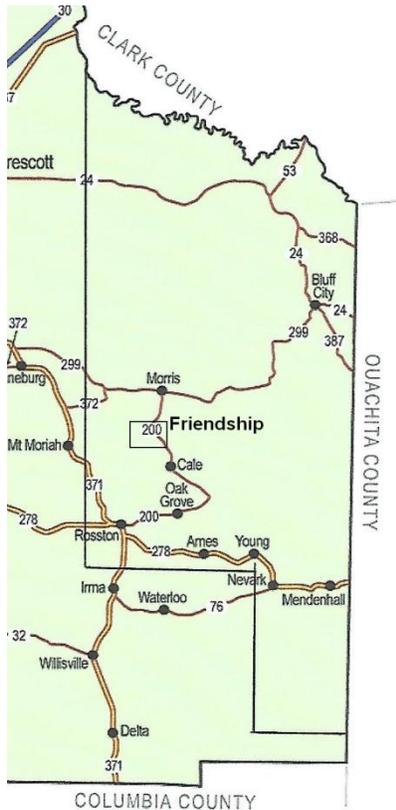


FRIENDSHIP



Friendship Primitive Baptist Church is located about four miles north of Rosston and about one mile northwest of Cale in Nevada County. This part of Nevada County was part of Ouachita County until 1871 when Nevada County was created. See map at left for the location of Friendship.

The pioneer settler at Friendship was David Butler Almand who had traveled to Arkansas with his family from Georgia in the days just before the Civil War. His descendants believe the Almands traveled by wagon to the Mississippi River south of Natchez, loaded their wagons onto barges to cross the river, then followed the Ouachita River to Camden and took the Washington Road westward. Mr. Almand purchased a large tract of land and since he was a minister, one of his first tasks was to set aside several acres for a church and cemetery in 1859.

A Civil War soldier was buried at the cemetery in 1864. The soldier became sick while on a scouting mission. The party left the sick soldier at the home of James Blanchard while they resumed their mission. The soldier died from his illness and was buried at the cemetery. Efforts were made to learn the

name of the soldier but were unsuccessful.

A vacant church building still stands at the site, but it has not been used in many years and has fallen into a state of disrepair. Some think this is the third church building at this location, the first being a log structure. Mr. Almand was a circuit riding preacher who also served two other churches, New Hope near Bodcaw and Bethesda near Camden.

An incident occurred here in 1983 when a funeral was being conducted in the old church building. A faulty vent for a propane heater caused several people to pass out and they had to be carried outside and revived on the hoods of cars.

A marker was recently installed at the cemetery to honor Mr. Almand and to designate Friendship as an historical place.

Written by Jerry McKelvy

Some information for this article came from the following newspaper articles:

Friendship Baptist Church: A Landmark by W. E. Hirst published in the *Nevada County Picayune* April 26, 1973

Church Blessed with Rich History by Carolyn Sutzer Peterson, a descendant of David Butler, published in the *Nevada County Picayune* February 11, 2015



Friendship Church in 1993



Friendship Church in 2013

