

TOWNS OF WHITE CLOUD TOWNSHIP.

Bridgewater was located on land originally owned by O. A. Howard, who cultivated it as a farm. At a very early day there was a mill built on the One Hundred and Two river by J. B. Cox, and this was the site later chosen for Bridgewater. In 1870 Page, Warren & Phelps, contractors of the Branch railroad, bought the Howard tract of land and upon it laid off the town. The river at this point makes an elbow towards the west. At this bend in the river were constructed two railroad bridges within one thousand feet of each other, with a county bridge located between them and from this fact comes the name Bridgewater. Here William Elrod & Son built the first house in the town and in it they opened a general store. A postoffice was established and John W. Walker was appointed postmaster. Nelson Wilson also added a general stock in 1871.

But the life of Bridgewater was doomed to fate, because Dr. P. H. Talbott (later murdered) had granted the right-of-way to the railroad through his land, on conditions such as necessitated another town site nearby, and that place was called Arkoe.

ARKOE.

Arkoe is about one mile to the north of old Bridgewater, which was abandoned on account of the new railroad station. Dr. P. H. Talbott and S. K. Snively laid off the town of Arkoe September 15, 1874, and Judge John Brady surveyed the plat. The Doctor found the name "Arkoe" in the book entitled "Twenty Thousand Fathoms Under the Sea." Nelson Wilson moved a building from old Bridgewater to Arkoe and in it opened a general store this being the first building in the place. The second building was erected in 1875 by W. G. Turner. The third building in the town was a dwelling erected in 1876 by C. A. Dewey. In 1877 Dr. W. M. Simms erected an office building. In 1875 a lot was donated to James Buckridge by Mr. Snively, upon which he built a blacksmith shop. The first postmaster at the new town was Nelson Wilson.

Early in the town's history S. K. Snively erected a wind engine in the village, near his store, which forced the water from a living spring, or stream that flows a few feet below the surface in the rocks, into a tank for the use of the public.

With the passing of the years, Arkoe has come to be a thriving village and now has a population of about one hundred and twenty-five. It has the following business interests, and society functions: