

THE GRIGSBY LOG HOUSE  
BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS

The Grigsby House is a restored log "dog-trot" house which was moved to the eastern edge of the Arkansas College campus in 1976. Originally located in the Bethesda community in western Independence County, the house represents a typical farm home of Independence County during the late nineteenth century. The house was donated by Virginia and Elmer Kirk of Batesville to be preserved and used in the interpretation of the traditional culture of the Arkansas Ozark region. Mrs. Kirk is a descendent of the man who built the home in 1867, Charles B. Grigsby.

More information on Charles B. Grigsby is found in this excerpt from A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region, Reprint 1976 (from the BNL Library Service, P.O. Box 1506 Harry Truman Station, Independence, Missouri 64055).

One of the old and prominent citizens of Stone County, Arkansas is Charles B. Grigsby, who has labored for the good of this section for many years. Although a native of Monroe County, East Tennessee, he was born in 1828 to James (son of Charles Grigsby and Elizabeth Wallace) and Margaret (Houston) Grigsby, who were born in the Old Dominion. They were married in Blount County, Tennessee, and made their home there and in Loudon Counties until 1850, when they came to Arkansas, locating in Independence County, eight miles above Batesville, and two miles from the White River. While residing in Tennessee, the father held the office of constable for 24 years, and he also became one of the substantial citizens of Independence County, Arkansas. He was a Whig in politics and at the time of his death was about 61 years of age, while his wife attained the age of 85 years. Her grandfather reared General Sam Houston, who afterward became so well known in the history of Tennessee and Texas. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Grigsby eight children were born, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth. He attended school in Monroe County, Tennessee and there made his home until 1848, when he came to Arkansas and located in Independence County in the Barrens, nine miles west of Batesville, where he rented land for a time, then entered a forty acre tract five miles west of where he then lived. After residing there a few years he bought land in the southern part of the county, and fifty acres in the bottom, on which he erected a cotton gin, which was later destroyed by fire, with 75 bales of cotton. This fire left him \$4800.00 in debt, but he kept his land there for ten or twelve years longer. The farm on which he now resides consists of 160 acres of land, 40 acres of which are in the Coon Creek bottom. He has devoted most of his attention to farming and stock raising since coming to Arkansas, and for some time while residing in Independence County he served in the capacity of deputy sheriff under Robert R. Case. In September, 1862 he joined Rutherford's Batallion and was afterward with Anderson's Cavalry until the war closed. In 1855 he was married to Martha Warren who was born in Dyer County, Tennessee, and to them seven children have been given.