

Johnson County, Arkansas: The First Hundred Years (Classic Reprint)

Ella Molloy Langford

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The realization of the need for a record, or history, of Johnson County was thrust upon me some half dozen years ago when I had been solicited by a collector of state history to furnish a brief from Johnson County. In my endeavor to comply with that request, I found that I had encountered a rather difficult task. Many persons knew much in a vague sort of fashion, but facts were few. And the old settlers, from whom one could have obtained them, were gone beyond recall.

I inquired and found no one inclined to undertake a similar work, therefore, I imposed the task upon myself. I was born in Johnson County, and I feel that it.s hi.story belongs to me and my children.

Many worthy and highly esteemed persons have doubtless not been given a proper place in this book, but the facts have been gathered, a bit here and a bit there, covering a space of several years, and I assure you, any omission was from lack of knowledge.

Especially have I endeavored to deal with persons and events as much as possible up to the year 1880, and their relationship to the present. Biographies have been my principal stumbling block. Sometimes I almost weakened in that endeavor, lest they should not be accurate in every detail. Yet, to posterity, nothing in this little volume will be more interesting, nor of more value. I could only give these themes in part, nothing more was at hand. They were taken from old sketches given by the settlers themselves, to some publication, or from booster editions of newspapers, or from verbal speech from some member of the families.

From necessity, some facts herein have been taken from other volumes, but not without privilege first being obtained from those concerned.

I am indebted to many persons for their assistance in various ways. I must place extra stress upon the untiring patience of Mr. J.V. Hughes, Sr., for my consultation to his store of knowledge was indeed frequent. Also, Hons. Robert Gray, G. T. Cazort, E. T. McConneil, W. D. Allnutt, J. R. Cazort, V.Howell, J.M. Laster, T. C. Jarnigan, Dr. John Lothers, Mrs. W.Dodge, Mrs. J. A. Carter, Mrs. J. H. Jamison and Miss Ethel Srygley. Also the following who have passed to the Great Beyond since my work was begun: Capt. W. H. McConneil, Hon.D. N.Clark, Mrs. Lucy M. Mears, Mrs. Rachel Butts and many others who have contributed, both living and dead. Thus I submit this Volume to you, my friends you of whom I would rather have written, because you are of my life, but that was not my object. That work must be left for someone in the future. And may you accept this in the same sincere spirit in which I present it to you.

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