

To get a picture of the settlers in and around West Point the whole of the 15th, Civil District would have to be included, for the Pioneer as their Fathers before them were looking for rich land well watered, therefore the creeks were first settled, the homes being built on a hill near a spring of good water, (this building on a hill side sometimes a mile from water was a precaution against surprise attacks by Indians) the villages followed in some well watered valley with a blacksmith shop and a general merchandise store, corn liquor being the largest item of Trade.

Wm. C. Welch was born in South Carolina in 1758, his wife Elizabeth Hemby in 1760 and they were married in 1778, Goodspeed's history of Tennessee says that they came to Tennessee with their son John Liles Welch in 1806, but does not say where they settled. Thomas Archer born 1783 in Virginia, his wife Nancy Harrison 1780 Virginia, Wm. Welch Sr. and Jr., Nicholas and Thomas Welch settled near the old Allen stand, have no knowledge of them except Nicholas, who was the G. G. Father of Nick Welch who operated a restaurant here (Lawrenceburg) in 1903-04 or 05 and stated to my Father, J. A. Welch that his G. G. Father, Nicholas Welch moved to Michigan where he was born from these talks Nick and my Father had led them to believe that Nicholas and Wm. Welch Sr. were brothers.

My Father said Wm. C. Welch settled on California Branch in 1812 built a dwelling house, Grist Mill and Dam, but later moved near Savannah Tenn., where he died in 1838 leaving descendants who still reside around Savannah. Goodspeed's history doesn't mention James Welch, as son of Wm. C. Welch but he (James) settled on what we know as the Jim Ed Guinn place in 1812 and is the G. G. Father of Roy, Herschel, Wilson, Paul Eugene and Ernest Jr.

Following Wm. C. and James Welch were the Blairs, Springers Meltons, Hardins and Cunninghams on Factory Creek, the Wisdoms, Tuckers, Wrights, and Drakes on Chisolm. also Crabtree, the Triceps, Johnstons, Horns, Kellys, Pollard, Wisdom, Bosheers, Tidwells and McLains on Knob Creek, the Wileys, Blythes, McLearn, Derryhills and Hensleys on Shoal Creek, Chinubee was the Prices, Campbells and McMackins.

My G. G. Father Thomas Archer a Circuit Riding Methodist Preacher settled about 3/4 miles north of West Point on what we know as the Hagan place, sometimes between 1812 and 1818. John Liles Welch married Rachel Archer in 1820 and settled about 1 mile S.S. E. of West Point on what is known as the Dick Mack place. To this union was born Thomas Archer 4-7-1823, killed by falling limb in 1858, on what we know as Dishough place. John Wesley, 10-13-1829 married Elizabeth McMackin 12-30-1852. Mary 12-11-1831 married S.A. (Steve) McMackin 8-15-1860, Martha 10-28-1833 married James M. Wheeler 12-30-1852, Malinda 7-15-1837 married A. J. Powell 12-16-1859, Nancy Jane 10-22-1841 married T. K. True 9-14-1862, George K. 5-11-1843 married Maggie Shannon 12-21-1865 died in Lampasas Texas 1934, Emma 7-19-1845 married Washington Couch 11-20-1867.

Before the County was organized Monday May 4th, 1818 there were settlers in the S. W. Corner of the County around what is now Wayland Springs, for there is buried in the Blair Grave Yard about 1 1/2 miles west of West Point, A Daniel W. McIntyre, born in Lawrence County Feb. 15th, 1810 and died March 8th, 1833.

The General Assembly of 1817 authorized the establishment of Lawrence County but was not organized until Monday May 4th, 1818. Thomas Archer was appointed by the Legislature as one of the Magistrates, about the first official act after organization was to impanel a