

THE UNCERTAIN NEWS

"In Wilderness Is The Preservation Of The World." Thoreau

uncertain

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uncertain What's In A Name?

How did Uncertain get its name? There are several different good stories explaining how the name came about. They all provide plausible logic for such an unusual name. But they couldn't all be true. Beware of the storyteller who says he's certain.

The oldest story uncovered by the *Uncertain News* dates the origin of the name to the 1880s. For our money this is the most entertaining story, and possibly the closest to the truth. We are indebted to William Sedberry of Marshall, who provided this story from his family records. The following letter from Mr. Sedberry is quoted in full without any editing, deletions or additions:

"My father, Thomas Dixon Sedberry, Jr. (1865-1931) and his brothers Joe and Walter were young men in the 1880s in Marshall and had a great interest and love for the outdoors. They spent many days hunting and

fishing."

"Their favorite place to fish was a camp site on the Bayou on Caddo lake near the present day Dallas Caddo Club. Other fishermen camped there and it was generally known as the Caddo Camp Ground."

"On one particular day my father, his brother Joe, and his friends, Watt, Barry, George Conway, Monty Allen and W.J. (Dood) Rosborough, rented a wagon and team of mules and started to Caddo for several days of camping and fishing. It had been raining prior to their trip and the roads were very muddy. Just before reaching the camp they had to pass through a stretch of the dirt road that was standing in about a foot or more of water. There had been times when you could not get a wagon and team through this slough, and upon seeing the conditions, they stopped the team and were

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trying to decide if they should try to make it to the camp or turn back home.

"While they were deliberating the matter they began to hear something sloshing through the water and in a minute there appeared a colored man on a mule. He had come through the slough by following the road. The campers told him of their dilemma and asked if he thought they could get through with the wagon. His reply was, "I just come through on this mule but to drive the wagon through is mighty 'onsartin.'"

"They drove the wagon on and made it through the bog and reached the campground, but from then on everything was

"mighty onsartin." The expression was used repeatedly and other fishermen took it up. Soon it was known as the Uncertain Camp. Sometime later the Uncertain Club was organized and a club house was built on the old campsite."

(Editor's Note: The Uncertain Club was located on East Cypress Drive, on the same property as the modern residence of Bill and Geraldine Mauthe. The clubhouse was built between 1912 and 1915, according to records saved by Mauthe. It was dismantled in 1977. Mayor Betty Holder said that the town was incorporated under the name 'Uncertain' on January 4, 1962.)