

Transcription of Willie Garner's Diary
Book 1: May 13, 1913 to October 30, 1917
Book 2: November 17, 1917 to

Journal entries are by different authors: W.L. "Willie" Garner, Sterling Garner (5/31/1898), Frank Garner, and Willie's wife. Most entries record the weather and what people were doing. There were a lot of deaths and illnesses recorded.

Mr. Garner recorded four railroad accidents at Moccasin Creek bridge, Guion, and Piney Creek bridge and one nearby Calico Rock between 1913-1915. No injuries until the 1915 accident near Calico Rock.

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| January 6, 1913 | Bill White was found dead in the mill race at Berry. He had been missing since Christmas Eve 1912 |
| January 18, 1913 | W.E. Smith died at Little Rock |
| May 15, 1913 | Helped unload a car of flour for the wholesale company |
| July, 1913 | Helped unload a rail car of salt, rail car of flour, and rail car of sugar for Garner's Wholesale House |
| October 1, 1913 | Help do some work around the college in Calico Rock (business school) |
| December 25, 1913 | Roe Whitfield died |
| February 16, 1914 | Mud pipe at mill busted, had to take down back of furnace and raise boiler to get it fixed |
| February 17, 1914 | Worked on boiler, rebuilt furnace, rebuilt boiler, came home late and turned over my wife's churn of milk |
| March 23, 1914 | About 200 farmer wagons in town mostly loading out with wire fencing and fertilizer |
| March 25, 1914 | Election day |
| April 5, 1914 | Went to Massey's place to look at some land |
| May 6, 1915 | Wind storm "blowed down" several houses and barns near Wideman Church house and houses at Mammoth Spring |
| May 15, 1914 | Train wreck on railroad at Moccasin Creek bridge. 9 cars wen through the bridge and mashed into kindling wood. No injuries |
| May 24, 1914 | Fire alarm at 1:00 a.m. for fire at McAnaly Produce. Hen house building |

was totally destroyed. Bucket gang prevent spread of fire.

June 3, 1914 Steve McNeil's wife died this morning. Buried at Spring Creek this evening.

June 14, 1914 Have not had a "season in the ground" since May 4th

July 13, 1914 Commenced to building a shed along side of gin house to cover space between gin and mill

July 25, 1914 There had been 10-12 horses and mules that died on lumber hauls from Band Mill caused by heat and dust

August 6, 1914 Mamie and Rose came in from Fargo, Oklahoma for a few weeks at home

August 11, 1914 First rain since May 4th

August 24, 1914 Mamie's Birthday (turned 23)

September 3, 1914 Rosa's Birthday (turned 30)

September 14, 1914 General Election Day

September 28, 1914 First day of court at Melbourne

January 21, 1915 Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Garner delivered a daughter (16 kids total now)

February 3, 1915 Went up to Claude James old mill stand for a load of lumber

February 23, 1915 Moved up to house I have been building a room onto, known as the Brack Hicks place

March 3, 1915 Left for Oakland, Arkansas. Got off train at Flippin. Took rig for Oakland, rained on the way to Oakland about 5:30 p.m., met Mr. Goodman and walked up to river in rain, crossed mouth of Little North Fork through a field for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, crossed slough, went over a bluff, and back down to river to Goodman's house. Boat wet and hungry. Rained all night. River high.

March 4, 1915 River still rising. Got in Page's gasoline boat and went back to Oakland. Visited a new button factory. Went back to Goodman's house by boat and stayed the night.

March 5, 1915 Went back to Oakland in motor boat. Still cold and river high. Got my business done with Page (Page owed him a bill). Stayed all night with George Billing, the mail carrier at Flippin.

March 6, 1915 Left with Billing for Flippin. Took turns walking and riding to the river about 5 miles. River too high to ferry. Sent horse back to Oakland. Crossed river in small boat, got a horse on this side of the river and road to Flippin. Arrived at 11:40 a.m. Left Flippin at 4:00. Arrived at Calico at 6:00 p.m. He was 'all stove up' but home again.

July 1915 Fish caught: willow cat, blue cat, trout, eel, perch and red horse

November 29, 1915 Railroad wreck nearby killed 5 men. First recorded deaths by train accident.

January 10, 1916 Bob Benton sold his grocery store to a Kansas City milling company while will run a wholesale flour and feed store.

January 24, 1916 Sold four bales of cotton at 12 cents per pound or \$228

January 29, 1916 River up 36 feet at 6:00 and still rising. People moving out of lowlands. Wagon bridge is floating now.

January 30, 1916 Rained all day. Moving stuff from the gin to higher ground. River up to 41 feet.

January 31, 1916 Gin house on a float. J.T. Garner Bros. Company and wagon shed and four new wagons were washed down stream. Harry Kearsley shop and Guthrie's shop went down river with several other buildings.

