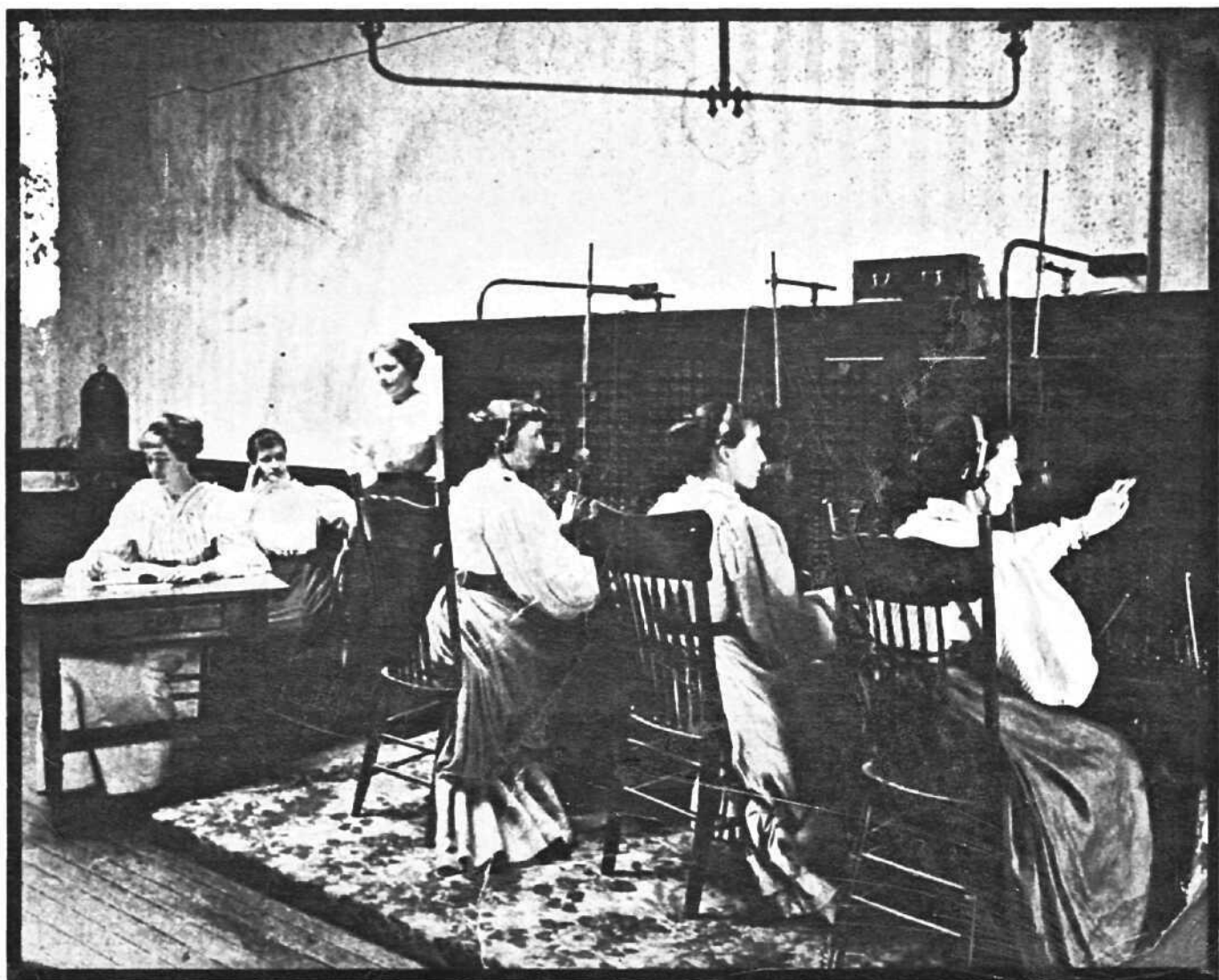


The JOURNAL



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, DECEMBER 1977



The JOURNAL

EDITORS:

Carolyn Pollan
Amelia Martin

ASSOCIATE EDITORS -

Our Contributors:

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Violet Burton
Missy Cole Carroll
John Vincent Robinson
J. Fred Patton
Betty Zander

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Membership in Fort Smith Historical Society entitles member to publications of the Society. There will be no more than 4 nor less than 2 publications yearly. Our year begins Jan. 1 and ends Dec. 31.

We welcome the loan of Fort Smith historical material and will return promptly.

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FRONT COVER:

Design by Ed Hunter, Huntergraphics

Picture of Fort Smith Telephone Switchboard of 1900. Left to right, Maude Sutton, Lizzie Rogers, Sue O'Donohoe, Lillian Rounds, Jennie Casey, Bess Sutton.

Picture courtesy, Southwestern Bell Telephone

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ACCIDENT AND

TORNADO

INDEMNITY!

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—DEALER IN—

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President Vice-President.
JOHN VAILE, Cashier

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WESTERN ARKANSAS.

FORT SMITH, ARK.

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to all orders of Banking business.

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FORT SMITH AND VAN BUREN.

It is the earnest desire of the Exchange to give good and quick service. To do this we must have the subscriber's assistance, and in no way can they aid us more than by answering promptly. Do not allow dead heads, young children or any person, unacquainted with its use, at your Telephone. If you desire to accommodate your neighbors do the talking yourself. Operators are instructed not to make connections for non-subscribers. Do not use Telephone during thunder storms. Operators will give location of fires and train reports. If any other information is desired call for the Manager. Do not ask a subscriber to deliver a message for you to his neighbor.

INSTRUCTIONS: To call central get two turns of bell crank, place Telephone tightly to your ear and listen for response; wait at least one minute before ringing again. Give number or name wanted and nothing more, and when through hang up the Telephone and ring off with one quick turn of crank. Wait a couple of minutes before calling again, to give time to disconnect; otherwise you will ring up the party you were just connected with. Failure to ring off will cause your line to be reported in use. When called by Central, take telephone down, place tightly to your ear and answer Hello! Answer promptly if you want quick service.

NOTICE: Report any trouble to the manager at once, and it will receive immediate attention. General complaints over two or three days old will not be considered.
GEO. TILLES, Manager.

FORT SMITH EXCHANGE.

- 14 Aydeit Bros., groceries.
- 28 Ayers & Co., W. N. hardware.
- 48 Atkinson Hardware Company.
- 18 Bally, Dr. W. W. residence.
- 20 Baer & Co., B. groceries, three rings.
- 20 Bank National. Tel. No. 10.
- 20 Bank Marchant.
- 20 Boyd, McCauley & Terrell, groceries.
- 20 Bennett, Dr. L. E. residence.
- 20 Bodine, W. T. merchandise broker.
- 9 Bollinger, F. grocer.
- 21 Bloch & Co., queensware.
- 28 Bona, F. W. grocer.
- 28 Boston Store.
- 9 Compress.
- 18 Court, U. S.
- 18 City Hall.
- 28 Cole, W. H. drug store.
- 28 Circuit Court.
- 44 Demsey, E. H. shoe store.
- 70 DuVal, Dr. residence.
- 70 DuVal, Dr. office.
- 18 Doyle, Knott & Blakemore.
- 77 Dunlap, Dr. residence.
- 60 DuVal & Oraven, lawyers.
- 90 Davis, P. R. groceries.
- 90 Dunn, J. E. residence.
- 78 Echols, Johnson & Co., 7 'Frisco Depot.
- 34 Glick B. bookstore.
- 24 Grier, Steve. grocer.
- 42 Hightower Bros., grocers.
- 97 Henderson, Collier & Co., flour.
- 37 Halliburton & Weems, drugs.
- 3 Harrison, Dr. residence.
- 2 Hubbard, Dr.
- 4 Ice Factory.
- 1 Jacobs, J. residence.
- 36 King, Dr. residence.
- 10 Little Rock & Fort Smith Depot.
- 41 Langan & Co., grocers.
- 6 Moore, Theo. residence.
- 57 Manager Telephone Exchange.
- 100 McLoud, Sam. office.
- 40 McLoud, Sam. residence.
- 48 Miller & Co., planing mill and lumber.
- 30 Morton & McCorkle, drugs.
- 60 McKibben Hotel.
- 24 McCauley, J. J. residence.
- 11 Magnum, Thos. residence.
- 60 Pruitt & Smith, drugs.
- 13 Pappenhelm, J. hardware.
- 42 Rowland, Mrs. J. B. hotel.
- 40 Sparks, J. M. drug store.
- 68 Schnapp, John. drug store.

- 26 Sengel & Schulte, hardware.
- 90 Stephens, J. R. residence.
- 90 Saville & Hurley, transfer.
- 57 Tillis, Geo. Manager.
- 98 Times Printing Office, Cruce & Naylor.
- 58 Tenney & Smith, lumber.
- 76 Valle, John, residence.
- 81 Vick, R. E. grocer.
- 84 Woodson, W. C. Winklemeyer Beer.
- 79 Water Works.
- 28 Williams Bros., dry goods.
- 28 Western Union Telegraph.
- 78 Watt, W. residence.
- 23 Willett Pierss Oil Company.
- 20 Young, D. J. Anheuser beer.
- 27 Zellig & Marquardt, grocers.

VAN BUREN EXCHANGE.

- 7 Bing, L. A. saloon.
- 8 Boston Store.
- 9 Brown, R. J. residence.
- 17 Creekmore, R. B. dry goods.
- 18 Glibbel & Hynes, Drs. residence.
- 19 Edmondson, T. W. grocer.
- 20 'Frisco Depot.
- 46 Hinkley, J. F. 'Frisco Engineer.
- 37 James, I. saloon.
- 23 Langly, W. F. grocer and beer.
- 20 Little Rock & Fort Smith Depot.
- 50 McKibben & Pope, gen'l merchandise.
- 37 McKinney, J. W. drug store.
- 38 Neal, Berkeley, residence.
- 39 Richards, hotel.
- 30 Shibley, Wood & Co., gen'l merchandise.
- 47 Weaver, J. N. Land Office.

JNO. F. FINK, MANAGER.

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The rates given are for connection for five minutes or less:

Booneville.....	15 cents
Bloomer.....	15 cents
Central City.....	15 cents
Charleston.....	15 cents
Clatsville.....	15 cents
Dayton.....	15 cents
Greenwood.....	15 cents
Lavaca.....	15 cents
Magazine.....	25 cents
Paris.....	25 cents
Van Buren.....	25 cents
Wicherville.....	15 cents

Subscribers can send messages over their own line by calling for connection at the central office. Non subscribers will call at the central office, Miller Block.

HARDWARE,

STOVE AND TIN WARE

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J. G. MILLER & CO.,

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—AGENT OF THE—

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BREWING ASSOCIATION,

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Fort Smith, - - Ark.

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—CALL No. 41.

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—AND—

JEWELERS!

AGENTS FOR THE

Rockford Watch!

VAN BUREN, ARK.

GO TO E. H. DEVANY'S FOR BOOTS AND SHOES!

TELEPHONE COMPANY IN FORT SMITH

by Mary Stolberg*

It's hard to imagine in this day of heavy phone use, the struggles which the Erie Phone Company faced in persuading early Fort Smith residents to get hooked up in July, 1883.

Phone lines were met with suspicion. They looked like lightning rods and were thought to be fire hazards. Prospective buyers feared the apparatus would endanger the home and be a needless luxury.

Against such odds, the Erie Company opened its small Fort Smith exchange. It had only 36 subscribers, despite a vow by promoters who said they would only open with a minimum of 40 customers.

The exchange had offices in rented rooms in the Mueller Block of N. 7th and Garrison Ave., four years after the first Arkansas exchange was built in Little Rock and six years after Alexander Graham Bell had invented the telephone.¹

The exchange was built by two men sent from Chelsea, Mass., and consisted of a 50-line shutter switchboard made by the Western Electric Company.² A shutter switchboard had small shutters over the line connections on the board. When a call came through, the appropriate shutter would flap up. Sometimes the cards were hard to see, so the system was replaced by a system with lights.

The southwest division of the Erie Company was headquartered in Dallas and consisted of four exchanges south of Saint Louis - in Fort Smith, Little Rock, Dallas, and Houston.

Patrons were connected to the exchange by a one pole lead. If the lead could not reach the home or business, then makeshift wires were put on trees and housetops nearby.

George Tilles, the owner of a book and stationery shop and one of Fort Smith's early residents, managed the exchange in Fort Smith. John Fink, Sr. managed the affiliated Van Buren office.³

It is surprising how little attention was given to the new enterprise. A weekly newspaper of the time, *The New Era*, had a few, seemingly obligatory, statements in its local news column.

In the July 19, 1883 paper, a brief notice appeared saying "George Tilles expects to have the telephone exchange in working order by the 1st of August. Two car loads of cedar poles have arrived to put the wires on."

In an article a few weeks later, the Aug. 9 edition noted that "George Tilles is busy in getting up his telephone post to commence business. We learn

that he has 40 subscribers so far. For business houses it is \$5, and private houses \$4 per month."

Another bulletin in the Sept. 27 paper indicated that business was picking up. "The city telephone is doing a whaling business."

The paper's description of increasing business was borne out by the addition of 27 more customers by the end of the year. The first Fort Smith phone directory lists 67 phones in Fort Smith and 17 phones in Van Buren.

Unlike many early exchanges around the country, Fort Smith offered connections to 12 places in the state within a 75-mile radius. The most expensive tolls were to the distant towns of Paris and Magazine. A call lasting less than five minutes to either of these towns cost 25 cents. A call to Van Buren was the next most expensive at 20 cents. Calls could also be placed to Booneville, Bloomer, Central City, Charleston, Chismville, Dayton, Greenwood, Lavaca, and Witcherville.

Over the next three years the growth of the firm seemed to level off. In the 1885 phone directory, only 60 Fort Smith subscribers were listed, a decrease of seven from 1883. Similarly, the Van Buren exchange showed only a slight increase from 17 in 1883 to 21 in 1885. No other long distance connections were added these years.

The inability to attract more business may have been the reason Tilles left his position as manager. In any case, he was replaced by M. F. Thomas.

Meanwhile, Tilles built a rival exchange, the Arkansas Telephone Company, which had offices in the Southern Building on the northwest corner of 6th and N. "A" Streets. Tilles sold the exchange to Dr. Edward M. Harrison, a relative of President William Henry Harrison and the son of Gen. LaRue Harrison.⁴

The Illinois native was a physician and inventor of the Harrison Microphone and Fire Alarm System of Fort Smith. He also developed the Electric Air Machine which he believed would cure consumption.⁵

Thomas left his job as manager at Bell Telephone to work for Arkansas Telephone Company in 1886. He had been with the firm for a short time when he left to work for the Fort Smith Light and Gas Company. The next year he returned to the Bell Company and built the exchange in Pine Bluff.

James W. Hood became the new manager of the Bell plant in Fort Smith. His wife worked as chief operator.

Being an operator was not always the safest job. In

*Miss Stolberg was born in Denver, Colorado and is a graduate of the University of Chicago. She has worked with historical and political articles for the Maryland Historical Society. She works for the *Southwest Times Record*.

its early days, Fort Smith was a wild and wooley town and it still retained some of its notorious characteristics even in the last years of the century. It had been nicknamed "Whiskey Smith". Mrs. Moore, nee Mecka Johnson, recalls that as night operator she kept a six-shooter within reach while on duty. Although she never had to use it, there were times when it was a great comfort to her.

The original operator was not a woman. "John Eberhardt, was the original 'hello girl' who worked the board during the day, slept in the office at night, and was sassed the next day for forgetting to connect the right bell, a fact that did not improve service but did very materially contribute to his opportunity for sound and prolonged slumber," *The Fort Smith Times Record* said in its Aug. 21, 1912 edition.

Despite his desire for a good night's sleep, Eberhardt, who later moved to Paris, Arkansas was placed in charge of the operations at Fort Smith.

He began working for Tilles as a tobacco stripper. When work began on the telephone exchange he was so intrigued that Tilles made him an assistant to the electricians installing the system.

By 1890, the Bell system clearly had found its usefulness. The number of subscribers had more than doubled, bringing the total number of hook-ups to 128 in Fort Smith. Connections had been added to Hackett, Huntington, Mansfield, Salem and Jenson. Long distance lines were also extended beyond the 75-mile radius to Little Rock and Dallas.

As the fortunes of the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company waxed, the fortunes of the Arkansas Telephone Company waned. The only mention of the company in the records, aside from the city directory, was in a lawsuit. The company was charged with violating Bell patents.

Attorney's for the American Bell Telephone Company applied to U. S. District Judge Isaac Parker for an injunction in 1886. Parker apparently thought there was merit in their arguments and wanted to hear the case, but court costs would have been more than the total assets of both companies, so the case was dropped.

