

8-12-37

Twenty-five Years Ago.

(Arkansas Gazette, August 12, 1912.)
The first discovery of fullers' earth in the United States, according to Dr. C. J. Branner, celebrated geologist, was made in Arkansas in 1891. Dr. Branner at that time was state geologist of Arkansas, and having heard it stated that fuller's earth was first discovered in Florida, he wrote a paper for the American Institute of Mining Engineers making the correction. Dr. Branner pointed out that as recently as 1909 statements had been published attributing the first find to Florida. The first find here was made by one John Olsen, formerly a copper miner in Michigan, but then living south of Little Rock near Alexander. Olsen brought samples to Little Rock on May 12, 1891. Dr. R. N. Brackett, chemist of the geological department, analyzed the material and discovered it to be fullers' earth. Later, Dr. Branner said, the earth was used in the Southern Cotton Oil Company of Little Rock in refining cottonseed oil.