

Photo of the Month

J. Wade Sikes



Neg. #N001840

J. Wade Sikes -- or "Uncle Wade" as he was known to almost everyone -- was a Rogers pioneer. Born in Alabama in 1828, he moved with family to Arkansas in 1853. They first located in Pea Ridge, and later bought land in the area which is now Rogers.

Uncle Wade was a teacher and farmer and married Almira Lee in 1854. He also served in many Civil War battles — including Wilson Creek and Pea Ridge — and lost an arm in the battle of Atlanta. Returning home, he was elected clerk and recorder in Benton County in 1866. He moved to Rogers in 1881 and served as its first mayor.

Uncle Wade began preaching while still in the army and continued as a minister of the Baptist Church. In his later years he was a diehard fox hunter in the area and a prominent voice for the "dry" constituency in the fight over alcohol in the county.

J. Wade Sikes lived to age 100, having outlived his wife, two children, and two grandchildren.