The Arkansas Telephone Company seems to have been bought by Pan Long Distance Telephone Company in 1888. The firm was probably based in Illinois since its president, W. A. Latham, was listed in the 1904 Fort Smith City Directory as a resident of Kankakee, Ill. Also the Arkansas Telephone Company is not listed in the 1888 City Directory while the Pan Long Distance Telephone Company is listed for the first time.

The Pan Telephone Company was housed in the Jefferson Building, also known as the Pan Long Distance Building, on the southwest corner of 6th and N. "A" Streets, which was built by George Tilles in 1887.⁷

J. L. Louderman became manager of the company succeeding George Flanley. He was manager until his retirement in 1906. He told an interviewer in the 1930's that the system used magnetic pieces connected to a local battery. The switchboard was manufactured by the Western Telephone Supply Company of Chicago.

Louderman pointed out that the first sets were homemade. The cabinets were made by a Mr. Grieves, a Fort Smith cabinet maker. The parts were purchased and then assembled in company shops.

Pan made an effort to catch up with their Bell competitors. In 1890 they established lines to Poteau and McAlester, I.T. In the next few years they made connections with towns in a 50-mile radius of Ft. Smith.

But even under new management, the rival exchange did not fare well. The Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company, with the nation-wide Bell firm behind it, always seemed to have the upper hand.

1899 employees - Miss Sue O'Donohoe, Miss Edith Rounds, Miss Pearl Hogan, Mr. William Padgett, Miss Jennie Casey, Miss Lillian Rounds, Miss Fannie Breen, Miss Minnie Rogers, Miss Lizzie Rogers, Miss Mattie McBroom, and Miss Bess Sutton.

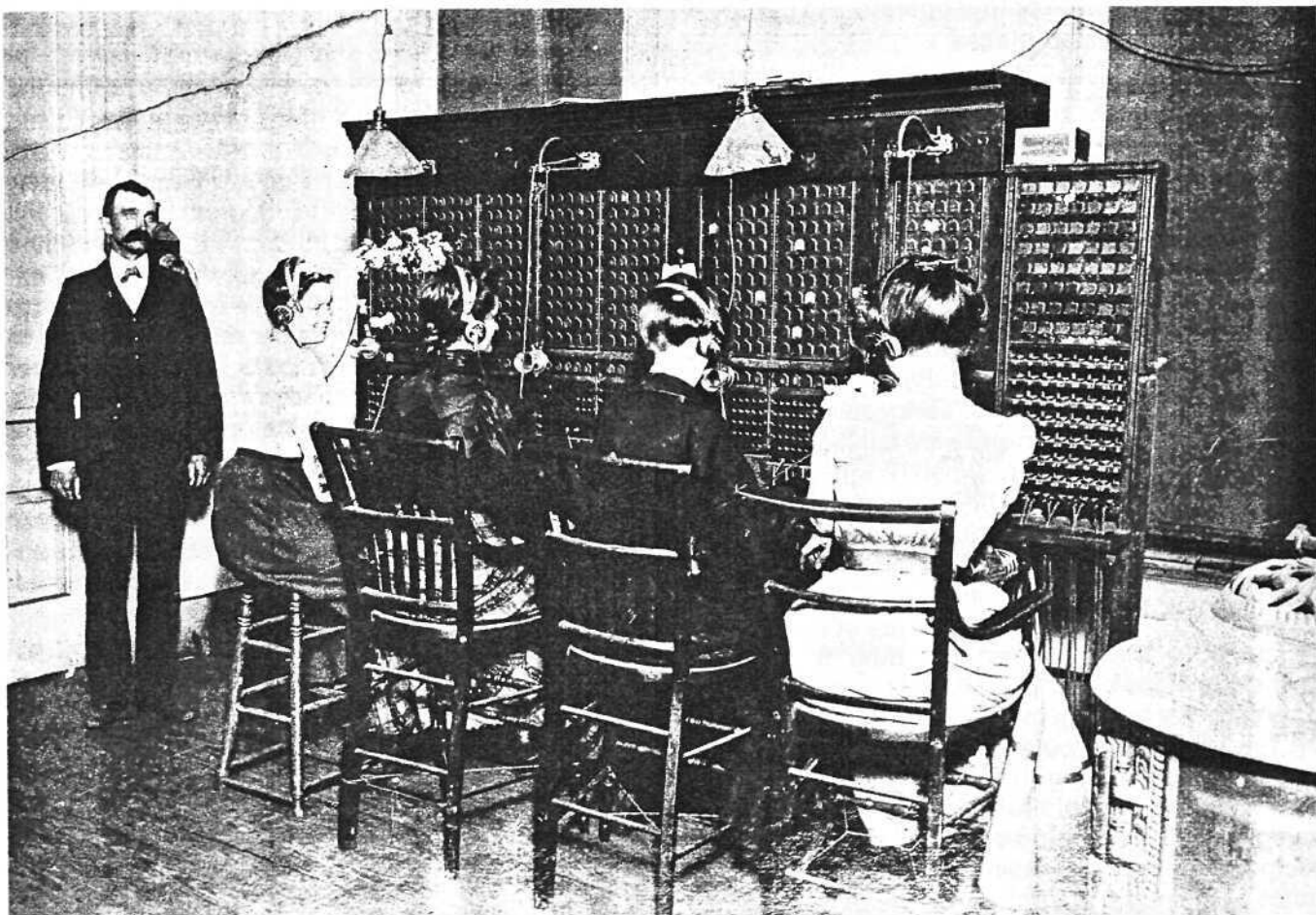
Mrs. Ollie Bradney of 2300 South "Q", who was a telephone operator for Bell from 1905-1908, remembers that Pan was a small firm. It had only a few operators working its small board and could not connect to as many places as Bell lines. The two companies had separate systems, and a subscriber to Pan could not reach anyone on a Bell line.

Mrs. Bradney remembers the phone company as a pleasant place to work. She recalls that William Padgett, the manager, was a pleasant man. "He was a little man as far as looks go, but he was as nice as he could be."

His sister-in-law, Miss Bessie Sutton, was the chief operator. "We all thought she was an old maid since she was probably in her early 30's. She had to be strict, as someone in charge, but as a rule she was very nice. She died of cancer after I left the company," Mrs. Bradney said.

Mrs. Bradney worked at the local board for a short time before she was moved to the toll board which handled the long distance calls. Judging by Mrs. Bradney's memory of the rates, long distance calls have gotten cheaper over the years. A two or three minute call to Chicago cost \$4.25. A call to Dallas was \$2 for three minutes. There was no service to New York when she started work and Fayetteville could never be heard clearly. But overall the service was good.

Even though she never met her counterparts in distant towns, Mrs. Bradney said the operators struck up friendships over the phone lines.



Sometimes it took three or four operators to get one call through to isolated places.

The human touch of operators connecting callers had some advantages and some disadvantages.

Despite being busy most of the time, operators couldn't help listening in on some of the calls. "I eaves-dropped once in awhile. We didn't have much time during the day, but when I worked for one of the night girls it was hard not to."

Sometimes the listening caused trouble. "A prominent Fort Smith man had a girl friend. His wife suspected what was up but she wasn't sure. We were never supposed to put a third party on a line but the wife begged. So, the operator connected her while the husband and his girl friend were talking... I think they were divorced later. When I left, the chief operator was still trying to find out who did it, but I don't think she ever did," Mrs. Bradney recalled.

Operators were not the only curious ones. "When these fellows put in the new board, one of the operators on work at night called me at home. We talked about them and all the time they were downstairs in the basement of the building listening to us over the equipment."

A few restrictions were placed on calls. No calls were connected during fires. Mrs. Bradney did not know when or why this rule had been made. Also, emergencies received top priority over the lines.

A more unusual rule was made restricting calls by "ladies of the night" district. They could call doctors and businesses but were not allowed to talk to private residences. Mrs. Bradney added that she could still remember Belle Starr's phone number.

The big advance during Mrs. Bradney's time at the telephone was the installation of the new light switchboard in 1907. Mrs. Bradney said that the new light board made being an operator much easier.

In 1912 the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Co. bought out the Pan Company and hired many of its employees. From then on Bell was firmly entrenched in Fort Smith.

There were a few problems — the operators declared a strike in 1917 which lasted for three months, the cyclone of 1924 downed most of the lines, and in 1927 the flood damaged many of the lines again.

But generally the phone company enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity. In 1927 the company moved its offices to the northwest corner of 13th and N. "A" Streets. The old building at 9th and N. "A" was torn down in 1932.⁸

In 1940 the number of residences and businesses in the Barling, Fort Smith and Van Buren areas with phones was about 6100. By August of 1977 the figure had climbed to 63,550. The number of employees in Mrs. Bradney's days was less than 20 compared to about 450 in 1977.⁹

The Fort Smith company is currently in a state of transition. Its offices have temporarily moved to Sheraton Plaza while a new electric switching system is being installed in the building at 13th and N. "A" Streets.

The \$8-million system will be finished in late 1978. After it is installed, collect and credit card calls will be dialed directly; users on the line will be notified that another caller is trying to get through by beeping on the line; users will be able to forward calls to another number; and three persons will be able to talk on one line. Also, numbers which a customer calls frequently will be recoded into 3 digit numbers, Mrs. Eunice McClure, secretary to the district manager explained.

The phone company has come a long way from scratchy voices at the other end, from a handful of employees and customers. Even welcoming the advantages, one can't help missing the special touch added by operators like Ollie Bradney.

¹ James A. Sinclair, "A Brief Bit of History," *Southwestern Telephone News*, Sept. 1915.

² No author given, *History of the Telephone*, Fort Smith, Arkansas. (unpublished), 1935, Pg. 1.

³ See Sinclair

⁴ *History of Telephone*, Pg. 1.

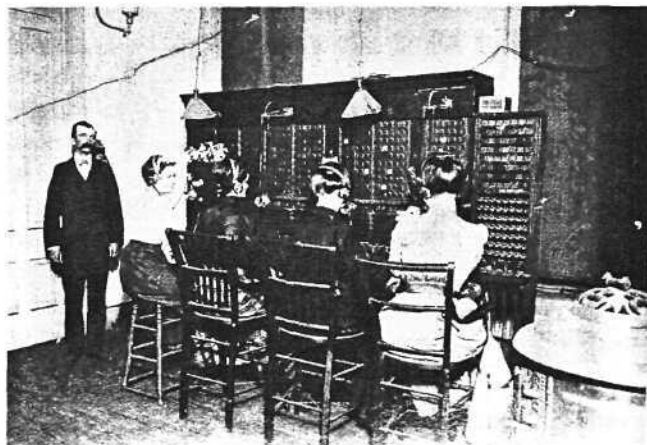
⁵ Biography included in *Good Speed History of Northwest Ark* (Chicago) 1889, and in *Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas 1817 - 1976*, (Fort Smith) 1977.

⁶ See *History of Telephone* PP. 1,5-6.

⁷ *History of Telephone*, Pg. 2.

⁸ *History of Telephone*, Pg. 3.

⁹ These statistics have been compiled by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.



Pan Long Distance Tel. Co. SWBD. located on Third Floor of Jefferson Bldg. Ft. Smith, Arkansas. About 1901. Employees, left to right, are as follows - J. L. Louderman, Manager, - Pearl Shaw - Nora Alexander - Dove Calchough - Mary Brennan

ORAL HISTORY

Missy Carroll

Roy Gilbert Wood was born Sept. 26, 1887 at Paris, Arkansas. His father was Charles Fox Wood, born 1843, died 1890. His mother was Mary Melinda Spangler, born 1855, died 1938. Roy Gilbert Wood moved to Fort Smith at the age of 2 after the death of his father. His grandfather, Seth Spangler, was a wagon maker in Fort Smith. The picture was taken around 1917.



Captain Roy G. Wood, About 1917

On October 22, 1977 an interview was made with Capt. Roy Gilbert Wood who resides at 1620 N. F. Capt. Wood tells of how life was in the early 1900's and gives descriptions of the town.

It is such fun to paint mental pictures as you listen to him describe the street fair held on Garrison Avenue in early 1900. He tells of some of the attractions that were in Fort Smith at various times. His stories of events that took place on Garrison Avenue, Greenwood Road, and Towson Avenue are delightful to hear. The following are excerpts from the taped interview:

"C: How about the Goldman Hotel?"

"W: The Goldman Hotel was built way out of the town, way up at the end of the Avenue across from the Catholic Church. That was way out. After you left Towson Avenue, that was Texas Road, why you were into houses on both sides of the street."

In his description of social life and the Opera House he relates . . . "On the night of the shows the boys would take these horse drawn cabs and take the girls to the Opera House. Then they'd go to Mayo's Restaurant and a big oyster supper. Mayo's was on Sixth and Garrison about where the Palace Drug store use to be."

He tells of the forerunner of the motels. "Now we had a wagon yard out on Towson Avenue where Ross Motor Company use to be. People would come in from forty or sixty miles away. You could rent a little cabin with a stove and a place for your bed. There was a place to put your mule and your wagon all under shelter and all locked up so you could go downtown and shop and come back and spend the night in the wagon yard. This was the forerunner of the automobile motel."

For a nickel you could ride the street cars or you could learn how to swim. "Now there was a man named Jack's who had a big place where you could teach boys to swim. He had a floating floor and a lot of boys would go there. For five cents he'd put a harness on them and teach them how to swim. The tank had a floating floor and water came up to the slats. He'd put a harness on you and walk along and pull you and he'd charge you five cents to teach you to swim."

Capt. Wood gives us a lot of interesting stories regarding our Fire Department, our street cars, our bridges, our factories and warehouses, our parks, and our ball teams.

This taped interview and typescript is available at the Fort Smith Public Library. Come listen to it and you will leave with a deeper and more profound feeling about Fort Smith and the way things used to be.



Captain Roy G. Wood 1977

Courtesy Arlie's Candid Portraits

POETRY AND POETS

New Year's Calling In 1883

A Poem Illustrating
An Old Custom

The following poem was written by Mrs. R. D. Seals in January, 1883, and was published in the city papers at that time. It is a picture of the times depicting the then universal custom of New Year's calling and receiving, recounting the names of the gentlemen who made calls in that year. Mrs. Seals was greatly beloved by a host of friends. She was the mother of Mrs. Ed. Thomas and Mrs. Robert Hunt of Fort Smith, her husband Dr. R. D. Seals, was a prominent Fort Smith Dentist.