River reached 53 feet, 3 feet above August 1915. Highest ever recorded

February 1, 1916 River down 8 feet. All bridges out. Mud so deep in bottom people can't get to town.

February 5, 1916 Can't grind because mill buildings wrecked from high water. Railroad damaged so no trains either.

February 19, 1916 Sold my interest in the mill and gin to A.J. and G.W. Killian for \$650

April 19, 1916 Bad train wreck at Piney Creek bridge. Eight cars went in the creek. One man crippled badly. One man under a car of coal.

May 7, 1916 Went in the White Eagle Mine about 300 feet at Rush. Case of small pox broke out today.

May 9, 1916 Ore mills being built at White Eagle Mine at Rush.

May 10, 1916 Philadelphia Mine on Clabber Creek.

May 13, 1916 Soda factory being built at old Rush and new town

May 18, 1916 Went up to Red Cloud Mine, one of the largest mines at Rush

May 24, 1916 Mr. Garner had returned to Calico Rock. John Dosier came in from Rush with three bullets in his leg having been shot by a man at Rush.

June 8, 1916 Negro Minstrel Show in Calico Rock

June 16, 1916 Went out three miles NW of Pineville to help Bullock brothers put up a saw mill for cutting timber to make brackets for telephone company

July, 1916 Hot and dry. Many days over 100 degrees.

July 15, 1916 Temperature is 102 degrees in the shade. A man from New Mexico came in town in an automobile. This was the first automobile in Calico Rock.

January 3, 1917 W.O.W. had a meeting and recruited 17 new members in Calico Rock.

March 10, 1917 Mrs. J.W. Copp died this evening.

March 31, 1917 Sterling Garner's birthday (age 19)

May 11, 1918 Wind storm did much damage in IZARD County. Bridges washed out. Crops washed out. One death. Several homes destroyed in Boswell and Mt Olive area.

May 22, 1918 72 boys from IZARD County enlisted to serve in the U.S. Army

June 8, 1918 Total eclipse of the sun recorded at 5:30 p.m.

August 4, 1918 Temperature 110 degrees

Lots of recorded entries in 1918 where they went across the river to work at the mill

September 12, 1918 Registration day for men 18-21 and 31-45 for the U.S. Army

September 17, 1918 Commenced to help Killian and Berry put up their cotton press

September 29, 1918 Bettie Garner's Birthday

Children gave their mother a fine oil stove for her birthday.

October 8, 1918 Ernest Farris moved up on Calico Creek to his new saw mill.

October 9, 1918	Fair at Calico Rock canceled because of the Spanish Flu
October 24, 1918	Railroad puts an embargo on cotton and it cannot be shipped because of the Spanish Flu. Price of cotton dropping because buyers can't draw on it.
November 1, 1918	World War I News: Turkey Surrendered (good news)
November 11, 1918	Germany Surrendered. War is over.
November 13, 1918	Dave Perryman died last night.
November 16, 1918	First aeroplane to come to Calico Rock
December 26, 1918	Rodman Brothers Hardware Co closes. Sold stock to store in Batesville
January 9, 1919	Gene Peck bought Dr. Milburn's old drug store on lower side of street that they are now using as Peck's Opry House
January 1919	Spanish flu all over town as well as rest of county
January 11, 1919	Most everybody is sick with Spanish Flu
February 24, 1919	Bob Guthrie, Judge Copp, and Dr. Matthis each received a new Ford car
March 10, 1919	Walt Rodman bought J. J. Stockard's stock of groceries
March 11, 1919	T.D. Haile and George Clark bought Weller's stock of goods
April 2, 1919	Lee Talbert is opening up a stock of goods in Jim Woods' store building
	Bob Benton moved to his new store (produce house)
April 8, 1919	W.L. Garner installed a phone in his house
May 1, 1919	Neil Brooks returned from France (World War I, U.S. Army)
May 2, 1919	Surveyors commenced the preliminary survey of a state highway from Calico Rock to intersection of state highway being surveyed from Melbourne (Highway 56). If the road is built it will be a great boon for Calico Rock.
May 19, 1919	Commenced to excavate for foundation for big hardware store

May 30, 1919 A company was organized to build a flouring mill and Garner took stock in the company. Garner will help to build it and probably run it after it is running

June 16, 1919 Commenced to lay off ground to build the flouring mill. Known as the White River Milling Company of Calico Rock

June 20, 1919 Put in concrete foundation for the mill.

July 1, 1919 Put up part of the frame of the first story above the basement of mill.

July 25, 1919 Worked at mill. Putting in wheat bins. Getting ready to put in machinery when it arrives.

August 1, 1919 Put in concrete base for engine at mill.

