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Arkansas Federal Writer's Project: "The Italian Colony," "Polish Colony," and "Misc. Settlements"

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THE ITALIAN COLONY: *Perry co*

This Colony is located on the tops of the ridges back of Ledgidge and Bigelow. They purposely chose the tops of the ridges because they believed they would grow better grapes. I visited the Colony in 1934 and asked the leader if -with what he now knew, he would have located the Colony elsewhere, if he had to do it over again. He said, he would not as the land was as good for Grapes as they had in Italy and the price was so low and within the reach of their people. There are some twenty families in this Colony and they are doing very well, raising grapes for sale and making wine. This is a Colony in the strict sense of the word as there is no one in it but Italians and they all do the one thing, raise Grapes. I think this Colony was located about 1912. They came from Chicago and what is known as the South Halstead Italian Colony.

POLISH COLONY: *White co.*

There was a Polish Colony located on our Mesa-Searcy Branch. The Colony was between Mesa-Des Arcs and they had a town of their own called Polonia. This Colony was not on a large scale and not much of a success, but I think there are still a number of Polish families there. Mr. M..L. Buckhoski located the Colony and used to have an office at Mesa, but I do not think that he is there any more.

MISCELLANEOUS SETTLEMENTS:

Mr. Martin Gaulden, now of the Baltimore Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri, but formerly of Little Rock, located a number of foreign-born citizens on the lands of the Bigelow Lumber Company, around Bigelow, Fourshe and Ola. There are a number of these still there.

There has been quite a settlement of settlers from nearly all of the States into portions of our Arkansas territories, but these came as individuals and located and operated individually, whereas, those above mentioned came as Colonies and were either acquainted with each other or bound together by ties of race or religion or both.

If there is any further information that I can furnish, please advise and will be glad to comply as far as possible.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR W. LARGE

In Duplicate

Copy to Mr. C.A.Searle General Agricultural Agent