THE NEW YEAR'S GUESTS OF 1883

'Twas the night after New Year's when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, excepting a mouse
Which seemed so determined, by the noise it did make,
To get me real nervous, and a promise to break
For I vowed with the new year, to turn a new leaf,
Saving myself and my household much anxiety and grief.
I'd promised "to bed early" and "early to rise"
Thus growing more healthy if not so very wise.
But all good intentions were soon put to flight,
To sleep I could not go, though I shut my eyesight.
I first began thinking of the happy day past,
Hoping friendships then pledged, would for all time last.
Then marshalled each incident of the day in review,
And they were sweet to remember, though nothing was new.
Awakened by bright sunbeams, saw the snow covered ground;
In the room joining mine, girls' chatter did sound;
For all these had met there to begin duties of the day,
And though pleasant the work, it was not all child's play.
Our mind did soon revert to the work in the kitchen
And how to stop the young ones without any switchin',
For the gay, merry laughter and tramping young feet
Had become more annoying than actually sweet,
But all should be joyous, this happy bright new year,
Old folks must be patient, and join the good cheer.
Each one had the light task of preparation begun,

Going through her own part with laughter and fun.
There Lillie M., Blanche and Vivia, bright jewels all three,
Stood waiting the orders of "hand them to me,"
As Mamie stood high on dangerous stepladder,
Deftly tacking on "Welcome" thus to make the hearts gladder.
Sweet Ray was also busy looking demure as a mouse
Assisted by Dear Annie in decorating the house.
Leaving them to their work with our friend, Mrs. Duffer,
We sent to regions below to enjoy or to suffer -
For go would all the fine arts, into sure and sad decline,
If women will prepare not wherewith for man to dine.
So with the help of Lizzie, Edna and Mrs. Huffington,
We hoped to gladden the hearts of every mother's son
Who'd come unto our festal board, this bright and gala day,
And send them off with peace and plenty, rejoicing on the way.
At last the work was all done and well done was it, too,
So that is what we told them, for we knew that it would do.
Then nothing else just now remained but did our very best,
Prepared to meet and welcome each coming New Year's guest.
Soon came Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks, with their sweet little baby elf,
An improved, second edition, of his handsome little self.
Mrs. Stevens, too, would just come in only to take a peep,
For with us all the New Year's Day she could not well keep.
Among the girls there is a flutter, to see who now arrives
As with style and dash up to the gate a handsome hack soon drives.
'Tis Mr. Shelton, Reeves, Bergeron, the irresistible Sparks,
Bound for the very first welcome, "O what happy larks!"
Before they had time to play much, the merry gay

deceiver,
 They were joined by our staid friends, J. Hamilton,
 Reynolds and Weaver.
 The girls had scarcely time then to display the temp-
 ting wares,
 When added to the gallant throng, were Griffing,
 Dyke and Ayers.
 Now is the time we first came in, shy as a young
 beginner,
 To find ourselves soon entertained by Mr. Stone and
 E. McKenna.
 The jest went, the merry song, nothing could now
 grow stale,
 For there comes Col. Clayton, S. Wheeler and John
 Vaile.
 The festive four are now in sight; Kelleam, Hicken,
 Latham and Ray.
 And they had one of the cutest cards so all the girls
 do say.
 Keep up the smiles, the joyous tones, no signs of
 sorrow wear.
 There's Hadden, Humphrey, Ed Botefuhr and Mr.
 Simon Baer.
 Allan Kennedy, Willie Sample, Mr. Henry Reutzel,
 too,
 While Charlie Weaver, Mr. Skipwith and Hade
 Mayers came in view.
 Let's have a rest, now is the time, for every one can
 see
 The girls alone can entertain John Mayers and C.
 Eberle.
 Then Mamie came softly to my room just to tell
 "Come mamma, speak to old friends Weaver, Euper,
 Haglin and Dell."
 We retreated no more, and there was really no need,
 For it was most pleasant to greet Bomford, Weaver,
 Devaney, Perkins and Read.
 Comes now a cheering voice, "Happy New Year" to
 you all,
 And everyone smiles a welcome, the old, young and
 small,
 'Tis a joyous happy greeting, and 'tis ever the way,
 When the good man of this house comes into the
 play.
 Then as fate or luck would have it, it comes Bro.
 Sample -
 To wait upon the two we had the time most ample.
 So westood around and enjoyed, just as proud as we
 could be,
 When Brother Sample pronounced ours
 "Good old Presbyterian coffee."
 It really seems the time flies, alas, almost too soon,
 As we met Phillips, Thurman, Weir, Klein, Saunders,
 Boyd, Boone
 And Markham well, the minutes, for the hours, too,
 will fly.
 What is that I now hear? What is that they all cry?
 The lawyers are coming sure, all in a band it is said:

Well, I hope before they arrive here, all will have been
 well fed,
 For there's little left but tongue - "sass" - the fare is
 not up to the mark,
 I hope they'll enjoy it, yet be willing to share with J.
 Williamson and Dr. Park.
 Yes, now they are coming, the lawyers - let me take a
 good look,
 Judge Rutherford, Read, Stemmons, Yantis, Eberle
 and Cook -
 A handsome crowd surely, nowhere ever to be met,
 For in this array of talent is our young friend Will
 Mollette
 Anyone can foretell
 He's bound to be a great statesman, mark you my
 words well,
 There is but one more, our list will then be filled,
 'Tis the Hon. Barnes, who in the law is well skilled.
 Among the lawyers, we mustn't forget cute little Jim
 Brizzolara,
 Like them he had a two story hat, the brim of which
 was narrow.
 The only sad memory of this ever joyous day,
 Is something which happened on the public
 highway.
 Two gentlemen guests did stop upon the road,
 Desperately, if not boldly, took on a mighty load.
 'Twas near by the mill, and it might have been corn,
 But greatly I fear me it was "rye in a horn,"
 It grieves me to think handsome young shoulders
 should bear
 Such burdens as will bring them sorrow, shame and
 care,
 For God made man his own image, surely but to
 prove
 Life should be made in honor, friendship and love,
 Though it is hoped now, really, to this trouble there's
 a stop
 For one was heard to say, "By George, the last drop."
 Then throwing the bottle, the arch tempter, far away,
 They must have felt real glad it was dark and not day.
 Thinking of this, I could find no repose,
 So quietly and softly like a midnight thief arose,
 Hoping fearfully not to awaken the dear sleeper
 behind.
 And still find relief in unburdening my mind.
 Seeking paper, I found none, it was under keys and
 locks,
 So I've written my thoughts on the top of a box.
 The fire has burned low, the clock has struck two,
 Back to bed I will go, sweet slumber.
 To friends and guests of the New Year may this
 greeting ever prove
 A memory to bind friendship, and strengthen the
 cords of love,
 May they ever think, aye lovingly, of me,
 For I have been thinking of and praying for them 'til
 the clock has struck three.

DIARY



Major Elias Rector probably taken in the late 1860's or early 1870's.

Prepared for printing by Carolyn Pollan

This diary was begun by Kate Rector on October 16, 1866, shortly after her 15th birthday. It had not been too long since the Rector family had returned to Fort Smith from Texas where they spent 4 years in Dallas and Austin during the Civil War. Kate's father, Elias Rector, left Arkansas with the family because he did not wish to take up arms against the South but he was opposed to secession. Upon their return, the family found their fortune gone and their house confiscated by Federal troops.

Kate was the 5th of 8 children of Elias and Catherine DuVal Rector, who married in Fort Smith,

November 25, 1835. According to the Encyclopedia of the New West, printed in 1881, the children were Harriet Amanda (nicknamed Shingo and also called Sister), born June 3, 1837. She married General Cabell of the Confederate Army; William V., born June 10, 1838 (died in infancy); John D., born June 21, 1846. He died in 1864 at Fulton, Ark., during a Civil War skirmish. He was a captain on the staff of his brother-in-law, General Cabell; James B., born August 17, 1848; Kate, born September 22, 1851; Sue P., born June 30, 1854; Mark W., born November 1, 1858; Elias (nicknamed Lidy), born 1860.

This biography does appear to have an inaccuracy. There is no Minnie listed in the eight children, but she is in the diary and has her 11th birthday on November 1, 1866. Mary does not appear in the diary, and according to the birthdate in the Encyclopedia would have been 8 on November 1, 1866. According to the 1860 Census Records of Sebastian County, there is a Mary Rector, age 5, which would be the same birthdate for Minnie. Mary's nickname must be Minnie. Also, Brother William is mentioned in the Diary. We do not know who he is. After much research, we feel certain the child William, born June 10, 1839, is not the Brother William mentioned several places in the Diary.

Elias Rector stands out in Fort Smith history as a richly individualistic, colorful character. He was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, on September 28, 1802 and came to Little Rock in 1825. He settled in Fort Smith in the mid 1830's. After Jackson was elected President, Elias was appointed U. S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas and the Indian Territory. He held the office for 16 consecutive years under 4 presidents. He was then appointed superintendent of southwestern Indian affairs and held that position until 1861 at the start of the Civil War. In this position, it was his responsibility to superintend the removal of Billy Bowlegs and the remaining Seminoles from Florida to the Indian Territory west of Arkansas.

In 1859, it was written of Elias Rector in a Washington paper, "You in Pennsylvania and in the civilized world, or in what we regard as the barbarian East, know little of this same Elias Rector. He is a character in himself, who, if properly set forth in books and newspapers, would awaken more interest than half the lion-killers of whom you read. He is a frontier man, thoroughly imbued, not with Northwestern, but Southwestern idealities and prejudices, and, like the population around him, original, peculiar and antic; but with all, sharp, intelligent, honest and straight forward."

Rector's old-time friend, Albert Pike, one of the earliest of Arkansas' poets and later a Confederate General, wrote a 10-stanza poem in the Winter of 1852-53 in Washington called "The Arkansas Gentleman" about him. The poem was very popular in its time and tells of many of the happenings in Elias' life. We include here the first stanza and a mid-stanza of that poem:

Now all good fellows, listen, and a story I will tell,

Of a mighty clever gentleman who lives extremely well

In the Western part of Arkansas, close to the Indian line,

Where he gets drunk once a week on whisky,
and immediately sobers himself completely on
the very best of wine.

A Fine Arkansas Gentleman,

Close to the Choctaw Line.

This fine Arkansas gentleman has a mighty fine estate,

Of five or six thousand acres or more of land,
that will be worth a great deal some day or
other, if he don't kill himself too soon, and will
only consent to wait;

And four or five dozen negroes that would
rather work than not;

And such quantities of horses and cattle and
pigs, and poultry, that he never pretends to
know how many he has got;

This Fine Arkansas Gentleman,

Close to the Choctaw Line!

Upon Elias Rector's death in 1878, Albert Pike write the following about him for the Arkansas Gazette, "There are not many of us left who were men in Arkansas when it became a state . . . I first met Elias Rector in the year 1835 . . . frank, outspoken, and not over-ceremonious with men, he was, in the presence of ladies, a most excellently courteous and well bred gentleman . . . Beyond measure hospitable, convivial and genial, his friends ever met at his house near Fort Smith a princely welcome: and a singularly quaint humor with great oddness and originality of expression made him the most entertaining of hosts and companions."

Before the war, Elias would sometimes charter an entire steamboat to take his cotton crop down the river. He was so well known as a prosperous planter, famed throughout the Southwest for his lavish hospitality, that a famous hotel in New Orleans permanently bore his name on a silver plate before the door of one of its rooms, which he always retained for his annual visits.

One peculiarity he had was to wear his hair long, as a woman would. He would usually wear it twisted and put up with a comb, tucked under his hat. It proved to help in a lucky escape once at a ball in New Orleans, presumably a Mardi Gras Ball. The ballroom was invaded by a drunken mob of rowdies. The lights were rapidly put out and the crowd began to push, shouting and shrieking towards the doors. Elias carefully let down his long hair and the crowd, pushing and shoving supposed that he was a woman and let him pass through.

Kate Rector's diary gives us a glimpse of those years after the Civil War in Fort Smith. Her last entry is November 23, when she goes to school in St. Louis. Her Mother, Catherine, takes up the Journal on December 6.

Times are hard in these parts as they were all over the South. With the family fortune gone, it is necessary for the Rector family to 'make-do'. We present the diary in abbreviated form, leaving out many of the repetitious daily happenings.

Names are sometimes spelled two or more ways in the diary. If we do not know, through research, who these people were, and the correct spelling of their names, we left them as they appeared in the diary, ie: Calihill, Cahhill, Chahill; Flowerrie, Flowereece; Burl, Burrell; Dosey, Dosie.

A copy of the diary, from which we have extracted portions, has been loaned for the use in the Journal, by Fado Cravens, Jr., who has a copy of the original from Charles Stuart, San Francisco, Calif.

Oct. 16, 1866

I begin this day the sixteenth day of October 1866 to keep a diary. Mama has been quite sick for two days. Uncle Lidy¹ came out to see Ma and Jimmie² this morning. Found them both much better, but after he left, Ma was very sick and Jimmie had a chill. I had some apple butter cooked over. Iseral³ and Bush³ have been gathering apples all day. I am the only one up in the house and it is very lonely.

Oct. 17, 1866

Mama was much better. She got up after breakfast. Jimmie is much better tonight. He stayed in bed nearly all day and drank "shuck tea". "Got noticeably hungry about dinner time." While at breakfast, a gentleman called to see Pa about selling the farm. Pa went to town today. Stayed until evening. Bought dear little Lidy⁴ a beautiful little saddle. Iseral went to market - brought me out from the store three pounds of crackers and a loaf of light bread. There was no mail and I felt very much disappointed that I did not get a letter. Pa brought out a Little Rock and St. Louis paper but nothing of interest in them. The "Cholera" has been in Fort Smith for five weeks. It has broken out afresh today. One of Mr. McDonald's children died today with it. The cholera abates for three days and then breaks out afresh again. God grant that it will soon disappear all together . . . I have been very busy all day acting "Lady house-keeper and dining-room servant" as Emily⁵ was sent for this morning to go see her Mother. Lum³ came for her. This evening he came for Iseral. Aunt Hem³ was dying, also Uncle Billy³ and Aunt Violet³ was dead and buried. Iseral went for Emily and the children. When he got there Aunt Hannie³ was nearly dead and Uncle Billy very speechless. He came by here and took Emily and children down to the lower farm to stay for a few days as Pa did not think it would be prudent to let

them stay here at home. Lum was taken with the cholera the same as the others. All were well last night. I made a whiskey stew tonight. Heard Minnie's⁶ lessons. Dearest little Lidy rode on his pony this evening. Jimmie went with him. Went down in the "bottoms." Jimmie got some cottonwood bark to put in some whiskey to take for chills. Sister Vincent cut Susie's⁶ hair today - quite an improvement. I read about the description of the Tournament Fair given at St. Louis for the benefit of the SOUTHERN Relief. It was very interesting.

October 19, 1866

I have been very busy today as Emily is not here. I made some "pickle lily" for Sister⁷ today and cooked over mine as it was spoiling. Made a sponge cake for Mr. Martin as tomorrow is his birthday - it baked beautifully. Went down in the field and got some persimmons - am drying them for Winter. First I ever dried. Pa went to town today. Did not come home until evening. Ate his dinner with Major Lanigan⁸ at the store. Iseral went to see how Aunt Hem and Uncle Billy were today. Found them both dead and Lum speechless. Uncle Lidy advised Pa not to let Emily or Iseral come back on the place for a week. Mr. Grimes⁹ came out today and stayed awhile after tea. He brought the mail out. Mr. Grimes gave Susy, Minnie, Lidy and myself a piece of the new currency, 5 cents. Looks like a copy cent.

October 20, 1866

Mr. Cahhill came over this morning to go down to Fulton with Jimmie after the remains of my dear Brother John.¹⁰ They will start in the morning. I made Mr. Barton some eggnog as it was his birthday. I then parched Jimmie some coffee and ground it and made a bag to put it in. After dinner I made some little tea cakes for Jimmie to take with him. I then got cups, spoons and forks and fixed up his provisions. After supper I faced Dosey's³ dress. Jimmie went to town this morning. Jack Berl³ went to town with the wagon and brought out some lumber. Uncle Billy and Lum were buried. He and Billy had been dead for 2 days and nights. The local authorities wanted to burn the house down with the dead bodies in it but the physicians said it would not do and Uncle Lidy sent a man out to see about it. There was a race out at the race track today. There was a drunken soldier came here wanting to see Iseral. He went down to the farm to see him.

¹ Dr. Elias Rector DuVal, brother of Catherine Jemima (DuVal) Rector (Mrs. Elias Rector)

² James Rector, Kate's brother, at this writing 18 years old

³ Blacks who worked for the Rectors, most probably their former slaves

⁴ The youngest of the Rector children, Elias, at this writing 6 years old.

⁵ Kate's sister.

⁶ Kate's sister, 12 years old at this writing.

⁷ Kate's oldest sister, married and 29 years old at this writing.

⁸ Thomas J. Lanigan, a prominent Fort Smith merchant on Garrison Avenue dealing in merchandise, mill machinery, forwardings (New Era, Nov. 18, 1870).

⁹ Marshall Grimes, a partner of Charles Buck Johnson in the firm of Johnson and Grimes. Grimes married Johnson's sister. Johnson married Margaret Amanda Rector, daughter of Wharton Rector, II, Wharton was two years older than his brother, Elias Rector.

¹⁰ Kate's brother John was buried at Fulton, AR., where he was killed during the Civil War.

This morning darling Jimmie and Mr. Chahill left for Fulton. They remained for some time after breakfast as it was raining. As it was Sunday, Papa cut Lidy's hair. He cut in very short. This evening Mama, Susy, and myself walked down in the garden, went by the stables and saw my beautiful horse. I gave him a bundle of fodder. He is so sensible. There was a poor man came here this evening who had been wounded four times during the war. He and wife and two children were perfectly destitute, have no money or provisions, was left by a man who had promised to take him down in Franklin. Major Gatlin¹¹ let him sleep in one of his rooms last night. Pa told him he would do anything he could for him. We have no idea the suffering there is in our own state. How we all miss Sister and family and Jimmie. I have rushed this and will now go up stairs to bed. It is half past ten o'clock. May God protect us all this night.

October 22, 1866

I picked up apples all this morning. The store room is finished. I have been cleaning it out and putting the things in it. Late this afternoon Ma, Susy and Lidy and myself walked down to the persimmon trees. Got very few. Lidy rode on his pony this evening. Minnie rode behind him. Susy read a book through since she came from school. Had to throw away a half barrel of nice cornbeef. It spoiled. I am now reading a novel called Heidelberg. Mama hemmed the strings to my apron and put them on for me. This apron is made out of a cape. *I will start a new fashion.* It is a most beautiful night.

