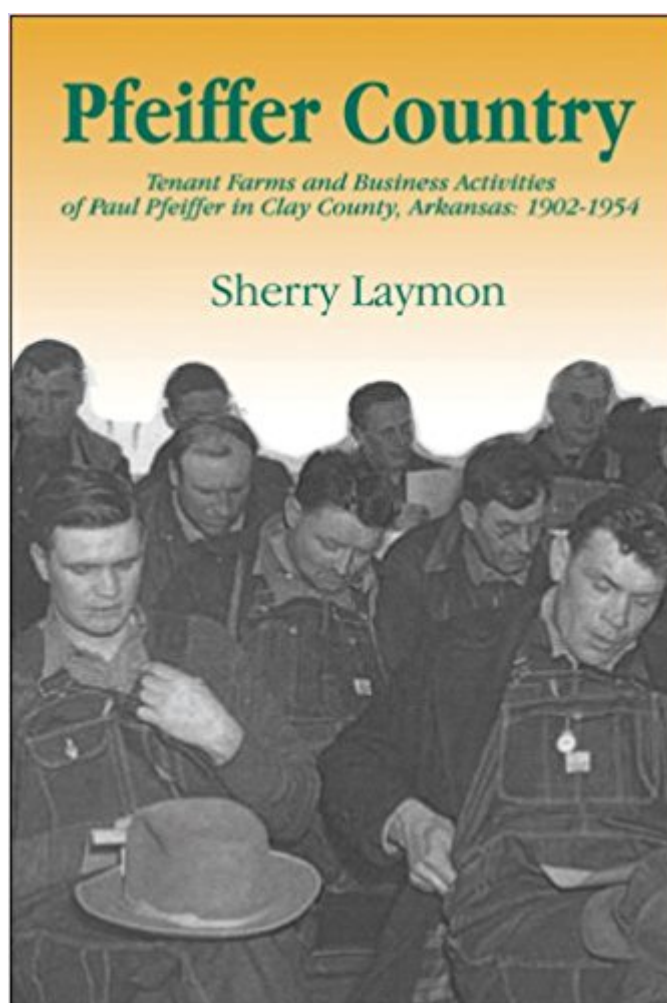


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Pfeiffer Country: The Tenant Farms And Business Activities Of Paul Pfeiffer In Clay County, Arkansas, 1902-1954



Synopsis

Clay County, Arkansas, was a flatland with little improvements at the outset of the twentieth century. Into this primitive society came a St. Louis entrepreneur with a liking for agriculture. Paul Pfeiffer bought large tracts of land, set up tenant farmers, and reigned for nearly fifty years as a beneficent landlord. Laymon records the gratitude of many a family who remember with appreciation loans made to acquire equipment. When farming was interrupted by the coming of the railroad, both Pfeiffer and his tenants adapted to a lumbering economy; so long as the hardwood forest lasted. Interestingly, Laymon's account includes the fate of tenants following the break-up of Pfeiffer Country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Clay county needs the publication of this well researched document of what the county owes the Pfeiffer family. Clay county, as a whole, and the Piggott, Arkansas area specifically, would not be the happy, prosperous community it is now without the Pfeiffer's. It would be a somewhat depressed area without the farm families given the opportunity to own the land they farmed - an ownership which has passed down as a family inheritance for generations.

In the early part of the 20th century, Paul Pfeiffer owned thousands of acres in Northeast Arkansas and began a model tenant farming program that was fair and humane. Many similar arrangements throughout the Arkansas and Mississippi Delta held tenant farmers in a system of virtual peonage.

Pfeiffer, however, ensured that his farmers had good housing and worked under a system that gave them long-term benefits. The author provides us with a fascinating glimpse into how people lived and worked in rural areas a hundred years ago. "Pfeiffer Country" also has detailed descriptions of the types of houses and barns that were constructed on the Pfeiffer property. This book is a valuable contribution to the history of rural life.

This was very interesting as it dealt with my home town with many people I was familiar with growing up. Paul Pfeiffer certainly changed NE Arkansas and made a major contribution to the economy. He was a good example of a caring, benevolent yet very efficient businessman in dealing with his tenant farmers. The writer has been very thorough.

This was a very interesting book about farming in Clay County. It was especially interesting about the Pfeiffer family and the impact they had on this area of the country. The author did a lot of research and did a wonderful job presenting the information.

I was born there in Clay County, which this book refers to as Pfeiffer County. All my mother folks were from there, so I found it interesting reading. Good price too.

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