory" meant what he said when he declared "By the Gods, this union must and shall be conserved." Hence they were opposed to secession almost to a man. When the "Conscript" act was passed in 1862, most of them took refuge in the Federal lines. Some were and later turned up as Federal soldiers. When the war was over they returned and formed the nucleus of the Republican party. At the age of 18, I joined them and helped to**

**organize the Republican party. We were known as “Scalawags,” an epithet supposed to be more opprobrious than “carpet bagger.: As I recall it there were only seven men in Cross county who were disenfranchised and refused enrollment by the registrars. Several “Cotton Ed” Smith may have heard about this and concluded to pattern after their example, at Philadelphia the other day. On Jun.2,1871, I issued the first number of the Wittsburg Gazette, Republican in politics, and despite the fact, the people gave me generous support and it was a financial success, whether it won any election or not. However this was not the first paper published in Wittsburg. In 1855 a paper first known as “The Arkansas Traveler” was started. I was never able to ascertain the name of the publisher. He was not allowed to keep the name he first chose. There was already a paper of that name published in Conway county. He then changed the name when challenged to “The Messenger.: It did not flourish, and was not in existence when I got there in 1855. In 1871 I ran for Circuit Clerk of Cross County. I got all the Republican votes and a good sprinkling of Democrats and was elected.**

**From the history of St. Francis County by Robert W. Chowning, 1954:**

**Fitzpatrick Thomas O. was on the steamer Mollie Hamilton when they were carrying Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, his men and equipment to build the railroad thru Crowley’s Ridge in 1866.He also-Rode On the First train thru Forrest City on the-Memphis To Little Rock train, Apr.27,1871.**

#### **CIRCUIT CLERK 1886-1892-ST.FRANCIS COUNTY**

**From the Forrest City Times Newspaper articles about Mr. Fitzpatrick, and or his family:**

**9-13-1895-Landon, Lewis Grafton-Cards are out announcing the marriage of Mr.Lewis Grafton Landon, to Miss Eola Fitzpatrick, which will occur at the house of the bride's parents, Wednesday, 3 o'clock p.m., Sept.25,1895.**

**1-11-1895-Crowley Ridge Institute-Twenty new pupils have been enrolled within the past week, bringing the enrollment up to 250 pupils.. Among the new pupils may be mentioned, Miss Pearl Hale, Of Marianna, Ark.,Will Caldwell, of Caldwell, Bruce Smith, McDaniel, Ernest Fitzpatrick, New Castle, Edwin Colt, Montrose, Colo., Lizzie Vogel, Memphis, Tenn., Ethel Hughes, Haynes, Redford Cherry, Gainesville, Texas.**

**11-1-189 -T. O. Fitzpatrick has been a citizen of Arkansas about forty years yesterday, Oct.30,1895, he settled about four miles west of Vandale when this part of the country was wilderness.**

**3-17-1899-GUESTS IN TOWN THIS WEEK-Miss Annie Young of Madison; M.E.Williams of Colt;Peterson Jackson and son of Democrat;W.J.Todd of Franks township;Peter Bramel of Wheatley;Mrs.J.H.Neeley of Little Rock;G.W.Latimer of Union City, Tenn.;Miss Elise Avery of Hot Springs;Mesdames. Nannie Ezell and Mattie Barlow of Memphis;F.M.Pipkin**

**of Linden;T.J.Withers of Widener;P.H.Neely of Wheatley;Mrs.C.C.Moore of Palestine;Robert Brown of New Castle;W.R.Kendrick of Widener;J.H.Bynum and G.T.Hinson of L'Anguille township;Pete Covington of Madison;Miss Blanche McKie of Vandale;Judge Robertson of Wynne;W.H.Oak of Mud Lake;T.O.Fitzpatrick of New Castle;C.A.Gorum of Palestine.**

**The Republican county executive committee met in Forrest City last Saturday, and elected T.O.Fitzpatrick as Chairman, and C.F.Hemenway as Clerk. About 56 delegates were present and elected T.O.Fitzpatrick and John Blount as delegates to the State convention at Little Rock.-3-23-1900**

**9-26-1902 FITZPATRICK LEE NA FCTIMES Mr.Lee Fitzpatrick has been commissioned to be postmaster at Colt, vice Mr.Harry Moseley.**

