

Bozeman House, a reminder of successful farming operation, to receive historical marker dedication

By Wendy Richter
For the Sittings

About four miles west of Arkadelphia, the historic Bozeman House stands as a reminder of a bygone era. The frame, Greek-Revival structure was built in the mid-1840s for early settler Michael Bozeman. Bozeman owned one of the most successful farming operations in pre-Civil War Clark County, amassing holdings of more than 9,000 acres.

Michael Bozeman was born in Georgia in 1808. His family moved to Alabama in 1819, and later, he moved further west to Clark County, Arkansas, in 1835. As he stated in later life, one of his goals in coming to Arkansas was to "prove that cotton could be profitably raised this far north."

Gradually increasing their landholdings, the Bozemans replaced their initial home — a log cabin — with a more impressive house at a cost of about \$1,500. Today, Michael Bozeman's home is one of Clark County's oldest surviving structures. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Bozeman became a leader in agriculture, education, and the Baptist church. He and his wife Lucy were among the handful of people who organized the Mount Bethel Baptist Church in 1836, one of Clark County's

earliest.

The Bozemans also began a cemetery near their residence, to be used by the family and others in the neighborhood. The oldest known, but unmarked grave, dates back to 1840. It is believed that soldiers who died during the Civil War's Red River Campaign are buried here as well.

On Sunday, March 13, at 2 p.m., the Clark County Historical Association will dedicate a marker at Bozeman Cemetery. A short ceremony chronicling the history of the Bozeman family and the cemetery will culminate with the marker's unveiling. Specifically, the cemetery is located behind the historic Bozeman House on Highways 26 and 51, four miles west of Arkadelphia.

The new marker provides information about the Cemetery, the Bozemans, and their significance to Clark County. Included on the interpretive panel are images of pioneer Michael Bozeman and some colorful jonquils, depicting the flowers so prominent around the property in the spring. Descriptive text overlays a plat of a portion of the cemetery's burial places. The project was funded in part by a Giving Tree Grant from the Clark County Community Foundation as well as the Clark County Historical Association. The public is invited.

For additional information



COURTESY THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
The Bozeman House was once the home to Michael Bozeman, the owner of one of the most successful farming operations in pre-Civil War Clark County.

about Clark County pioneer Michael Bozeman or the Bozeman Cemetery, visit or contact the Clark County Historical

Museum at the train depot (www.clarkcountyhistory.org or 230-1630) or the Clark County Historical Association's

Archives at the Ouachita Baptist University Library (www.obu.edu/archives or 245-5332).