August 5, 1919 J.J. Stockard, a merchant in town, died today.

August 6, 1919 Put in engine at the mill.

August 8, 1919 Got flour mill started up. Ground about 50 pounds.

August 9, 1919 Ground 800 pounds of flour,

September 17, 1919 Sterling Garner drew \$1,000 on Monette Wholesale Grocery Company

September 21, 1919 W.L. Talbert's store robbed last night.

October 23, 1919 Going to put in elevator at mill.

October 28, 1919 Bill Jones sold his place to Mrs. Taylor of Wideman. Bill Jones bought old man Steve Payne out and Steve Payne bought out Jap Estes.

November 10, 1919 A government steamer went up the river this evening. First boat that has been up the river in several years.

November 18, 1919 John Wray sold his grocery business to Frank Sanders

November 19, 1919 C.F. Lock bought a business lot from Ben Sanders going to put up a stone building

January 1, 1920 W.L. Garner sold his stock in the mill to Jesse Wade. He will take charge on January 10, 1920

February 2, 1920 Bought Watson and Ed Talburt out of the grocery business. Rosa taken half interest with me.

March 26, 1920 River reached 32 feet mark. 8 inches more and it would have gotten in the store.

April 2, 1920 Got our first can of ice cream in today at the grocery store.

April 9, 1920 Moved my store house west 30 feet to put up stone building Mr. B.F. Sanders will build.

May 9, 1920 Dedication day at Staggs Cemetery

March 19, 1923 Left for Little Rock

April 7, 1923 Fire in Calico Rock destroys town. Spark from locomotive.

J.F. Garner Merchantile Co
Billingsley & Company
Barber Shop
R.L. Hayden Store
Ernest Billingsley
W.L. Garner & Co
Bob Sharp
George A. Clark
Fraternity Hall
Dr. Smith, Dr. Matthews, and Judge Copp offices
Wiseman Hotel

Town loss: \$200,000. Garner loss: \$1,800-\$2,000

April 8, 1923 Garner returned from Little Rock

April 11, 1923 Commenced to rebuilding restaurant

April 18, 1923 Neil Brooks and Audrey Garner married

April 20, 1923 Will reopen restaurant tomorrow, first since fire

May 9, 1923 Garners settled with railroad for \$1,100

June 27, 1923 Wind blew down wall of the old Golden Rule Store

July 9, 1923 Started building new road from Calico Rock to Wild Cherry (Highway 223)

August 2, 1923 Received a car load of machinery for the road construction

September 9, 1923 All the new store buildings are nearing completion

September 17, 1923 Got moved into new store buildings. Served supper at restaurant

September 20, 1923 Large crowd at the Calico Rock Fair. Good business at restaurant.

September 23, 1923 Officers arrested a lot of moonshiners and confiscated stills across the river. Served 16 officers at the restaurant.

September 24, 1923 Nigger Jim Strong died last night

October 6, 1923 5 or 6 revenue officers went across river looking for a moonshine still and had not returned by 7:00 p.m

October 10, 1923 Garner Brothers Wholesale moved into their new building.

November 9, 1923 Herbert and Roosevelt Garner moved into their new barbershop

November 25, 1923 W.L. Garner turned 65 years old

December 23, 1923 Ray Perryman and Velma McSpadden married

First service in the new Christian church today
Calico Rock Presbyterian Church holds Sunday School in new church

April 7, 1924 Over half of buildings have been rebuilt a year after fire

April 16, 1924 Broke ground for new Methodist Church on Main Street

May 7, 1924 J.D. Harris went near Iuka and confiscated a small still

June 11, 1924 4 inches of rain and hail in 2 hours washed out bridges and ruined crops

June 17, 1924 Heavy rains and wind blew down blacksmith shop, roof off Garner Warehouse, and blew down Garner wagon shed

August 1924 W.L. Garner died

September 6, 1924 Sterling Garner began writing in the journal
Went to show last night at Gem Theatre

September 8, 1924 E.M. Harris bought the restaurant

September 9, 1924 Closed deal on restaurant today
September 16, 1924 Aeroplane carried passengers today at the Calico Rock Fair
October 1, 1924 Wiseman started their new restaurant today
October 5, 1924 H.W. Smith family drove to Melbourne in their overland car

February 4, 1928 Jeffery Department Store started a big sale today
February 25, 1928 E.B. Watts bought Barnett's Filling Station for \$1,000
March 15, 1928 Calico Rock Motor Company and W.H. Wayland received a car of
 fertilizer each
April 3, 1928 Mississippi Arkansas Construction Company received a car of 2,300
 pounds of dynamite to build the highway north of Calico Rock
 (Highway 5)
May 9, 1928 Hayden building an addition to their store