**Prewett, Garnett Fitzpatrick Mrs. age 25 M.1903-01-21 Husband:> Prewett J. W. 22 I-378**

**1-23-1903-FITZPATRICK-PREWETT=A very pleasing sensation was sprung on their numerous relatives and friends Tuesday evening by Miss Garnet Fitzpatrick and Mr. J. W. Prewett, when they emerged from the residence of Rev. W. C. Davidson, and announced they were man and wife. Miss Fitzpatrick is the daughter of Mr.& Mrs. T. O. Fitzpatrick of Telico township, and Mr.Prewett is the son of Mr.& Mrs. John M. Prewett, where they are now residing. Mr. Prewett is engaged in the land surveying and real estate business. The wedding was delayed by reluctance of the bride's father to agree to the union.**

**9-29-190 -FITZPATRICK-ANDERSON=Mr.Lee Fitzpatrick, youngest son of Hon. and Mrs.T.O.Fitzpatrick, and Miss Ethel Anderson, were married at New castle at Forrest Chapel church on Wednesday, by Rev. W. C. Davidson.**

**3-10-1905-The Times received a business letter from Mr. Ernest D. Fitzpatrick of Memphis, advising us of his position with the Tennessee Fibre Company. He is the eldest son of Hon. T. O. Fitzpatrick of this county.**

**5-4-190 -Mrs. Riley J. Miller, nee Miss Katie Fitzpatrick, who had been visiting her parents, Hon.& Mrs.T.O.Fitzpatrick, has returned home to Cotton Valley, Alabama.**

**10-5-1906-Ad for temporary carrier for Rural Free Delivery mail route No.1 from Forrest City, \$55.50 per month. See postmaster, Mr. T. O. Fitzpatrick.**

**2-21-1908 - FIRE AT COLT-A disastrous fire occurred at Colt Wednesday morning, Feb.19,1908 at the store and post office of Mr. Lee G. Fitzpatrick plus the general store of Mr. Nat Williams were destroyed.**

**6-11-1909-PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSES-Prof. C. H. Lambert reported the following for the school year just ended June 5,1909: Total enrollees, 317, average attendance 269.32;W. J. Lanier-President/J. G. Sanders-Secretary/T. A. Buford/T. O. Fitzpatrick.**

**6-24-1910-The formation of a new bank, the Planters Bank & Trust Co.in Forrest City had opened, Hon. T. O. Fitzpatrick Chairman, Mr. E. L. Vadakin Secretary. Mr. H. P. Gorman of Searcy to be the Cashier.**

**7-22-1910-7 18 1833-7 15 1910-Death of Mary Payne Mosley Eldridge=On last Friday afternoon, July 15,1910, there passed to its Maker the soul of Mrs.Mary Payne Eldridge, who was stricken with paralysis Wednesday morning preceding her death. Mrs. Eldridge was in her 77 th year, having been born in Dixon County, Tennessee, July 18,1833. She came to this country with her parents at the age of 5 years. She was the daughter of the late Mr. W. S. Mosley, who was one of the pioneers of this county, and who in 1840 represented St. Francis County in the General Assembly. She joined the Methodist church at the age of 18 years, and was a consistent member of that faith until her death. At the age of 17, she married Mr.Solomon Eldridge, and to this union four children were born, three of whom survive her-Mrs. J. F.Stout of this city; and Mrs. H. O. Eldridge and Mrs. Carrie Parrish of Parkin, Ark. She is also survived by a sister, Mrs.T. O. Fitzpatrick, of this city. Soon after her marriage, they moved to Missouri, where they resided until her husband's death, having returned to this city in the early 60's, and she had resided here ever since, having made her home for the past twenty-five years with Mr.& Mrs. J. F. Stout. The remains were laid to rest in Loughridge cemetery, the Rev.B.L.Wilford presiding.**

**4-21-1911-Rural route three has been established by the USPS, per Mr. T. O. Fitzpatrick, Postmaster. It will serve a large part west of the city, one hundred and forty boxes established. The carrier will cover the area south of the Rock Island railroad and west in the morning, and in the afternoon north of the Rock Island and west side, covering a trip of twenty four and one eight miles.**

**7-12-1912-Mrs.Lewis G.Landon, nee Miss Eola Fitzpatrick, accompanying her two manly sons, Masters Eugene and Thomas, arrived on Wednesday from their home in Windfall, Indiana to visit several weeks with her father, Capt. T. O. Fitzpatrick and family.**

**10-11-1912 -Mr. E. L. Horton, prominent merchant and planter of Johnson township, and who is Secretary of The St. Francis River Plantation, in Pittsburg, left Wednesday for Springfield, Illinois, where he will meet with his associates, and attend the big**

**Springfield fair. Mr.Horton is a member of the company that bought the Fitzpatrick lands consisting of 2200 acres in the St.Francis valley.**

