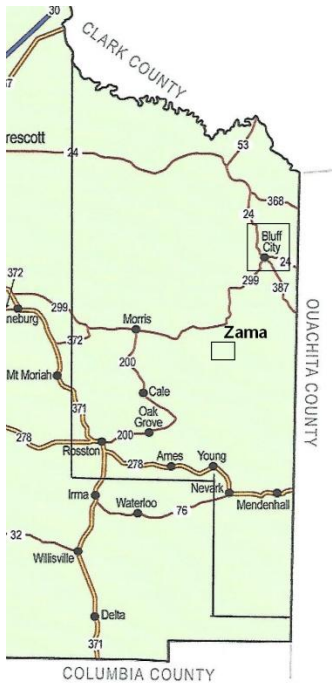


ZAMA



The Zama community had a post office from 1889-1909. Like many rural communities, it mainly consisted of a store with a post office inside which served approximately 150 people. The postmaster and store owner was John G. Purifoy. The location of Zama was on what is now County Rd. 47 about a quarter mile off Hwy. 299.

I have been unable to find why the post office was named Zama. The name is unusual. The community had its own local news column in the county newspapers and was a stopping point for the tax assessor who traveled around over the county assessing taxes in the early 1900s.

In the February 22, 1910 issue of *The Nevada News*, we find that John G. Purifoy was selling his home and moving his stock of goods to Chidester. That must have been the final curtain for Zama since it was only mentioned a few times after 1910.

The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church No. 1 was located about a mile south of Zama. That church was organized in 1889 and dissolved in 1911. I have copies of the church records for this church including lists of members for each year. Some of them are my relatives. Some of my ancestors first settled at this location in the 1850s.

There is no evidence remaining that the community of Zama ever existed. The timber was recently cut and only two or three oak trees still stand. This may have been the location of the store or a residence at Zama.

Written by Jerry McKelvy