

by Dr. McAlexander at Smithville for a short time in 1881.

The Monthly Shoobook, a Shantin quarterly, was started at Smithville in 1888 by Rev. J. W. Townsend. In April 1897, it was changed to a weekly.

The Homecroft, at Smithville, was published for a while about 189-11, by John R. Barnett, later of the Imboden Gazette.

WALNUT RIDGE.

The Lawrence County Journal was started at Walnut Ridge in March, 1877, by J. H. Shading, who had moved from Deval's Bluff to Beebe in 1875 and from the latter place to Walnut Ridge. In 1888 this newspaper was sold to C. B. Oldham, who changed its name to the Courier. It suspended in about 1885.

The Lawrence County Democrat, at Walnut Ridge, was founded by Wrenn & Jones in 1884. Mr. Jones sold his half interest to Mr. Phelps in 1885. In July, 1886, George Thornburgh bought the half interest of Mr. Phelps and soon thereafter bought the other half interest from Mr. Wrenn, and changed the name of the paper from Democrat to Telephone. Mr. Thornburgh moved to Little Rock in November, 1889, but continued to conduct the Telephone at Walnut Ridge until April, 1890, when he sold it to H. L. Bagg, who, in November of the same year, sold it to Geo. W. Anderson and Miss Annie King. The Telephone was converted into a daily newspaper at about this time, but the daily issue was soon discontinued. The weekly edition also suspended in recent years. George Thornburgh is one of Arkansas' best known citizens. He has served in the legislature, has received high honors in Masonry, been president of the Arkansas Press Association and publisher of the Arkansas Methodist. He is prominent in church circles and in prohibition activities, and is now the superintendent of the State School for the Blind.

The Masonic Trowel was established in 1887 by George Thornburgh at Walnut Ridge. It was moved to Little Rock in November, 1889, when Colonel Thornburgh came here to live.

The Lawrence County Republican was established at Walnut Ridge in 1887. S. J. Howe was its publisher, to be succeeded by Geo. W. Dugan.

The Blade (at Walnut Ridge) was started at about the same time as the Republican, and the two papers were consolidated in 1891 as the Blade, which was suspended for a while. Beginning in 1897 it was published by J. C. Riley, of Kansas, who continued to publish it until about 1920, when F. C. Kirkpatrick succeeded him and continues to publish this newspaper. The Blade has an original and elaborate heading, a sword being entwined with the letters which compose the title. On the sword is engraved "in hoc signo vinces," partly above and below the title is the motto, "Devoted to the boundless resources of northwest Arkansas." Above that are pictures of fruits, to the left of the heading is a forest scene, and to the right a sheaf of wheat and a corn stalk.

The Times-Dispatch at Walnut Ridge dates from 1910. D. A. Lindsey was its publisher up to 1915. Walter Smith & Sons were its next publishers, with Walter Smith as editor. This newspaper was, in September, 1921, sold to Wilkinson & Bland, and in May, 1922, J. J. Bland purchased the interest of A. C. Wilkerson and became sole owner and publisher.

A daily, known as the Journal, was published at Walnut Ridge for a while in 1893.

Lawrence County, Arkansas newspaper history part 2

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