**02/06/14 Considerable talk about the successor to the Hon.T.O.Fitzpatrick as postmaster of Forrest City about the four aspirants.**

**08/14/14 Mr.and Mrs. Lee G. Fitzpatrick welcomed a baby girl named Charline, on Monday, Aug.10. Colt Times**

**09/21/17-Letter from Mr. Ernest Fitzpatrick from France where he recently went with the American aviation corps to his sister, Mrs.Garnette Prewett, stating that he was in an accident and sent back to the states to recover, at Hammondsport, New York. He further states that he doubts if he will ever return to Arkansas or see any of you again, and hopes to return to France before Christmas.**

**11/20/19-Oil well to be drilled in St.Francis County on the property of T. O. Fitzpatrick's place near New Castle.**

**05/13/20-Mr. T. O. Fitzpatrick advised the status of the well is at 1,350 feet, and they expect to finish by the middle of June, and will go as far as 3,500 feet.**

**Obit:Feb.18,1921- Eldridge Hunter Sanders, Judge, aged 73, for many years justice of the peace, died at the family residence, 1404 Hanger street, at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon after an illness of five years. Judge Sanders was born January 8, 1848, at Wesley, Shelby County, Tenn. He enlisted in the Forrest cavalry, with which he served throughout the war. He was seriously wounded and was an invalid for years. After recovering, Judge Sanders moved to Cross county, where he served as circuit clerk. At that time the county seat was at Wittsburg, a town since then abandoned. He married Miss Belle Fitzpatrick in 1874 and six years later moved to Newport, remaining there only a short time. He then came to Little Rock and had been in public life since. His first position in Little Rock was on the business force of the Arkansas Gazette, then published under Judge Tom Martin. After serving in this capacity for several years, Judge Sanders served as a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Anderson Mills. Under the administration of Mayor Louis Fletcher, Judge Sanders served as chief of police. He later owned a livery stable located on the present site of the Gazette building. Judge Sanders was defeated for judge by Joe Asher by a small margin. He then became a justice of the peace and while holding that position is said to have a record for marrying couples. It is said Judge Sanders united more than 530 couples. While justice of the peace, Judge Sanders studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1915, shortly after which his eyesight began failing him. During the long period while the "justice shop system" in Little Rock was under fire, Justice**

**Sanders' court always was exempted from criticism. There never was any charge that he permitted charges to be trumped up against accused persons in order to secure fees. The confidence that Little Rock residents had in Judge Sanders' integrity was shown by the fact that the great bulk of civil cases was tried in his court although at times there were nearly a dozen justice courts in operation in Little Rock. While he was employed by the Gazette, Judge Sanders was the boon companion of Opie Reed who then was beginning to win fame with his writings in the Gazette. Judge Sanders had a whimsical turn of mind and while he was conducting a justice court, he had displayed in his courtroom a large conspicuous sign reading: "Don't Howl Too Loud for Justice; You Might Get It." Judge Sanders is survived by his wife, Mrs. Belle F. Sanders; one brother, A. V. Sanders, 1515 West Nineteenth Street and an adopted son, Thomas D. Ford, all of Little Rock. Judge Sanders was a member of the Winfield Memorial church, also of Forest Camp No. 5, W.O.W. Funeral services will be held at 3:30 this afternoon in charge of the Rev. James Thomas, assisted by the Rev. W. R. Harrison. Burial will be in Oakland cemetery. Pallbearers will be active--Will Akers, D. B. Renfro, Earl V. Frazier, Judge Lee Miles, Walter Kirst and Burns Brodie; honorary--W. E. Lenon, S. C. Bossinger, Dan Hunter, W. C. Fletcher, F. A. Garrett, Dan D. Quinn, Capt. J. H. Shoppach and Clifton Evans. katheysaunders added this on 13 Apr 2011 to the Saunders/Sanders/Epperson Family Tree on website: Note 2**

**10/10/22-Cotton Crop of St.Francis County announced by L. G. Fitzpatrick, of Colt, special agent of the Dept.of Agriculture. Prior to Sep.25 their were 6,172 bales processed of the 1922 crop.**

**11/14/22/ Tuesday- L. G. Fitzpatrick reports that 21,219 bales of cotton ginned as of Nov.1,1922 in St. Francis County.**

**11/28/22 Tuesday-L. G. Fitzpatrick reports that 24,286 bales of cotton ginned as of Nov.14,1922 in St. Francis County.**

**01/08/25-T. O. Fitzpatrick sells his 1,576 acre plantation in St.Francis county to Mr. J. L. Dobbins of Shelby Co., Tenn. for approximately \$50,000.**