October 23, 1866

Mr. Grimes came out just at dinner time. I got Mr. Grimes a snack of salmon, crab apple pickles, biscuit and butter and some peach preserves. He appeared to enjoy it. Pa went to town today. Mr. McDonald's oldest son died last night. Iseral went to market. I sent Mrs. Lanigan's cookery book home. Cooked over some peach marmalade this afternoon. Went riding - intended to take Lidy with me but could not catch his pony. I ran all over the field after him. Only rode to the branch. Was very sick at my stomach when I came back. I layed down and took some peppermint and I was soon relieved. Some man came out to make arrangements to paint the house. I am in hopes we will get done fixing the house soon as I am tired moving from one room to another. Mr. Burnton killed a very large owl last night. Darling little Lidy cut off one of its wings and brought it to Ma for a fan.

October 24, 1866

Cleaned upstairs. Ma and I read in the Prayer Book

together. Papa went to town. Came back to dinner. This afternoon I layed down and took quite a nap. Just as I had got up and combed my hair Major Bancroft called. I was not dressed as neatly as I should have been, but as the men are busy fixing the house I can not keep clean. The man came out this evening to paint the house. I will be so delighted when they get through. Killed a very nice beef this evening. Put out some poison for the rats. Mr. Burnton brought me up this morning fifty eggs.

October 25, 1866

It has been a cold rainy day, it makes me very gloomy. The children went to school. Iseral went in town for the painter's paint. Minnie found a nest with nine eggs in it. The hen was just going to setting but she was broken up. My darling Mama is so good to me. She cut me out two *Chemmies* this evening. I have nearly finished one of the bodies. As I went in the kitchen a large rat ran across my foot - it frightened me very much - I was very ridiculous to get frighten at any such a trifle - there was a very dim light in the room so allowance must be made for me. I had the beef feet on to boil to make some jelly. I hope I will succeed.

October 26, 1866

I went down to old Uncle Ike's³, bought two pounds of butter. Gave 50 cents per pound. Fixed the sleeves and bosom in chemise tonight. My apron Ma made me yesterday is made of blue domestic. Is long. Had for supper a nice beef heart. Mama gave me a pair of her shoes this evening (cloth shoes).

October 27, 1866

Sister and the children, also Maj. King came after dinner. We were all so glad to see them. Susy, Minnie, and Lidy went after "hickory nuts" this morning - got about half a basket of nuts. Ma and I intended to have gone this evening had not Sister come. Sister is making a beautiful calico dress. Has a new kind of pattern to make the waist. It is called "Dixie Waist". She also learned to make some pretty trimmings out of "Serpentine" braid. I am anxious to learn how to make it as I am so tired of *ruffles*. I finished my chemise tonight. It looks exceedingly pretty. Dearest little Lidy had a chill this afternoon, has fever tonight. I am in hopes he will be well in the morning. Pa went to town today - no news excepting Mr. Potter's death. He died last night. Iseral went to market. Brought Susy's cloaks from Aunt Dora's¹². Missy Dibrell¹³ wore it home last Winter.

October 28, 1866

This morning it looked very cloudy but Sister, Susy and myself went to church. It began raining

¹¹ Richard C. Gatlin one of three men designated to locate the second fort at Fort Smith. He was in charge of the Confederate defense of North Carolina at the beginning of the Civil War.

¹² Medora (Dibrell) DuVal, wife of Elias Rector DuVal (Uncle Lidy)

¹³ Annie ("Missy") Dibrell, of Van Buren, AR., the daughter of Dr. James Anthony Dibrell and future wife of George Taylor Sparks, sister of Medora (Dibrell) DuVal.



This is believed to be the smoke house Kate refers to. It is located on the C. A. Lick property, 1456 N. 41.
Photo Courtesy - Arlie's Candid Portraits

about 12 o'clock and rained all the rest of the day. We went from here into Mrs. Cabell's.¹⁴ I went to Mrs. Wheeler's¹⁵ and stayed about 20 minutes, then went to church. Saw Mrs. Lanigan and Sandles.¹⁶ There were very few at church owing I suppose on account of Mr. Potter's funeral. I got two Sunday School books called "Lilies and Her Cousin" the other "The Shepard of Bethlehem". Mrs. Cabell had an excellent dinner. The sermon read today by Mr. Brooks was taken from Hebrews, part of the eighth verse and eleventh chapter - it was a discussion on the Apostle's Creed. It was very interesting. Sister intends moving in town tomorrow. We will miss her so much.

October 29, 1866

A beautiful day. Sister moved in part of her things today. We miss her and the dear children so much. I have done very little sewing today. I went over the orchard, got an apron full of nice apples, got a box and put them in the storeroom. Papa went to town this afternoon, brought out the paper. I am very much afraid we will have another loss "God Forbid." The cholera has subsided.

Mr. Lewis (the carpenter) went to work putting a new roof on the smokehouse. He is going to move Mr. Barton's house. I wish we could get through fixing the place. Iseral went in town after lunch to make mortar to build the pillars and the chimney to Mr. Barton's. There are five men at work here at present and will be two more out tomorrow. I made tonight another apron out of a "cape". After the children came from school this evening they went with Ma and me down to the persimmon trees. Burl has been mowing the grass in the yard. Pa bought four bushels of sweet potatoes. Sold two bushels to Mr.

Hendricks and two bushels to Mr. Lewis.

October 30, 1866

This morning Sister sent out for her other things. They did not get her dinner ware nor her jellies, preserves, and pickles. They could not take them in. I packed all of them up and cleaned up the store room which took up nearly all the morning. I wrote a short letter for Papa. Mr. Burnton gave me a nice box to put my eggs in. I had coffee parched. Papa and Lidy went to town this evening. Lidy was highly delighted as it was the first time he ever rode with Pa or into town - he brought Bennie out behind him. Iseral went in town this morning, did not get back until dinner time, then went over to Col. Flowerrie's for some beef. They were all sick, I didn't go over as Papa rode my horse. Saw some Partridges. Susy went for Mr. Burnton but he did not kill any. Tonight the children popped some popcorn in the new popper Pa bought today.

October 31, 1866

After breakfast I made some jelly cakes for Minnie as tomorrow is her birthday. She will be surprised to see a cake at her place in the morning. I always like to give the children something or have something nice. This morning Mama and Papa walked up to the graveyard to pick a place for my dearest brother's remains to be buried - it made Ma very sad all day. I sewed since supper. Iseral dug the "goober peas" today. There was a peck. He gathered the remainder of the popcorn. Having the iower walk fixed. It is a good deal of trouble. Mr. Barton killed a prairie chicken this morning. We had it for supper. It was delightful. Sister had on a new calico dress and a new pair of gloves and shoes, she looked very nice.

November 1, 1866

Mama went to see Mrs. Wheeler. Spent the whole afternoon. Bought Susie, Minnie, and Emily shoes. Aunt Ellen¹⁷ is going down to Little Rock in the morning on the Hesper. Sister spent most of the day at the convent as it was "All Saints." She would not go down town as today has to be kept as Sunday in the Catholic Church. Mama bought me some black braid to go on my sack. Pa bought me a beautiful pair of buckskin gauntlets. Bennie and Lidy went to town with Papa on their ponies. Today is Min's eleventh birthday. I put the cake at the plate this morning at breakfast. She was perfectly astonished. She and I remained at home today. I made some very nice apple jelly. Since supper sewed the braid round my sack and bound it round the neck - have the sleeves and pockets still to fix.

November 2, 1866

We are all very sad now as we are looking daily for

¹⁴ Mother-in-law of Harriet Amanda (called Sister in Diary)

¹⁵ Nancy (Watie) Wheeler, sister of Cherokee Chief, Stand Watie, only Indian Confederate General, wife of John Foster Wheeler

¹⁶ Wife of Reverend John Sandels (This is correct spelling)

¹⁷ Wife of Ben T. DuVal, (Catherine Rector's brother)

the remains of my *dearest brother*. Sister had received a letter from Brother William. I was so sorry to hear he had been sick. Mr. Hendricks (The carpenter) made me a very nice "breakfast board." He finished working out here today. The other carpenters have Mr. Burnton's house nearly up. I fixed over my *Balmoral shirt*. Made it as good as new. Darling Mama finished sewing the braid on my sack. Bennie and Lidy spent all day in hauling the little wagon and riding the pony. I put away what persimmons I have dried in a box, put a layer of persimmons and of sugar. Then I walked down by the old barn and mill, went to the hickory nut tree. Got about a quart of nuts - the children were sitting under the tree eating nuts. "Oh, may we all remember the sight of death - draws near." P. S. Pa bought a couple of pair of "Hand Irons" for \$1.00 per pair.

November 3, 1866

This evening I made some pumpkin pie - it took me until nearly eleven o'clock. We had an exceedingly early dinner as Pa was in one of his humors. He went to town directly after dinner. Bennie and Lidy accompanied him - they came back rather soon. Pa returned before sundown. This has been a very anxious day, also very sad as we were expecting Jimmie home with the remains of our dearest brother. Mr. Finigan came out this morning and dug the grave. Oh! Burl went to town this afternoon, brought out the Fort Smith papers. We had not got one for a week as Pa always forgets it. He brought Susy's shoe from the shoemakers. It is mended very nicely. Sister brought Sue out a very nice pair of shoes. She gave them to her for a debt. The children popped some corn tonight. Dossy finished her Calico dress tonight that Pa gave her the first of the Summer.

November 4, 1866

After breakfast Pa and Iseral went out in the woods. Bennie, Minnie, Lidy, and myself went in on our horses to church. I think the sermon would have touched the coldest heart. Uncle Lidy was here when I came home. He came out to dinner, how I do love him. I brought George³ home with me. He will live with us again, I suppose, if Pa can arrange matters satisfactorily with the "Bureau." He has a very bad cold. I made him a vinegar stew tonight. I feel sorry for him. This evening Ma, Susy and myself went down to see the little "Pigs". The old sow had ten pigs yesterday. In hopes we will hear from General Cabell¹⁸ tomorrow. His boats came up yesterday. *Each day I pray I may be a better Christian.*

November 5, 1866

Jimmie has not returned yet. I am quite uneasy about him. Cleaned out my store room very nicely.

Made George some "horehound sirup" for his cold. Been sewing on Susy's chemise - she started but did not finish - what she did I ripped out. After dinner I heard someone coming in the hall, talking to me and I thought it was Brother William and I went out with my sewing in my hand and my old dirty gloves that I sew in and who should it be but Major Field.¹⁹ I was taken aback. We were all very glad to see him. He brought a letter up to Sister from Brother William. He has been sick. Tonight Bennie, Minnie, and myself sang for an hour or more. Ben has a beautiful voice. "*I sing when I am saddest.*" Picked a splinter out of Bennie's foot. Am boiling Pa some eggs. He is getting back to his old habit of "eating at night." Ma is fixing up some *papers* to send away. A beautiful star light night. Had the carpet taken up in the Parlor, will have this house thoroughly cleaned as soon as the workman finish. All well tonight "Thank God."

November 6, 1866

A beautiful day but a very bad one. Jimmie came this morning with the remains of my dear brother. Pa had gone into town on some business and Jimmie went in after him. Sister came out and brought Aunt Dora with her - came by the Convent for the children. We had no funeral service as Mr. Sandles²⁰ was sick. Mr. Spring, Mr. Carroll and Armstiad, Col. Flowereence and Mr. T. Flowereence came out. I shall ever love Mr. Chalihill for his kindness to Jimmie. I feel as if some weight were off my heart as we have our dear brother near us. I received a letter from P____W____L today. "May God give us strength to bear up under our affliction." Bought at the store of General Cabell a sack of coffee.

November 7, 1866

Sister sent out for Ma this morning. She bought me a nice alpaca riding dress. I am so much obliged to her. She bought lidy two suits of clothes and some embroidery, Jimmie a flannel shirt, Susy a pair of nice shoes, some serpentine braid, buttons. Pa had the person dug up today that was buried in our graveyard. The coffin was rotten and the child was all bones. The grave was so large that anyone would have thought it was a grown person but it was I suppose a child about 11 years old. Mr. Calihill stayed all day with Pa, I like him very much. Cut down a locust tree between Mr. Burnton's house and the servants rooms. The trees appear to be all dying. I made a nice sponge cake but baked it like a jellie cake. I went up to the graveyard this afternoon.

November 8, 1866

A damp disagreeable day this morning - it cleared off abruptly and the children went to school. I made a smoke in my store room to smoke the nats away, the whole place is filled with them. Sewed on my

¹⁸ Kate's brother-in-law (Sister's husband)

¹⁹ Ellen (Field) DuVal's father.

²⁰ John Sandels, the first Rector of St. John's episcopal Parish in Fort Smith.

blue dress today, went to pleat it in the waist tonight but could not see very well and concluded to put it off until tomorrow. I have been reading for a short time tonight, then Pa asked me to sing for him. We all sang and put him to sleep. I greased my knife that Mr. Shoneco²¹ gave me over a year ago. It was all rusted. Ma has been fixing a "bombazine" dress all day. The servants have been cleaning up the yard. I am in hopes we will soon get cleaned up. Filled Mr. Burnton's jug with whiskey (wild cherry bark in it). He has a dram with every meal.

November 9, 1866

Brother William came up today on a new boat called the "Parnell." Pa says he looks wretchedly, I pray he will soon be entirely well. Pa bought at Mr. Bickleston's a sack of salt. Cost 6 dollars. He also paid Mr. Louis (the carpenter) 50 dollars. I finished fixing my "blue dress." I have been sewing on my riding skirt since dinner. Montie Sandels²² came out for Jimmie to go down in the bottoms with him to hunt his cow. We have a cow running out and Jimmie intended hunting for her this evening so it happened very well. Neither he or Montie found their cows. Jimmie got some cottonwood bark to put in some whiskey, he is very weak. I think when he starts to school his health will improve. Iseral and Burrel hauled a load of sand after dinner. There was quite an excitement at school today among the children. Two new sisters arrived today on the "boat." Major Field was coming out this evening but the boat came and he is going down on her - sent his compliments and regrets he could not come out - he gave Pa a new bale of tobacco.

November 10, 1866

I finished my riding skirt today. Mama, my darling Mama, sewed the braid on the bottom. When I get the bodice made I shall have quite a nice "habit." After dinner I made a gallon of nice apple toddy. Bennie went in town to see his Pa before dinner - Jimmie went in after. General Cabell is sick in bed but better. Bennie came out with him. Did not get any mail with the exception of "The London Illustrated" sent by Mr. Boggy Johnson. There is quite a pretty notice in "the Fort Smith Herald" of the arrival of the remains of my dear brother. Ma and I walked up on the hill this evening with Jimmie and Bennie. Tonight the children played cards. Then I got Pa a glass of apple toddy, a slice of cake, and a couple of eggs. I boiled the eggs for him. I made the apple toddy for Christmas but I am afraid it will be all drunk up before that time. Had the sugar brought up

out of the cellar and put in the storeroom as the cellar has water in it - also the apples picked over, they are rotting so fast. Pa has concluded to sell them. Dosey told my fortune by turning the grounds in a coffee cup. Emily is suffering with toothache. I can sympathize with any that has it. It is my intention to go to town with Pa tomorrow and will go to Church "Divine Providence Permitting."

November 11, 1866

Papa, Jimmy, Ben, Lidy, and myself went in to Sister's. Jimmie and myself went to Church. Got there too soon. We then went over to Mr. Sutton's. No one was there excepting Belle - while there Willie Stevenson and Bob Saunders came in. Belle was very glad to see me. I do love her. When we came from the Church Aunt Dora and Mrs. Kennedy came down to Sister's with us. Had a beautiful sermon. Mr. Brooks officiated - he is lay reader. Mr. Sandels is better. Lily, Dosey's sister came to see her today. Walked 16 miles by dinner - stayed all night.

November 12, 1866

Pa, Jimmie, and Lidy went in town. Lidy went in the wagon with Iseral - Susy and Minnie rode Lidy's pony to school as Bennie kept his pony in town. Jimmie bought himself a very nice overcoat. Mr. Beckel gave Lidy some cake and candy - Pa bought himself a pair of boots. He also bought a pair for George. Montie Sandels came out with Jimmie and they went hunting. Each killed a Partridge. Pieced my red *Delain* dress at the top and ripped the velvet off the back and had them washed. I have not felt very well and didn't accomplish much. Ma and I walked down to the Rector grove and down to the Will Springs. The spring is very much delapidated - it makes me heartsick to see how our whole place has gone to wreck. I think the sunset this evening was the most beautiful sight I ever saw. I think it must be equal to the sunsets in Italy. Mr. Burnton brought me up 44 eggs this morning. I gave him at 12 o'clock a tumbler of appletoddy and a slice of cake. I sent Mrs. Cabell a bushel of apples and Sister a basket of dried apples and her ketchup. Went to town for some soap today.

