

Isabella Postoffice Established In 1870's

(By J. B. Herd)

A man by the name of Bratton moved near here from Kentucky and settled on a small farm near a stream now known as Bratton Spring creek. (This was about the year 1870—date supplied by J. C. Harlin). He traded a gray mare for his farm and then put in a small stock of goods. He then began working for a postoffice and mail route. He was successful in getting the office and named it Isabella. This office was located about 2½ miles from where the office now stands. The Bratton Springs are now known as Martin Springs.

The post office was located on a small ridge of land lying between Bratton Spring creek and Little North Fork river. These small streams are now a part of Bull Shoals lake.

The first medical doctors in this area were: Doctor Jim Small, Dr. Bell, Dr. Jeff Garrison, Dr. A. C. Elliott, Dr. G. J. Edmonds, Dr. Napier and Dr. P. J. McCullough. These were back in the years of 1880 and 1890. There is no medical doctor here now.

About the first merchants here were Ed Coker and High Noe. Then came Jeff Campbell, Thomas Lawrence, P. H. Martin and Newt Turnbo. Next came James M. Herd and Jim Gordon. Then John B. Herd, Sr., Wood and Reed, Bill Lymond, C. E. Haskins, S. T. Edmonds, Lonnie Blisard, James Lawrence, Thomas Allen, J. W. Jones, Clay Brown, Thomas Martin, Jack K. Pettit and Kyle Store.

Ed Coker at one time operated a cotton gin and later a cotton gin and corn mill was operated by C. E. and Marion Haskins who were brothers. One of the early mills was operated by horses tramping on a belt.

Back in the 1880's there was a small corn mill located near where the post office was located. It was a water mill owned

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Isabella, Arkansas
(N. Central Part)

by Perry Martin; later owned by Sam Guinn.

The post office was established in the 1870's. This land was very cheap at the time as it was bought in as school land being located in the 16th section. It was bought by John A. Graham in the year 1879. The mail at the beginning started from here to Yellville, Arkansas, a distance of 40 miles by way of Oakand, Arkansas. It crossed White river by ferry boat at what is known as Paces ferry. Then by the way of Flippin, Arkansas. The mail went into Yellville on one day and came back the next and was carried by horseback. At the same time a mail route extended from here to Ava, Missouri, a distance of 40 miles. It went to Ava one day and came back the next. Then a mail line from Gainesville to Protem, a distance of 40 miles by way of Isabella.

Once a carrier from Protem, on a very cold day in 1888, came up to the office with his shoes frozen to the stirrups of his saddle. J. M. Herd, the postmaster, took a hammer and broke the ice from his shoes and

helped him from his saddle. The carrier's name was Billie Holt. Now we have highways and railroads for the daily mails.