**11/12/25-L. G. Fitzpatrick reports 21,211 bales of cotton baled in St.Francis county prior to Nov.1,1925 compared to 17,198 last year.**

**07/22/26-10-4-1862 to-7-17-1926-Forrest Park Cemetery-Mrs.Mary Anna Stout passed away at the family residence in Forrest City Sunday night, July 17,1926, following an illness of about one year. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. W. V. Womack Tuesday at the residence, interment following in Forrest Park cemetery, south of town. Pall bearers were as follows:Active: Chas. H. Havens, Albert Grobmyer, John Dillon,**

**James Cranor, P. H. Buford, and Clyde Horton. Honorary: J. D. Baugh, J. F. McDougal, J. M. Prewett, C. A. Ahlstedt, W. H. Aldridge, Ed Bonner, E. L. Horton, and W. J. Lanier. Out of town attendants included Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Stout and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hood of Harrisburg; Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap of Brinkley; Mr. and Mrs. Johnson of Newport; Mrs. R. Zeek of Little Rock; and O. H. Perry, G. T. O'Neil, and O. F. Toler of Memphis. Mrs. Mary Anna (Eldridge) Stout was born in the state of Missouri on the 4th day of October, 1862. When a small child she moved to St. Francis county with her widowed mother. On the 3rd day of March, 1886, she was married to J. F. Stout. There were five children born to this union, three of them still living. Loved ones surviving Mrs. Stout include her husband, J. F. Stout of Forrest City; Dr. Luther Franklin Stout, of Brinkley; Willfred Franklin Stout, of Memphis, Tenn.; Thomas Willburn Stout of Forrest City, all sons of deceased; a grandson, J. F. Stout; two sisters, Mrs. H. O. Eldridge, and Mrs. Cora Parish of Wynne; one aunt, Mrs. T. O. Fitzpatrick, of Newcastle. Mrs. Stout became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in early childhood, and remained a member of same until death.**

**10/13/27-8-7-1849-to 10-5-1927-Mrs. Sarah E. Eldridge Fitzpatrick died Wednesday night, Oct. 5, 1927, of last week at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Garnett Prewett. Mrs. Fitzpatrick's death was not unexpected, but came nevertheless as a great sorrow to her family. She had been ill for about seven years, and was practically confined to her bed for the past two years. Mrs. Fitzpatrick was born Aug. 7, 1849, and was reared in the county near Newcastle. She was the daughter of Mr. James M. and Mrs. Sarah E. Eldridge, pioneer St. Francis County settlers, (per the 1850 Census for Johnson Township). She was married on Apr. 10, 1872 to Thomas O. Fitzpatrick, and the first three years of their marriage was spent at Wittsburg, then the seat of Cross county, where Mr. Fitzpatrick was in business and editor of the Wittsburg Gazette. At the end of that time, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzpatrick came to the old home near Newcastle, where their children were born and reared, and where she has since made her home. Mrs. Fitzpatrick is survived by her husband, two daughters, Mrs. L. G. Landon of Windfall, Indiana, and Mrs. Garnett Prewett of Forrest City; two sons, Ernest Fitzpatrick of Chicago, Illinois, Lee Fitzpatrick of Colt, and nine grand children. Funeral services were conducted Sunday from Mrs. Prewett's home by Rev. Roberson, pastor of the Methodist church at Colt, and Rev. Wright of Widener. Interment was in the old Loughridge cemetery near Newcastle, where all of the deceased members of the family are interred. Mrs. Landon was in attendance at the funeral of her mother. The passing of Mrs. Fitzpatrick decreases the number of the few remaining early settlers of this county. But such is life, that all who are born must die.**

**01/03/29-The T. O. Fitzpatrick farm consisting of 2,000 acres has been purchased, and the group will spend over \$200,000 for development by a group of men from Elmwood and**

**Lincoln, Nebraska, and will be developed as an orchard, if a hard surface road is prepared to Colt.**

**08/08/29-Mr. T. O. Fitzpatrick, his daughter, Mrs. Garnett Prewett, and grand daughter, Miss Sarah Prewett left on motor trip to Virginia to visit Lynchburg, Appomattox, Norfolk, and Charlotte County. Patrick Henry is buried in Charlotte county, where T. O.'s grand father was a neighbor.**

**Note 1:** [http://www.archive.org/stream/pioneersandmake01shingoog/pioneersandmake01shingoog\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/pioneersandmake01shingoog/pioneersandmake01shingoog_djvu.txt)

**Note 2:** <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=anita916sa&id=I04618>