November 13, 1866

Pa went to town on business. I wrote to Fannie Johnson²³ - I wrote a very long letter. I expect it took me until dinner - after dinner Jimmie and I went in to see Lula Sandels.²⁴ I never spent a more delightful afternoon in my life - while there Mr. Chilton from Van Buren came. Mrs. F. Rector²⁵ came up on the

²¹ Refers to Edward Czarnikow who was probably the first Jewish merchant in Fort Smith.

²² Monti Hines Sandels, son of Reverend John Sandels. He became an attorney and was elected Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. He married Bettie Bliss Johnson, daughter of Charles Buck and Margaret Amanda (Rector) Johnson.

²³ Kate's first cousin, once removed, daughter of Fannie Wharton Johnson and Charles Buck Johnson

²⁴ Lula Greenfield Sandels, daughter of Rev. John Sandels. She later married John Caldwell Wheeler, son of John F. and Nancy Wadie Wheeler.

²⁵ Laura (Nowland) Rector, wife of Francis Armstrong Rector, oldest child of Wharton Rector, 11. Francis was a Confederate Colonel.

boat this evening. Jimmie went to see Mr. Morton about going to school. He starts tomorrow. I did not sew today. Tonight is the night of the falling meteors. A magnificent sight.

November 14, 1866

I finished fixing a chemise that I made several weeks ago and put magic ruffling in the band and sleeves. It all tore out in the first washing - but the ruffles - and put some very pretty edging on it. I don't think I will ever buy magic ruffling again. Ma, Pa, Jimmie, Bennie and Lidy went to town after dinner. Ma bought enough alpaca to finish my riding habit. She also bought some cloves and cinnamon. Bought Minnie a couple of pairs woolen stockings. Bought for Caroline a couple of pairs of stockings - also a pair for Laura and enough stuff to make her two aprons. Got Dosey a pair of shoes and five yards of domestic, Emily two pair of stockings. Jimmie started to school this afternoon. He likes Mr. Morton very much. He gave 4 dollars and 25 cents for his geography, arithmetic and grammar. Jimmie had a chill while in town. It seems as if he never will get clear of them. After he came home I got on the horse (the one Pa bought from Mr. Grimes) and rode it up the lane - went where the men were cutting wood. I had a *splendid* ride. I do wish my horse had good gaits as Choctaw - Pa's horse has. My horse is the prettiest. I received an invitation to attend a Cotillion Party Monday evening - do not know whether I will attend or not. The meteors did not appear last night - expect them tonight. Ma saw Mrs. Dr. Smith and Mrs. T. Smith - I knew her in Austin. Had nice baked beef heart for supper.

November 15, 1866

Jimmie had a very severe chill. I covered all of his books for him - marked two pairs of stockings for Minnie - she is delighted because she has been put in a higher class. Bennie went to town after dinner. He brought out the Fort Smith paper, *The Conservative and Metropolitan Record*. It gave a description of the tournament. Col. Crawford got his leg and arm broken by falling off of his horse. After supper I fixed Beeffoot Jellie - colored it with poke berries. It looks beautiful. Pa bought 10 pumpkins - going to dry them. Two negroes came to cut wood.

November 16, 1866

Another delightful day. I cleaned out my storeroom very nice today. Pleated part of my Delane dress (red one). Emily finished it. After dinner I went to town with Pa - only stayed at Sister's. I got a letter this evening which worried me very much. "All for the Best." We all drank some apple toddy tonight. *God be merciful to me.*" Bought two

balls of candle wick - gave 25 cents for them. I had some coffee toasted. (LATER ENTRY - "Oh unhappy day - from this day how changed are all things.")²⁶

November 17, 1866

The day has been changeable. Jimmie went in this morning to see about turning over the horse G. C. left with me to Mr. Hamilton. Oh! *This learns me a lesson*. After Jimmie came back we all went walnut hunting - did not get a single one - I rode Pa's horse. Lidy fell twice off his pony - once Jimmie was on with him. Jimmie and I stopped at Mrs. Gatlin's for a short while. I made some apple toddy this evening. Tonight Dosey has been trying to tell my fortune with the cards but she did not succeed very well. Iseral brought out from the store a box nearly full of raisins. What a miserable day I have spent and my dear Mama also. "*Oh Lord in thee have I trusted let me never be confounded.*"

November 18, 1866

Jimmie went into Church, stayed all day. Dosey and Caroline took the cart and went after walnuts - did not get one. I read after dinner to the children. Mr. Grimes came out this evening - spent the whole afternoon.

November 19, 1866

Jimmie went into town directly after breakfast to take in the horse Captain C. left here to be sold. He went to see Cousin Laura - bought himself a nice "bow" for a necktie - it is made of Girderpurchu (Gutta Percha ED.) Pa bought some venison. He is not in humor with me. I cannot help it. I made Jimmie a nice satchel to carry his books in. I made it out of oil cloth and bound it around with red braid. I have not done much sewing for several days. Ma is having the house scoured as the workmen are through with the exception of Mr. Allen the stonemason.

I made Ma a nice cup of tea after dinner she has not eaten anything of any consequence for three days. I do hope she will soon be entirely well. Bennie came out with Jimmie - yesterday was his eighth birthday. May he live to be a good man and a true Christian. "Lord have Mercy on me."

November 21, 1866

I did not write in my diary last night as I was sick yesterday and last night. I feel quite well tonight. Pa went to town this morning - Mr. Pedley came home with him - they had not been to dinner - we had finished dinner - Brother William came out just after Pa. I fixed dinner for them - made some oyster soup. Got some real nice apple pickles out and had some peach preserves. Brother William ate quite a hearty dinner which I was very glad to see - he and Ben went down to their plantation this afternoon. Mr. Collins came out to see Pa's farm today. Pa rode over with him - he did not decide whether he would buy it or

²⁶ Apparently Kate either broke an engagement or an 'understanding'. She did not reveal her innermost thoughts in this diary. Evidently the man's initials were G. C., but it is not known who he was.

not - I am in hopes he will so I will get to go to school. This evening I cut out the back of my Delain dress, the one I wore all last winter. I had it washed and took a width out of the skirt to make a new body. I also took an old dress and fixed Lily two aprons. This evening I made a jug of apple toddy for Christmas. Lidy was sick last night - had a fever until 12 o'clock today. He appears perfectly well tonight. The children got up early this morning and went to mass to see 21 boys and 15 girls take their first communion - there were 56 in all that went to communion. Mr. Allen (the stonemason) finished daubing Mr. Burton's house and is making stone gutters round the cellar to keep the water from running in the cellar. Pa paid him for all his work fifty dollars. Mr. Litel (the painter) came back this morning to finish painting the mantelpieces. Assisted Jimmie in working his arithmetic. He read aloud out of the Ratland paper a very pretty story and several pretty pieces of poetry. Jimmie got a letter from Worth Vick of Dallas, Texas. Old Dr. Pryor was dead. My head is swimming so badly now.

November 22, 1866

A beautiful day. I fixed all the tallow I had rendered up to make candles. I put lye in the tallow and boiled it and skimmed all the dirt off it. Then let it settle and dipped it so I won't have any trouble in having the candles molded. Pa went to town before dinner. Sold his farm to Mr. Collins - he bought some tickets at the lottery-drew a "gold pencil" which he gave me. A breast pin which he gave Mama, a "bracelet" he gave Sue - a little chain to Minnie - a silver goblet to Lidy - a watch chain to Jimmie - also a little pin for a gentleman he gave that to Jimmie - he got also a ring - gave that to no particular person. Mr. A. Quesenbury got a large picture of General Lee and Jackson - he gave them to Pa and he gave them to me. I finished fixing my Delain dress. Ma finished Lidy's coat.

November 23, 1866

Weather changeable all day. I did not sew any today. Pa went to town - brought the news of Col. Brown's arrival - he is coming out tomorrow. Pa is going to send me to St. Louis to school. Oh! I will hate to leave my home but it is to give me a good opportunity of getting an education. Major Lanigan, Mr. Watson Collins and Mr. Grimes came out this evening stayed until after supper. I had quite a nice supper. All insisted on my going on to the party to be given on the boat tonight. I could not to. I will have to be very busy to get ready to go away.

Kate's part of the diary ends with a rush to get ready to go in school in St. Louis.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

JOHN GULER

JACOB BRUNOLDI

Guler & Brunoldi,

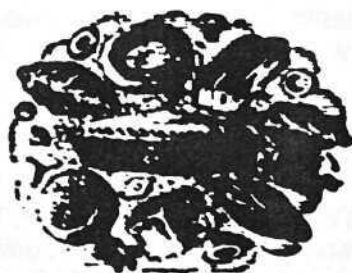
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

CONFECTIONERIES

AND ALL KINDS OF

FRUITS AND NUTS,

DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED.



Also a select and large stock of

Fancy Groceries, CIGARS AND TOBACCO.

TOYS

BRUNOLDI AND GULER

by Amelia Martin



John J. Guler



Augusta Selig Brunoldi Guler

James (Jake) Brunoldi and John J. Guler, lifelong friends, and the first commercial makers of ice cream and french pastries in Fort Smith, sold these popular, delicious, taste-tempting delicacies in their "Confectionery" at 503 Garrison, Fort Smith.

John J. Guler was born August 18, 1848 in Switzerland, and as he grew up in the pretty little Swiss village of Poschiavo, in the Canton Grison, he herded goats, attended school, and learned to speak four languages. During this time, he and James Brunoldi were inseparable friends.

In 1863 Brunoldi went to Brest, France, where he went into business and prospered from the start. He soon sent for young Guler, to whom he had already written glowing stories of his new field.

For six years the two young men labored side by side, and then young Guler, whose cousin, Theodore Campagnon, was living in Fort Smith, became interested in the tales that he heard of this country, and determined to cross the water and see it for himself. He did so, and came directly to Fort

Smith. He did very well, but longed for his old friend and did not rest until Brunoldi arrived in Fort Smith in 1871. The two formed a partnership which was terminated only by the death of Mr. Brunoldi in 1893.

503 Garrison, located in the Fort Smith Historical District, has been restored and is now occupied by "Old Town Grain and Feed Co.," a cocktail lounge. (See article in this Journal by John Robinson).

Brunoldi and Guler, who were especially noted for their french pastries, also stocked fine chocolate candies, a few hard candies and fine cigars. The two men made their own soft drink syrup and ice cream, which was the first ice cream to be sold in Fort Smith. It sold for 25 cents a dip. Ice for making the ice cream was cut from the river and stored in an ice house which was attached to the back of the store.

The soda fountain at Brunoldi and Guler's with a large mirror behind it, was one of the largest and most beautiful in Fort Smith.

The following appeared in the Fort Smith *Southwest Times Record* (clipping is not dated):



Interior of Brunoldi and Guler Confectionery. Pictured left to right are: 1. Thomas Jefferson (Tom) Williams, 2. Unknown, 3. Lillie Belle Guler, daughter of John Guler, later married Tom Williams, 4. Unknown, 5. John Guler, 6. Unknown, 7. Augusta Selig Brunoldi Guler (known to many as "Granny Guler") 8. and 9. Unknown.

"Blanketed Indians were far from uncommon on our streets in the day, and Mr. Guler tells of some brothers stopping in front of his store. One of them, after peering silently and intently through doors and windows at some white youth seating ice cream, was heard to say 'Ugh! white man eat butter with a spoon'."

An unidentified newspaper clipping reports: "Charge account records of the first ice cream company in Fort Smith, the firm of Guler and Brunoldi, have been given to the Old Commissary Museum by Albert and Maynard Worden. Dating back to 1895, the records contain the names of Judge Isaac Parker, Pearl Starr, daughter of Belle Starr, and many old Fort Smith families."

There were two charming young ladies living in Fort Smith when young Guler and young Brunoldi reached here in the early seventies, and what was more natural than that these young men should fall

in love with them. The names of these young women were Miss Clara Reichert (sister to August and Gustave Reichert), and Miss Augusta Selig. They were second cousins, and like the young men, were inseparable companions.

Soon Miss Reichert became Mrs. Guler, and Miss Selig became Mrs. Brunoldi. Clara Guler died in 1887, and in 1893 James Brunoldi died - but the business continued another generation under the same name because Augusta Selig Brunoldi and John J. Guler were quietly married in 1895 by Dr. McKay in a private ceremony at the home of the bride on Fourth and Walnut Streets, The Vian String Band and the Mandolin Club furnished sweet music for the occasion, and a "toothsome repast" was furnished.

The story of the wedding which appeared in the *News Record* said, "A number of elegant presents were received, and the Odd Fellows, of which Mr. G.

is a member, remembered Mr. and Mrs. Guler with a magnificent solid silver salad set."

John and Augusta Selig built a large home on the northside in what is known as the Guler addition, and moved into it in 1909.

Augusta Guler* died suddenly at their home on March 3, 1917.

John Guler learned to plow at the age of 70. He sold his business a few years later and enjoyed doing small truck farming until his death in 1939 at the age of 91.

James and Augusta Brunoldi had one daughter, Amalia, who later married Palmer Hill; and a son, James (called Jakie) Brunoldi. Two daughters were born to John and Clara Guler: Lillie Belle Augusta (married Tom Williams); and Louisa Victoria "Dora"

(married Benjamin Worden, well-known painter and paper hanger in Fort Smith). The Williams had one child, a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Augusta Williams Chitwood, who lives in Fort Smith and provided research materials for this story. The Wordens had eight children. Two of these children survive: Claire Worden of Fort Smith, and Charles Worden of Detroit, Michigan.

*Augusta Selig was a native of Sebastian County, having been born on Long Prairie, January 6, 1857. There was at that time a large German Colony living in that part of this county, and among them were the Eupers, Seligs, Grobers, Reicherts and many other prominent families of this city. The unsettled conditions during the Civil War caused all of them to leave their farms and take up residence in Fort Smith. She was the daughter of A. Selig, and except for her descendents, was the last of that family.

Southwest Times Record, Fort Smith, March 4, 1917

No. 123823

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

To be given to the person Naturalized.

Petition, Volume One —, page 19 — Sub. Volume 5483 —, page 3 —

Description of holder: Age, 61 years; height, 5 feet, 4 1/2 inches; color, white —; complexion, fair —; color of eyes, brown —; color of hair, gray —; visible, distinguishing marks, none —

Name, age and place of residence of wife: Augusta Guler, age 51 years, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Names, ages and places of residence of minor children: two step-children: Amalia C. Brunoldi, age 4 years, and James Brunoldi, age 16 years, both residing Fort Smith, Arkansas.

United States of America, S.S. John James Guler (Signature of holder.)

Western District Arkansas

Be it remembered, that at a regular term of the U. S. Circuit court of Western District Arkansas held at Fort Smith, Arkansas, on the 1 day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and nine, John James Guler, who previous to his naturalization was a citizen of Switzerland, at present residing at number — street, City of Fort Smith, State of Arkansas, having applied to be admitted a citizen of the United States of America pursuant to law, and the court having found that the petitioner had resided continuously within the United States for at least five years and in this territory for one year immediately preceding the date of the hearing of his petition, and that said petitioner intends to reside permanently in the United States, had in all respects complied with the law in relation thereto, and that he was entitled to be so admitted, it was thereupon ordered by the said court that he be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof the seal of said court is hereunto affixed on the 1 day of November in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and nine, and of our Independence the one hundred and thirty-fourth.

Wm. S. McElreath
CLERK U. S. CIRCUIT COURT,
WESTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS,
FORT SMITH DIVISION.
(Official character of attestation.)

OLD TIME BROOM MAKING

Claire Flynn*

How many people use a broom to sweep their floors in the present day and time? Very few. We use vacuum cleaners, dust mops, even electric brooms, but the good old straw brooms are rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

Those who have taken the Belle Fort Smith Historic Tour in the last couple of years may remember the character called Mammy. Ozie Payne played the part of Mammy. Standing next to Scarlett O'Hara (just lately arrived from Tara), the two stood out as highlights of the tour.

Born on Sept. 18, 1905, Ozie grew up on a farm. The farm was near Parkdale, in the S.E. corner of Arkansas. She and her two brothers had a good childhood, playing and swimming in the bayou nearby. They had horses and buggies, pigs and geese and other farm animals. Ozie was twelve years old when her mother sent the children to Fort Smith to live with an aunt during the school months.

"I was twelve years old and in the second grade," Ozie recalled. "I was so far behind and all the kids laughed. But I was determined - some day I'm going to make it."

"I got married and had one boy - then went back to school, Compton Jr. College (Calif.) and Los Angeles City College."

