

idea occurred to the officials of the road that the spot would be an ideal location for a town. Accordingly, in 1871, Williams laid out a part of his land into town lots, Elijah Sollars making the survey. The main streets ran east and west, parallel to the railroad. These were intersected by short streets, and alleys were provided for all blocks, which is unusual. However, when houses were erected every house was built to face the railroad, making it very inconvenient when sanitary measures became of more importance. Oak Street, or the first street back of main, on which stood the Williams home, was the northern boundary of the town. In one corner of a field nearby a lot was set aside for a burying ground, the present old cemetery.

1871

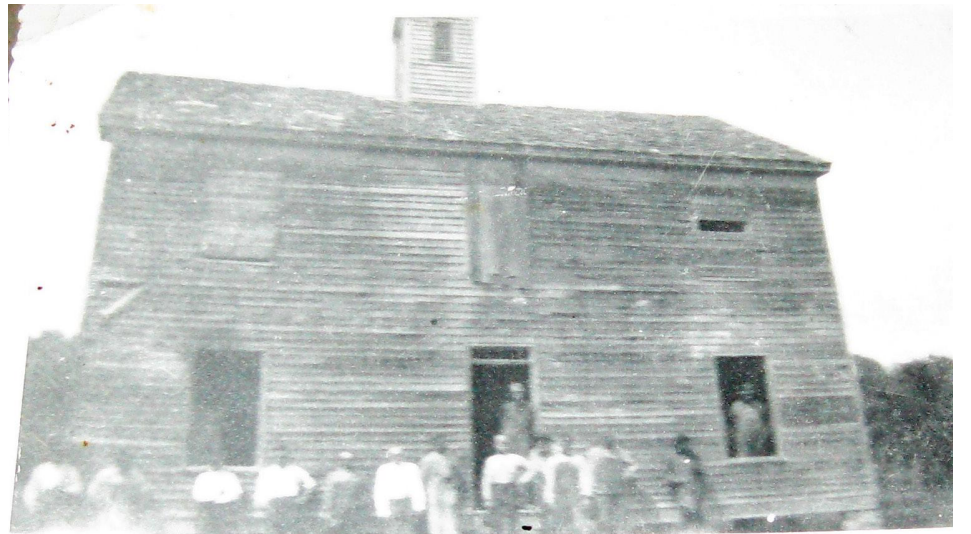
Mill Spring was laid out in November by the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad Company. It was named from a large spring, which furnished power for a pioneer mill. The Indians called the spring Big Spring for its size. As early as 1853 there was a post office at this site called Otter Creek; William T. Leeper listed it as his address in 1868. In 1871, the St. Louis and Iron Mountain railway reached Otter Creek and made the famous spring a watering place for its little wood-burning locomotives. Several sawmills soon located in the vicinity to harvest the virgin pine timber and send it to market via the railroad. Mill Spring gave its name to the little logging railroad that reached out into Reynolds County, but the railroad established its headquarters about a mile away and created the new town of Leeper, then called Leeper Station. Products sold at Mill Spring in the 1870s included yellow pine lumber, hides, furs, wheat, hogs, and cattle. Businesses included the general stores of M.A. Lee and Company and Nees and Stowell, Marvin Page Drug Store, Roberts Hotel and Yocum Hotel, two saloons, the public school, and a Southern Methodist church. At the turn of the century the stores were owned by Evans and Russell, Carnahan and Leeper, and Hunter and Lacy. The town then had a population of 200.

1873

Ferguson & Company started a sawmill at Clearwater. Later it was owned by George and Harry Withers and was called Clearwater Yellow Pine Lumber Company.

1873

Brunot Post Office was definitely established as early as 1873 and possibly by 1860. It was mentioned in Campbell's Gazetteer in 1873 as a place with



Concordia College at Gravelton was built in 1885 and razed in 1927.

“one store and a post office.” When it was laid out it was intended as the county seat. It is named for Felix Brunot, one of the owners of a Pittsburg steel company who owned land and mineral rights in the area.

1873

Camp Creek in Benton Township is a branch of Peachtree Fork, and was known as early as 1873. Before 1865, it was known as Kemper Creek, for John Kemper and his wife Elizabeth who owned land and ran a store there before the Civil War. The name was changed to Camp Creek for the logging camps that were established there.

1873

Gravelton, a small village in Cedar Creek Township, was first centered around Moser's Mill, run by J.R. Moser and Whitener, which was later known as Gravelton Roller Mill. The first buildings in the village, a store, a dwelling, and the building for Concordia College, were made of cemented gravel. When the post office was applied in 1876, the name Gravelton, suggested by the abundant building material, was chosen.

1874, Jan. 31

The first train robbery in Missouri occurred at Gads Hill.

1874

A school law required that public school districts be designated by township and range. In 1900 it was changed to numerical designations.

1874

Grangerville, a village with a population of 50, was located on Bear Creek in Cowan Township. The name came from the farmers' organization known as the Grangers.

1874

The town of Leeper was laid out by Sid Leeper and named in honor of his father, Colonel W.T. Leeper. A post office was established in 1881. The place was also called Leeper's Station until 1891, for it remained little more than a station on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Colonel William T. Leeper moved to Wayne County in 1857 and purchased 225 acres of land. In 1858 he was elected county surveyor and served until the beginning of the Civil War. An ardent Union man, he organized Company D. of the Twelfth Regiment of Missouri Militia and was made captain. Before the close of the war, Leeper returned to his farm, and became a state representative from Wayne County 1868-1872. It is said that Colonel Leeper used great skills of persuasion to convince the Iron Mountain Railroad to go through his property (where Leeper is now located) in spite of the fact that it meant cutting through two mountains.

1876

The first post office in the Shook area was established and named Lost Creek, from its location on the stream. This post office, run by William

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