

Big Prairie - along the Mississippi
River; now in the state of AR

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Account of Mrs. Martha Eastwood
(Joint Collection - see below)

She (Mrs. Martha Eastwood) stated that she was living in a log house below Big Prairie, at the time of the shakes, her husband was sick; the house was shaken down and she barely made her escape with her sick husband, who was removed to a rail corn pen on which he was laid until assistance could be procured, and in doing so, going to her nearest neighbor, she had trouble in wading through water and crossing many deep and frequently wide crevices made by the shakes. The atmosphere was so warm, damp and dense that she could scarcely see to keep her way; there were instances where these crevices formed, running nearly north and south, that large oak trees other and kinds were driven up from the ground for many feet owing to the crevices separating their roots which could be seen on both sides of these earth fissures, caused apparently from the earth rolling in waves bursting and sinking, the gases forcing out water, sand and a substance like flakes and pieces of charcoal; the gas that was escaping and darkening the atmosphere blew these substances up several feet. This was accompanied with terrific roaring like distant, or like suppressed thunder. The locality where this occurred was an elevated section of the country and the water did not remain long on the earth's surface. The locality apparently did not sink to the extent of other portions of the country.

Comments

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