Ozie had gone out to California in 1943. The war was going on and work was plentiful. After the war, she and her husband came to Fort Smith where her husband found work at Fort Chaffee. Then, as Ozie tells it: "I also took extension courses from Conway. We (the blacks) couldn't go then to Westark, but I took the courses. Then started commuting to Fayetteville, and I made it in '73."

She received her Bachelor of Science and Education degree from the University of Arkansas in 1973. She also has her teacher's certificate which doesn't expire until June 30, 1978.

"I think I'd just love to teach in kindergarten," she said, "and I just might. But I'm too old now - they won't let me teach any place else."

Ozie, far from looking 72, has the appearance of a vigorous woman in her fifties. Her mother lives nearby and at age 89 is raising a grandson.

Ozie was asst. director when St. John's Community Center opened in 1969. Now she just goes and helps out for the fun of it all.

Talking with Ozie is a delight, but we finally had to get down to business. How do you make a broom?

HOW TO

O. "When I was a girl we used these sage brooms for sweepin' floors and sweepin' yards cause we didn't have a real broom."

C. "In other words, when you needed a broom you didn't go to town and buy one?"

O. "Oh, no. When we had a broom wear down to the nub, then we'd use it for scrubbin' floors. Then when we wanted a broom to sweep the floor, we'd get the sage and make another one."

C. "I believe you said you could use other things too."

O. "Oh yes. You can use dogwood branches - very good, but you don't use it for the house. Dogwood branches are for the yard. Keep the yard nice and clean. You know, we didn't have lawn mowers. In the country, people kept their yards swept clean - no grass at all. Sometimes we'd use cornhusks - put 'em on an old broom handle, tied and twisted around the handle."

C. "Can you use any other materials for the brooms?"

O. "We named broom sage, cornhusks, dogwood. You can use others, like oak or ash, but these I named are durable. But I haven't found any better than sage grass for the house."

C. "Now, show us how you make the broom."

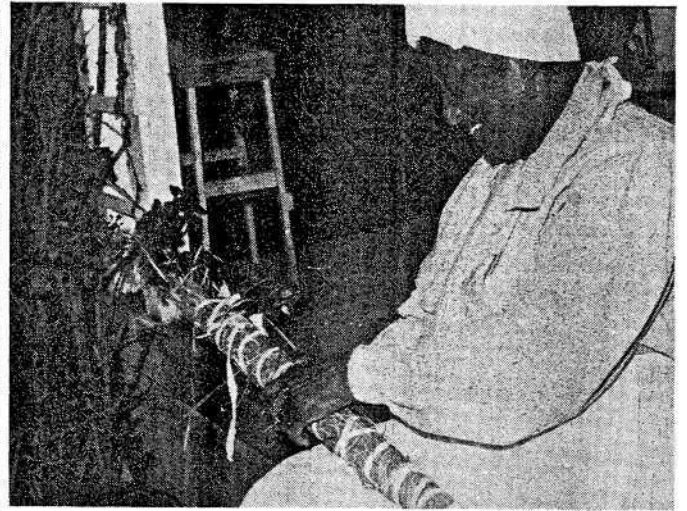
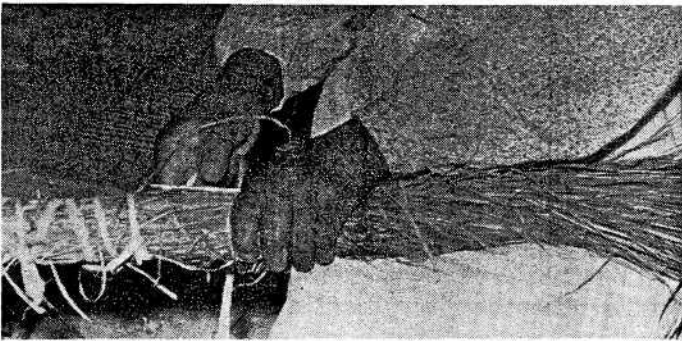
O. "1st Step. Pull several handfuls of dry broom sage. Use a twisting motion. The dry sage is stronger than the green."

2nd Step. Take a length of twine or strip off an old sheet - anything sturdy - and, starting at the bottom, twist and spiral as you go.

3rd Step. About halfway up, turn and spiral your twine until you reach the bottom.

4th Step. Tie strongly and securely. Your broom is finished. With daily use, this should last about six months."

* Claire Flynn has been freelancing since 1972. She has had articles published in *True Frontier*, *True West*, *Ozark Mountaineer*, and *Ladies Home Journal* and several newspapers. She has written two novels. Mrs. Flynn specializes in historical and biographical writing. She is president of the National League of American Pen Women, Fort Smith branch.



Ozie Payne Gathers Dry Broom Sage and Makes a Broom.

Photos courtesy of
Arlie's Candid Portraits

Compiler Chris Allen
Street 2700 So. Dallas
City Fort Smith, Ark.
72901

ANCESTOR CHART #

4 Elmore, John L.
(Father of 2)
B 1 Oct. 1863
PB Benton Co. Tenn.
M 3 Jan. 1883
D 22 April 1947
PD Milltown, Seb.Co.AR

2 Elmore, Denver B. M.
(Father of 1)
B 26 Sept. 1897
PB Milltown, Seb.Co.,AR
M 26 Sept. 1915
D 22 April 1974
PD Ft. Smith, Seb.Co.,AR

5 Stanfill, Mary Jane
(Mother of 2)
B 28 Nov. 1866
PB Stone Co., Ark.
D 19 May 1927
PD Greenwood, Seb.Co.AR

1 ELMORE, CHRISTINE
B 17 June 1920
PB Milltown, Seb. Co.,Ark.
M 17 Dec. 1939
D
PD

6 COTtingham, Charles A.
(Father of 3)
B 11 Feb. 1878
PB Sebastian Co., Ar.
M 28 Oct. 1897
D 14 Jan. 1944
PD Ft. Smith, Seb.Co.AR

3 Cottingham, Elsie M.
(Mother of 1)
B 30 Sept. 1898
PB Sebastian Co., Ar.
D 21 June 1974
PD Ft. Smith, Ark.

7 Crossland, Dellar M.
(Mother of 3)
B 10 Oct. 1875
PB Sebastian Co.,AR
D 1 May 1952
PD Ft. Smith, Ark.

Spouse of #1:
SAMUEL BELL ALLEN
B 3 Jan. 1915 D
PB Coon Creek PD
Benton Co.,Ark.

8 Elmore, Thomas E.L.
(Father of 4)
B 15 August 1831
PB Humphrey Co. Tenn.
M
D 19 Feb. 1891
PD Sebastian Co., Ark.
9 McKelvey, Louise E.
(Mother of 4)
B 18 Oct. 1843
PB Benton Co. Tenn.
D 3 Nov. 1910
PD Sebastian Co., Ark

10 Stanfill, Aaron A.
(Father of 5)
B 2 March 1844
PB Campbell Co. Tenn.
M 17 Sept. 1865
D 27 March 1880
PD Sebastian Co., Ar.
11 David, Annie Eliza
(Mother of 5)
B 23 June 1841
PB Tennessee
D 19 June 1911
PD Sebastian Co., Ark.

12 Cottingham, James
(Father of 6)
B 18 August 1822
PB Humphrey Co. Tenn.
M 25 Jan. 1866
D 26 Oct. 1901
PD Sebastian Co., Ark.
13 Smith, Virginia G.
(Mother of 6)
B 9 Nov. 1834
PB Tennessee
D 27 June 1900
PD Sebastian Co.,Ark.

14 Crossland, Jephtha E.
(Father of 7)
B 20 Oct. 1840
PB Tennessee
M 11 Nov. 1867
D 21 May 1929
PD Sebastian Co., Ark.
15 PRESCOTT, Rebecca M.
(Mother of 7)
B 18 Oct. 1850
PB Jefferson Co. Ala.
D 6 Dec. 1932
PD Paris, Logan Co.,Ar.

16 Elmore, John A.
B 1791 (Father of 8)
M
D
17 , Henritta
B 1800 (Mother of 8)
D
18 McKelvey, Rev. John W.
B 1819 (Father of 9)
M
D 1874
19 McKelvey, Mary Ann
B 1825 (Mother of 9)
D 1907
20 Stanfill, James
B 1815 (Father of 10)
M
D 1886
21 Broyles, Hanna Roseanna
B 1816 (Mother of 10)
D
22 David, Sampson
B 1806 (Father of 11)
M 1829
D 1868
23 Bridgman, Mary B.
B 1808 (Mother of 11)
D 1868
24 Cottingham, Leven
B 1790 (Father of 12)
M
D 1852 ,Mary
25
B 1797 (Mother of 12)
D
26 Smith, Obadiah
B (Father of 13)
M 14 Nov. 1833 Tenn.
D
27 Booker, Malinda
B (Mother of 13)
D
28 Crossland, William G.
B 1814 (Father of 14)
M
D after 1880
29 Anderson, Martha
B (Mother of 14)
D
30 PREscott, Christopher C.
B cal 1825 (Father of 15)
M 23 Nov. 1847
D
31 Jane Jones
Bca 1829 (Mother of 15)
D

THE JOYS OF GENEALOGY

by Betty Zander*

Bet you can't guess what has become, just lately, the nation's number one hobby. Did you say stamp collecting, handcrafts, CB radio's?

Nope. The nation's newest top hobby is genealogy, sometimes known as ancestor-collecting, or tracing your "Roots."

Veteran genealogical researcher Mrs. Sam Allen credits the Bicentennial Year and Alex Haley's popular book "Roots" with the reason for the current upsurge of interest in family trees. But as a matter of fact, genealogy as a hobby has been growing in scope for several decades, as is evidenced by the large amounts of reference material and how-to books available on the subject.

What's the fascination? Well, imagine yourself as an apple hanging high up in the top of your family tree. Visible around you are several season's crops, brothers, sisters, cousins, parents, aunts, uncles, perhaps even some grandparents, granduncles, grandaunts.

But beyond them, the leaves of time obscure your view. You get to wondering what once lay beyond those leaves, what limbs and sturdy branches uphold your place in the sun, what kind of stock supported them, and where your roots are planted.

Finding out can be one of the most interesting, exhausting, intriguing, frustrating and exhilarating projects you ever undertook. During the course of this search, you may find yourself stumbling around in abandoned cemeteries straining to read the names on tombstones weathered nearly smooth, risking lung pollution among the dusty archives of obscure courthouses, and placermining dozens of family attics, then discovering, along with some living kinfolk you didn't know you had, enough heroes, and villains, to fill a good-sized novel.

For even if you trace your family tree back a mere 10 generations, say to the time when America was first colonized, there will be more than 500 people down there along the branches who are your direct ancestors, whose blood runs in your veins. Their genes determine what color your eyes are, whether your hair curls, and how tall your grandchildren will grow. These ancestors through their own struggle, sacrifice and perseverance, have put you where you are today, at the top of the family tree.

Not the least of the delights of genealogy as a hob-

by is the brand-new sense of yourself you gain from knowing who your forebearers were.

Genealogy as a Science

Genealogy is said to be like solving a mystery after all the witnesses are dead, and all the evidence taken for souvenirs. It is a giant picture puzzle with most of the pieces missing — but not where they can't be found, if you look hard enough.

Therein, of course, lies the fatal charm of genealogy. What you have to do to reconstruct your family tree is to collect and fit together thousands of tiny bits of information until you finally get the whole picture together.

Genealogy is a science, says Mrs. Allen, who is a Certified Genealogical Records Searcher (CGRS), in other words, a professional genealogist. Since its purpose is to discover true things, its basic rules require that you prove each fact about your forebearers as you go along, just as though you were solving an ancient murder mystery with circumstantial evidence. "Proof" amounts to documentation of the data you collect about your ancestors through official or historical records.

It is not enough to "have heard" that you are distantly related to George Washington or Stonewall Jackson, or that your ancestor arrived with the Mayflower.

Documented proof almost invariably exists, somewhere. The United States has taken a census every decade since 1790. There are military records dating from 1775. Courthouse archives from early on kept records of wills, deeds, land grants, civil and criminal suits. Old church records list marriages, births, deaths, baptisms, and church memberships. Immigration lists and ship's passenger lists are a bonanza of names transferred from a hundred "Old Countries" to American soil. Old pension applications include names of wives, children, and often interesting stories about your ancestor's involvement in historical events of the nation. Cemetery records can pinpoint dates of birth and death. Old family Bibles, diaries, letters, business records, can provide both proof and additional clues to other places to look.

Taking the First Step

So, asks the top apple, where do you begin? The answer is, of course, like a good detective, to collect all the clues close at hand.

Mine the living first. Ask your parents. Ask your aunts, uncles, grandparents, old family friends.

*Betty Zander is a former Women's Page Editor and Feature Writer for the *Southwest Times Record*. She now freelances and is working on a novel. She attended the University of Illinois and the University of Arkansas. For several years, she has been active in promoting historic preservation in Fort Smith.

Check any old documents they may have.

This "oral family history" provides the first clues to names, places and dates which can tell you where to look next.

Write down everything you learn in a "clue notebook." Strive for accuracy of names, dates and places. But remember, all this comes under the heading of "clues." Each item must eventually be "proved." Memory sometimes plays tricks on people. Family tradition, like gossip, sometimes gets embroidered over the years.

Your first tool when you begin tracing your family tree is an Ancestor Chart like the one reproduced with this article. exact details on the first two columns will probably be easy, since the people involved are still alive, or only recently deceased.

To flush out the other two columns, probe the memories of your kin. Ask specific questions, especially about dates and exact place of birth and later residence. Remember, records like censuses are taken by county, so try to find out the county as well as the state where your ancestor lived at each censustaking. Ask about church affiliations, military service, any other facts that might tie your ancestor to a documented historical event. Try and find out where he died, for his will, if any, will be filed in that county courthouse.

Comb your family documents, marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, diaries, old picture albums, old family Bibles. Enter names, dates and places on your Ancestor Chart as you find them.

And don't forget to record in your "clue notebook" any other information you may come across, such as number and names of children, names and locations of other kinfolk of the time, references to places, and historical events. You never know when one of these side clues may lead you to another ancestor further back. Be sure to note, after each clue, where the information was found.

Later on, as your research progresses, you may have to set up an indexed file to keep your records straight. Clues, and proofs, have a way of piling up.

Where to Find Proof

Now that you have your first genealogical clues in hand, and have determined the general direction of your family tree, you are ready to start tapping the records for proofs.

Genealogical researchers list two kinds of sources for documenting family trees.

Primary Sources are records written down at or near the time and place when an event occurred. They are, in a sense, "eyewitness accounts."

Secondary Sources are records and accounts written down after the fact, or by someone not present or directly connected with the event. They are, in a sense, "hearsay evidence." and need to be

authenticated in some way before you can count on them as true.

Primary sources include things like census rolls, military and pension records, all legal documents duly witnessed and filed, church rolls and records, and family documents in which events were recorded at the time they happened.

Census, military and pension records are all filed in the National Archives in Washington, D. C. If you have a name, date and location for a particular ancestor, the Archives will do a free search of these records on request, and provide you, for a small fee, a photocopy of the appropriate document.

Yes, the Archives also have the records of Confederate soldiers!

You may request a records search from the Archives on forms available from them. For a census search, ask for GSA Form 7029; for a search of military records, ask for GSA Form 6751.

It is important to emphasize here that you have to be pretty specific in your inquiry to qualify for this free search. Thanks to the computer, census rolls have recently been alphabetized, so maybe you no longer have to know the county your ancestor inhabited long ago but you do have to be pretty sure of the name and date. The Archives research staff is small, and owing to the current popularity of genealogy, very busy.

One other thing; because of the laws of privacy about census and military records, the only rolls open for such a search are those previous to 1900. Other genealogical records you may tap are the libraries of the National Genealogical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution, both in Washington, and the records of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City.

Another primary source for proofs is county and courthouse archives. To use these, of course, you have to be able to locate your ancestor in a specific county in a specific state at a specific time. You may find yourself poring over old maps by this time; counties have often been divided, or reshaped, or sometimes even transferred to another state during the passage of time.

And a final primary source is state and local libraries. The Arkansas Historical Library, at Little Rock, has sources like the complete microfilmed national census rolls. The Fort Smith Public Library has the Indian census rolls of 1832 and 1896, because of the numbers of people of Indian descent who live in this area.

Fort Smith's library, as a matter of fact, is one of the best genealogical resource centers in this part of the country. It contains, in addition to many books of family genealogy, the only complete set of DAR lineage books in this area.

Local DAR volunteers, moreover, man the

genealogical room, on the library's second floor, three days a week to help ancestor chasers find materials and resources.

Secondary genealogical sources for research include local history books, old family genealogies, indexes of census records, tombstone inscriptions and the like. These are considered "secondary" because they may be in error. But, again, they may offer valuable clues.

