

Sarepta

Located eleven miles northeast of Bruce, it is thought that John Hellum was the first settler, coming in 1836 from Tennessee and acquiring land a few miles north of the present site of Sarepta. Dr. Andrew Roane, son of Governor Archibald Roane of Tennessee, settled here in 1840, and at that time, there was one store, which was operated by a man named McLarty.

There is a story told of a happening in Sarepta, when, in the 1880s, the backwoodsmen of the area had the habit of coming to town and taking the law in their own hands. It seems that a government man named Wise came to Mississippi in 1884 in search of a criminal. When he reached Oxford, he was reassigned to locate and arrest two brothers named Dock and Jim Bishop. The two brothers were wanted for the killing of two Harmon boys in a drunken brawl near Sarepta. Jim Bishop was finally located by Wise, who made friends with him, thinking that he could be persuaded to betray his brother. He gave Jim Bishop a bottle of drugged whiskey to give to his brother, setting a time and place for his capture. Instead of betraying Dock, Jim betrayed Mr. Wise, and hiding behind a tree, they ambushed him, filling him full of buckshot. They then buried him in a shallow grave where he was found a few days later. About three years later, Dock Bishop was captured, convicted and hanged for his crimes. A song, "The Ballad of Dock Bishop," was then composed by one of the local citizens and is still sung occasionally.