The byword in genealogy is, "leave no stone unturned."

Discovering the Past

Genealogical research is like a time tunnel . . . it opens up amazing vistas for your delight. One researcher, tracking down a distant forebearer, found him among a group of German Protestant craftsmen fleeing that nation's intermittent wars of the 18th century, who hired an English sea captain and his ship to take them to America.

But before they could set sail, the captain ran afoul of the law, and was thrown in jail. Stuck with their contract, the immigrant band was forced to sit and wait until he had served his time.

Waiting, they used up all the money they had saved to pay for passage, and were then forced to sign themselves into bondage to then Governor Spotswood of Virginia, whose iron works they manned for nearly ten years before the debt was paid.

How about that for drama?

And as for melodrama . . . two separate sets of genealogical searchers bearing the same name recently converged on a local ancestor and discovered they were related in a most unusual way.

Seems great-great grandpa had some domestic trouble, and left his wife and two sons in another state, migrating to the frontier at Fort Smith. A few years later, without benefit of divorce, he took up with a comely local widow, who proceeded to give him three more sons.

And neither of the sets of sons knew the other existed until genealogy brought them together!

Sidebar stories that turn up in genealogical research can be equally as fascinating.

Like the tale of a small Sebastian County community, which during the Civil War, lost all its men folks. A diary uncovered in research tells how, when a death occurred, the women had to make the coffin, dig the grave, and then arrange, with log rollers and woman-power, to roll the remains to the hilltop cemetery for burial.

Funding the Future

Included in this issue of the Journal is a blank Ancestor Chart. It is for you to fill out to the best of your knowledge, so that the beginnings of your family tree can be filed in the Fort Smith Genealogical Room to help other family tree researchers, now and in the future.

Won't you fill it out and return it to the Fort Smith Public Library, 61 S. 8th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901?

The genealogy library is also starting a records file of local marriages, especially from the early days. The problem faced by many researchers is that before 1850, census rolls did not list the given name of a wife, which makes her family tree pretty hard to trace. Marriage licenses and birth certificates were not normally filed in courthouse records in this area until about 1912, so information from family Bibles and the like will be immensely helpful to researchers.

The Genealogical Library is delighted to acquire any old family documents, genealogies, diaries, letters and other materials you may have stuffed away in attics or cupboards. If you don't want to part with family mementoes, they will be happy to photocopy the materials, just to get them in the files.

Every little bit, as the saying goes, helps. Mayhap one of these days your great-great grandchild will be trying to find out about you!

Three genealogy classes will begin February 21, 1978 at Westark Community College. Mrs. Chris Allen and Mrs. Violet Burton will be the instructors. For information, call Westark, 785-4241.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some of the research tools available for your use in the Genealogy department located on the second floor of the Fort Smith Public Library include:

Trained Personnel

Over 2,500 genealogy and history books -

(Birth, Death, Marriage, Immigration, Military, Indian, Land Grant and Military records, etc.)

Published family records and unpublished family manuscripts.

5 Microfilm Readers

700 rolls of microfilm -

U. S. Census Reports, Arkansas 1830-1880

Other scattered U. S. Census Reports

Birth and Death records, Sebastian Co. Marriages, Surry Co., N. C.

Fort Smith Newspapers:

Elevator, 1878-1907

New Era, Jan. 1869-Nov. 1884

Southwest American (Southwest Times Record), 1908-to date.

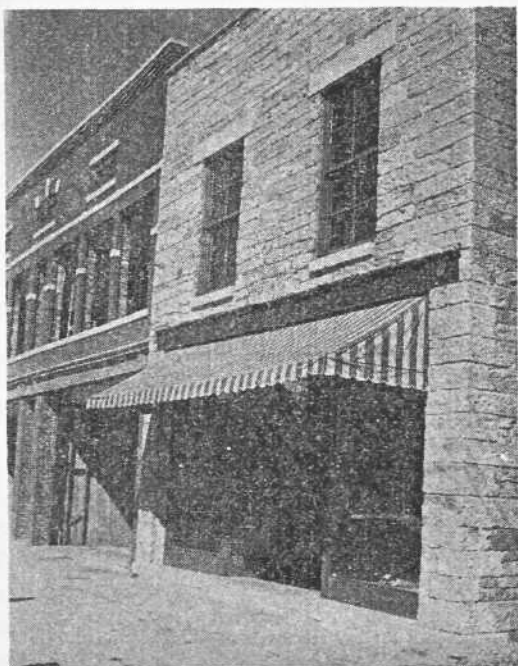
See page 93 for partial listing of Sebastian County books now available at the Fort Smith Public Library.

FORT SMITH ARCHITECTURE

West Garrison Avenue

Text and Photos by John Vincent Robinson

The western half of Garrison Avenue is from 1st to 6th Street. Included along this stretch of the Avenue were 88 buildings in the year 1900. Today, at least 49 of these buildings are still standing, looking substantially the way they did originally. In addition to these, there are several more buildings, existing in 1900, that have since been altered beyond recognition, plus a few buildings built since World War I.



What is probably the oldest surviving building on the entire Avenue happens to be on the western end. It is Marble Hall, at 311, built around 1868 by E. B. Bright. Architecturally, it is a simple solid stone building. Originally it had two large openings on the ground floor that were changed around 1900 to the

looking North from Alley between 3rd & 4th on North side of Garrison Ave.

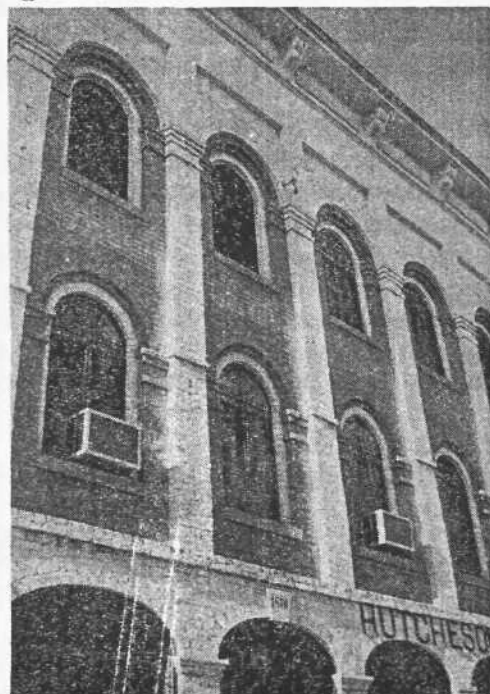


Courtesy of Jim Dew

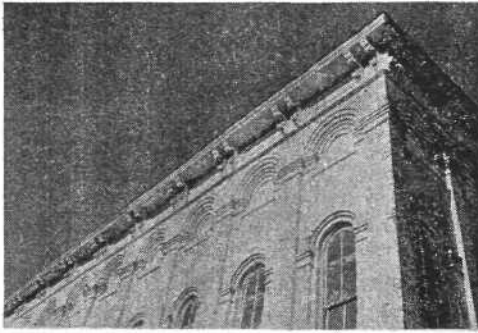


Courtesy of Jim Dew

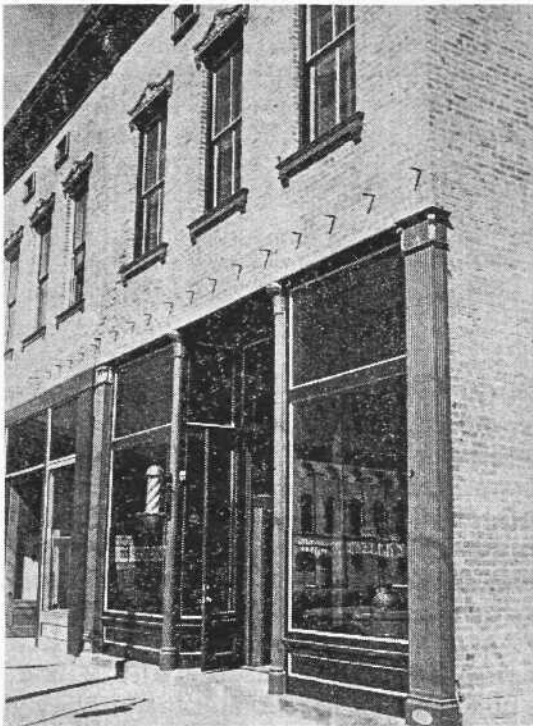
present wood and and glass store front. The building has, no doubt, survived several fires that destroyed its earlier neighbors. It is now being restored by Phil White for use as an arts and crafts shop in the style of an old general store.



The second oldest building is the Hotel LeFlore at 314-16-18. Over one of the entrance doors is a cut stone lintel that says "1870 Kannady Block." The building, now owned and occupied by Hutcheson Shoe Company, is an outstanding example of Commercial Italianate style. Built of solid brick it has round headed windows, elliptical arched doorways, brick pilasters between windows and a bracketed galvanized iron cornice.

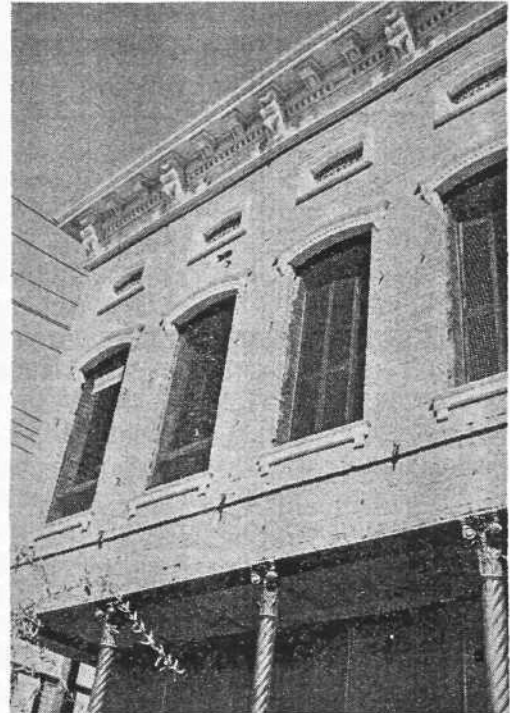


Next door at 320-22-24 is the building known historically as Adelaide Hall. Also occupied by Hutcheson Shoe Company, it is Commercial Italianate style but with differences. The corbeled brick round headed arches above the windows are more elaborate than next door, even though the ground floor openings are not brick arches. Though presently painted white, which obscures it's architectural detailing, the building nonetheless exhibits a style second to none.



At 409 & 411 Garrison are two Italianate buildings built in 1881. 411 housing Decker Jewelers and Snider's Barber Shop still has its original fluted iron, Corinthian capiteled cast iron columns and pilasters, cast iron architraves and sills on second floor windows, and a bracketed galvanized iron cornice. It has just been restored by August Khilling with the wood front reconstructed, faithfully following the style of the 80's. Architecturally speaking, it is the

best restored building on Garrison Avenue at present. 409, also owned by Khilling, has recently undergone a reconstruction of its store front. Its original cast iron columns were missing and therefore a modern interpretation was constructed similar to what had been there originally.



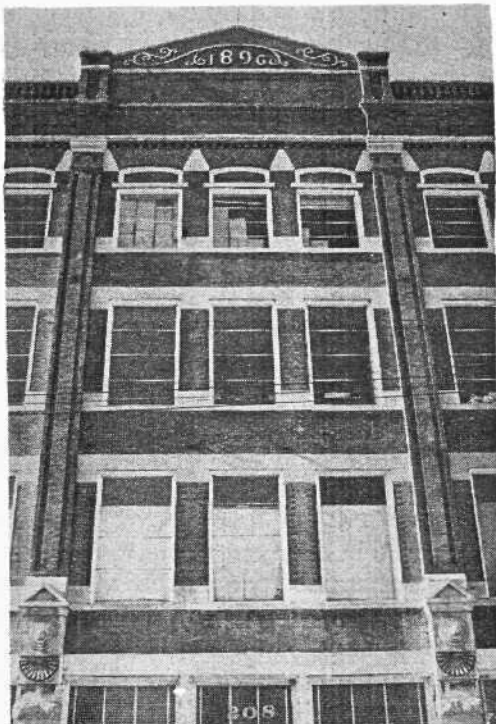
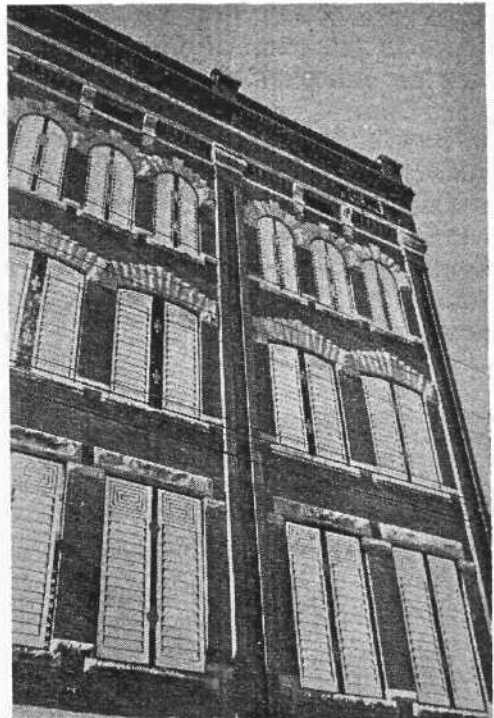
Built in the 1880's in Commercial Renaissance style, 501-503 are similar to, but a little more ornate than those in the Italianate style. Notice the galvanized iron cornice, the elaborate iron architraves over the windows and the cast iron columns on the ground floor. Although the original store front no longer exists on either building, the upper part of the exterior is basically unchanged. In 1900, 503 housed "Guler & Brunoldi, Restaurant, Confectionary, Cigars and Tobacco." John T. Guler was prominent Fort Smith citizen, and elsewhere in this issue of the Journal is information relating to his family. The two buildings now house a barber shop and Old Town Grain and Feed.

Adjacent buildings at 505-07-09-11 appear identical to 501-03. However they were built later. The original storefronts of these buildings have also been remodeled in later years, but the second story still has its continuous style. Partial restoration and complete reconstruction of the buildings was begun by Ralph Baker and John Miller in 1972. These now house Moulton Galleries, Bracken & Gardner, and Rental Management Inc.

A familiar landmark on the Avenue is Constantino's at 407. Actually, 403-05-07 were probably built together in the late 1880's or early 1890's. These three buildings are Commercial Renaissance Revival style. Notice the closer spacing of the brackets on the galvanized iron cornice, square cast iron columns, and still different second floor window architraves. The building housing Constantino's Restaurant has just been purchased by Doug Silmon and August Khilling and restoration on the exterior is to begin late this year.

Two buildings with identical galvanized iron cornices, but with totally different windows on the second floor, are at 500 and 502. 500 is basically another Commercial Renaissance Revival style. Its storefront has unfortunately been radically remodeled and no longer resembles the original. 502 has Victorian Romanesque style windows and the original cast iron center column. Both buildings were probably built in the early 1890's. One of the early tenants of 500 were the Harper brothers, proprietors of the Opera Bar saloon. (And this is a reminder of what once was across the street at 422 Garrison . . . The Grand Opera House! It also housed the Fort Smith conservatory of Music and later the Illinois Theatre. This magnificent building, should have been saved but we haven't got time to mourn its loss when we have so many other buildings yet to be restored and preserved.) Back to 500 & 502 - Calico Stoneware, located at 502, has its exterior restored and interior redecorated for use as a modern shop, specializing in handmade pottery.

Two of the most imposing buildings on the entire Avenue house Berry Dry Goods Company at 200-02-04-06-08-10. Built in 1896 these Richardsonian-Romanesque Commercial style buildings were Williams-Echols Dry Goods Co. and Speer Hardware Co. Altered only slightly they give a vivid picture of their original style. Notice the 1896 date at the very top of 208 in a typical Victorian scroll painted green.



At 220-22-24 is the original J. Foster and Company Wholesale grocers, built in 1897. Also of Richardsonian-Romanesque style, this building is now scheduled to become the new home of the Rodgers Old Fort Museum. With the removal of covers over the windows (painted in imitation of shutters) and reconstruction of the ground floor windows, the building can become a reflection of the original style.

The present Wiggins Grocery, at 313, is a late 1890's building of Commercial Romanesque style. It is an extremely handsome building in spite of its unfortunate coating of unoriginal white paint.

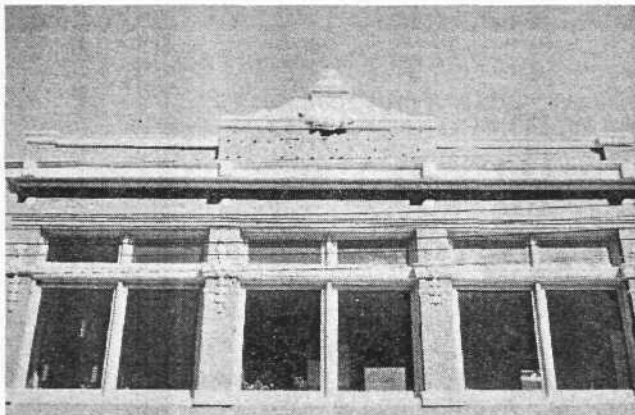
Another of the Avenue's most distinguished buildings is Eads Brothers Furniture at 410-12-14-16. Built in 1897 of Richardsonian-Romanesque style, these two buildings, appear as one, because they are identical twins. Originally 410-12 was built for W. J. Murphy Saddlery and Harness Factory and 414-16 was the Rogers-Wade Furniture Co. that later became Eads Brothers Furniture Co. In the 1920's Eads Brothers bought out its neighbor. All wood trim

and signs were recently repainted in accurate Victorian colors.

We've reached the dawn of the 20th century and down at 100 Garrison, the St. Louis San Francisco RR Company, has built its impressive new passenger station. Of Classic Revival style complete with dentillated cornice and huge classical columns supporting porches and galleries, the building must have been a show place. Fortunately the exterior looks original although a few alterations were done by the Frisco in later years. Recently restored on the exterior, by the Argentina Restaurant, the building has been reconstructed inside to suit the style of the restaurant.

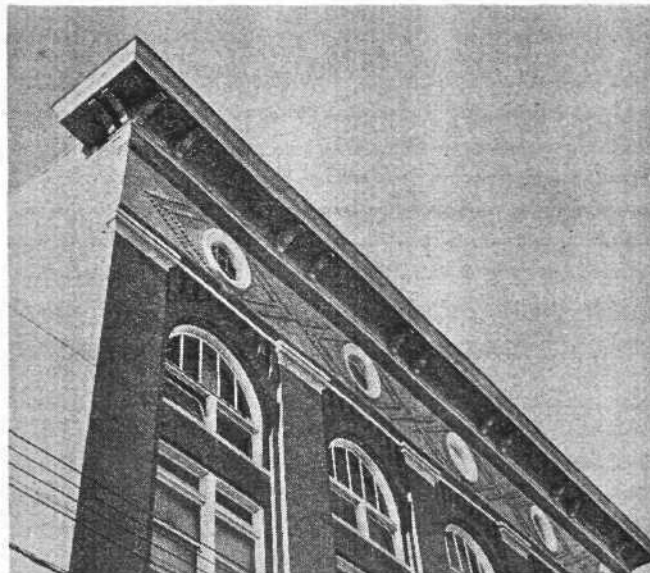
In 1903 John Schaap built his wholesale drug house at 215-17. Although Classic in style it retains the red brick with gray stone trim reminiscent of earlier buildings on the avenue. Now owned and occupied by Johnston Transfer and Storage, the building has been altered very little.

A little building on the NW corner of 3rd is also Classic Revival style. Of brick and smooth stone trim it was built in the early 1900's and now houses Johnston and Associates Insurance.



Across the street at 301 & 313 Garrison Avenue is Mayer and Wolf's General Store built in the early 1900's. Now housing Beall Dry Goods and Seaman Store Co., this Classic Revival style building is one-of-a-kind on the avenue. Detailing of the facade, on the upper stories and at the roof line is outstanding, especially since its recent restoration by present owner Gilmer Dixon.

A huge Classic Revival red brick building, with an unusual buff brick trimmed entablature, standing at 300-02-04-06, is occupied by the Checkered-Mayflower Transfer and Storage Company and several food brokers. This building is one of the most imposing structures on the avenue because of its sheer bulk. A cut-stone pedimented portico with engaged columns speaks eloquently of its style.



The double building at 307-09 has an unusual polychrome brick facade. Built in early 1900's the building is currently being restored on the exterior and reconstructed inside to house a Mexican restaurant and the Junior League's Bargain Box. Notice the brick facade having two shades of brick laid in a definite pattern. This interesting building is now owned by Charles Palmer and Carl Corley.

The old West End Drug Company at 317 has recently been restored. Owner Jack Baker has made the exterior once again resemble its original appearance with the interior reconstructed for use as the Seaman's Oyster Bar.

A simple Classic style brick building at 518 has housed the Eagle Store since 1928. Built in the early 1900's by Joseph Kohler, this building has been altered very little through the years and has the distinction of possessing the sole surviving early 1900's electric lamp post. It is owned and operated by Ted Miller.



And finally, on the east side of 6th at Garrison stand two genuine landmarks. At 601 is Merchant Bank's deteriorated but still handsome building, now housing Esquire Jewelers and owned by

Zisimos Catsavis. At 600 is First National Bank's fabulous building, beautifully maintained on the exterior and remodeled inside. Merchants Bank's

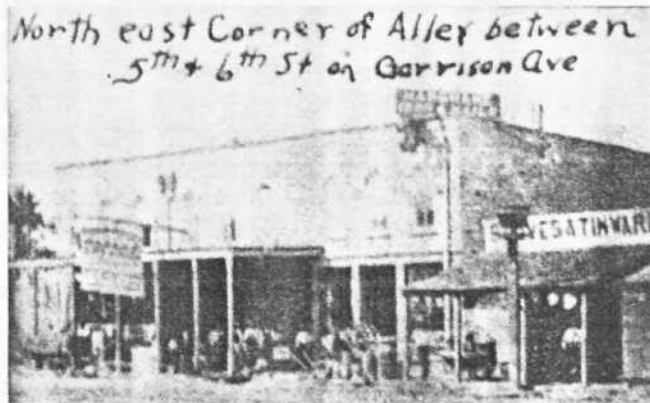


Photo Courtesy of Jim Dew

1880's building is of Commercial Renaissance Revival style and could be restored on the exterior with modest effort and expense. Its present owner is currently considering demolition, but hopefully will change his mind and save one of the avenue's real architectural and historical landmarks. First National Bank's stunning 1912 building of white glazed brick in Classic Baroque Revival style must have made a huge impression on the city - eight stories tall and elaborately decorated inside and out. It no doubt influenced the *first painting* of many older brick buildings and houses in that dazzling new color - WHITE!! The town was thereby destined to lose most of its Victorian "earth colors" forever - or so everyone probably thought!

On the other hand . . .

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.)

CHRISTMAS BALL.



The pleasure of your company is
respectfully solicited, at a Christmas Ball,
to be given at
Preis's Hotel, Thursday Evening, Dec. 26, 1867.

Music by the Fort Smith String Band

[ERA PRINT.]

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

J. Fred Patton *

The progress of Methodism in Fort Smith almost parallels the history and development of the community. There are few records of any religious services held for about twenty years after establishment of the Fort in 1817, but many pioneers out of love for their early Wesleyan training held meetings in their homes to read the Bible, and some families assembled on Sunday mornings to worship with the men stationed at the Fort.

In view of the need for more preachers in Arkansas, Bishop Robert R. Roberts (who was in charge of Arkansas Methodism) went to the Tennessee Conference in the fall of 1831, appealing for volunteers to serve in the West. Eight preachers responded, and three were assigned to serve the Indians: Alvin Baird to the Creeks, Allen M. Scott and John Harrell to the Cherokees (along with Washington County Circuit). The most prominent of all Cherokee Methodists at that time was John Ross. As Chief, he led his people across Arkansas, to what is now Oklahoma, in the 1830's. His wife, Quatie, died on the Trail of Tears trip and is buried in Little Rock. John Harrell was a confidant of Cherokee Chief John Ross. Rev. Harrell preached to both Indians and whites. Most of his preaching was in Western Arkansas and in the Indian Territory. In the early days, services were held in private homes.

In 1840, John Harrell and John C. Parker went to the General Conference session in Baltimore. This was the first time the young Arkansas Conference had sent its delegates to the church's highest ecclesiastical body. Considerable discussion, and some legislation, dealt with whether or not to permit a Negro to give testimony against a white person in a church trial.

Rev. Harrell was born in North Carolina in 1806. He was licensed as a local preacher at age seventeen and was received into the Tennessee Conference on trial in 1827. He married Miss Eliza Williams in Washington County, Arkansas, in 1832. He served in Arkansas nineteen years and in the Indian Territory 26 years, dying December 8, 1876. He was buried at Eufaula, Oklahoma.

Even though Rev. John Harrell came this way as a Methodist circuit rider in 1832, the first official record of Methodism is the listing in the Arkansas Conference appointments of Rev. Thomas Bertoff in 1840.

In 1840 Fort Smith became a part of the Van Buren-Fort Smith charge. The following were appointed preachers in Fort Smith: Rev. H. C. Boyers,

1842; L. M. Moreland, 1843; John J. Roberts, 1844-45; H. W. Pogue, 1846; H. A. Sugg, 1847-48; Juba A. Estabrook, 1849-50; Theophilus E. Garrett, 1852, and Joseph Turrentine in 1853. In 1850 the two circuits, Fort Smith and Van Buren, were divided.

For some time the need for a church building had been apparent to Fort Smith Methodists, and a Building Committee was selected to make plans for a new church. The members were William H. Hunt, William A. Jackson, Reuben Lewis, and S. S. Sanger, Sr. Nothing was done until Rev. Harrell was appointed to head both the Trustees and Building Committee. Eight days after he took charge, a building site was purchased on Howard Street, near Walnut (110 North Fifth Street). A brick church was built and the first service was held on April 15, 1853. The laying of the cornerstone on this date was an outstanding event of the day. Attending were most of the town's population, including the Odd Fellows and Masons dressed in full regalia. The building was called Harrell's Chapel after Rev. John Harrell. From this time to the War Between the States, the church was prosperous.

Harrell's Chapel Methodist Church was considered an immense structure in its day, 1853-1886. It was built of brick, with stone foundation. The cupola on the church was surmounted by a long pole with a bright ball on top, which could be seen for many miles, and the distance to town was measured by this tall building.

The entrance was made into the church by two doors, each having a separate set of steps. The men entered on the right and the women entered on the left. There were four large windows on each side, and two windows in the back of the church.

Benches with high backs were placed on each side of the pulpit. These ran parallel with the walls. The two areas were called the "Amen Corners," where the responses of "Amen" were given to show the approval of the preacher's discourse. These always came from the men's side because women in that period were seen and not heard.

A small partition down the center of the church divided the pews and the men sat on one side, the women on the other. Very few men had the courage to sit on the women's side, unless to help with a fretful baby. Generally the man sat by his wife, with the partition between them, and the child was handed over the obstruction.

When Harrell's Chapel Methodist Church was completed, there were no funds for a bell. The

problem was solved by buying a long tin horn, and William Hunt, who lived next door to the church volunteered his services. On each Sunday morning and night, and for prayer meetings, he blew the horn to announce the time for church.

But a bell was a necessity, and soon a large one was purchased and placed in the church. The bell could be heard for miles and was rung on many occasions. It often joined in with the firebell to give the alarm of fire. One of the members who lived a distance away on Eleventh Street, said she started to church when the bell began to ring, and it was still ringing when she reached the church. It tolled for funerals until the procession had time to reach the cemetery and tolled for many hours when President Garfield died.

The vibrations of the bell cracked the walls of the church, so it was removed from the cupola and placed in a tower behind the building. One day the sexton, whose first name was Abednego, rang the bell, and the clapper fell on his head and nearly killed him. On another occasion some boys asked for the privilege of ringing the bell, and they rang so vigorously that the mayor and city officials ran from the courtroom to the church believing the church to be on fire.

According to an article left by Captain Frank Parke, the first Methodist Sunday School in Fort Smith was organized by Dr. and Mrs. J. H. T. Main, assisted by a Mr. Catlon. Its location was in a small log house between Green and Howard Avenues (now Fourth and Fifth Streets) near Garrison Avenue. The organization was in the fall of 1839.

Rev. T. B. Ruble was assigned to the church in 1865. At the first quarterly conference, J. R. A. Hendry, Francis Parks, and W. H. Bailey were elected stewards.

During the Civil War, the Harrell's Chapel was confiscated by military authorities, and Methodist services were held in the Presbyterian Church until it was released by the military. In November, 1868, Rev. H. M. Granade took charge and worked with great zeal. He raised the membership from twenty to forty during the year.

Some of the interesting early Methodist happenings were as follows: Rich Thompson, a Negro, was admitted as a member April 13, 1869. The record shows that Negroes worshipped with whites, although they had separate preaching part of the year.

"Church School Report March 19, 1876:

Male teachers present	2	
Female	1	
Male pupils	8	
Female	2	
		TOTAL 13
Amount on hand	\$1.45	
Collection15	
		TOTAL \$1.60

Morning very inclement. Snowing all the morning, the heaviest snow of the season. Brother and Sister Greathouse gone to Pleasant Hill, Crawford County.

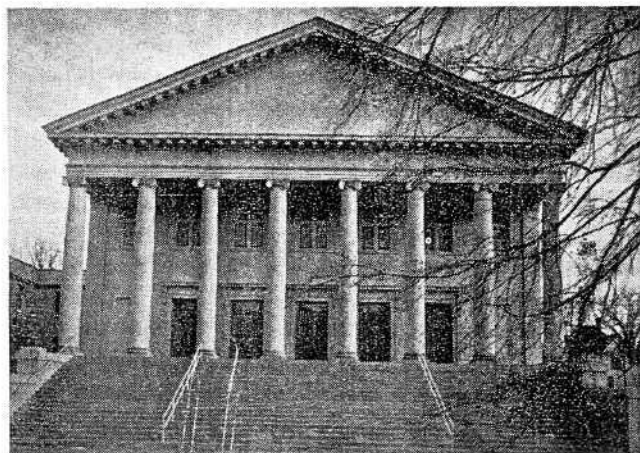
Frank Parke, Superintendent"

Francis Willard, on her first visit to Fort Smith, made two addresses in this Church in January, 1882, and organized the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The Band of Hope, a children's temperance organization, also gave entertainments there.

By 1886 Harrell's Chapel was considered unsafe, and the congregation, for a time, worshipped over a store in a building in the 700 block on the southside of Garrison Avenue. Rev. J. L. Massey was pastor.

The congregation at this time decided to form two churches. One built a frame building on North 13th and "B" Streets, which they called "Central Church," the other a brick building on North 7th and "A" Streets, which they called "First Church." In 1887 Central had 161 members, and First had 198 members. The cornerstone of First Church was laid October 13, 1887.

By 1914 both Central and First Church congregations had outgrown their respective buildings and joint board meetings were held to discuss union, but it took two years to effect this union of Central and First into one congregation to be called "First Methodist Church." Rev. J. M. Hughey was Central's last pastor, and Rev. J. Seneker was First's last pastor.



Sanctuary Erected 1919-20

The North Arkansas Conference in the fall of 1916 sent Rev. H. B. Trimble to serve the united charge. Soon plans were in the making to erect a new and modern church building, and the project was actually launched in 1918 under the pastorate of Rev. J. T. McClure. The membership then numbered about 1,200. On August 12, 1919, the church bought the

lots at North 15th and "B" Streets on which the Church is now standing, and the cornerstone was laid in 1919.

In 1920 Rev. A. Norman Evans was sent to First Methodist Church and the building was completed under his pastorate.



The Altar

In 1926 Rev. G. W. Davis was sent as pastor, and during the next year a new parsonage was built.

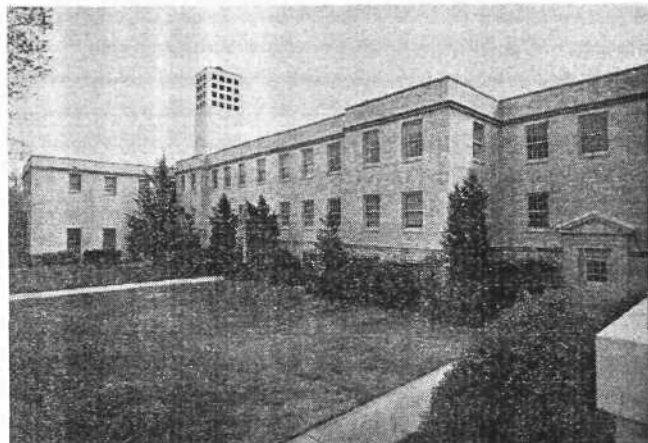
In 1927 Rev. Dana Dawson succeeded to the pastorate, and during his ministry additional property was bought, which gave the church the entire block except one corner lot.

In 1934 Rev. H. C. Henderson came to serve as pastor. During his ministry the church was cleared of debt, and in 1937, at a service in the church, it was dedicated to the North Arkansas Annual Conference.

One outstanding event in Methodism took place in May 1939, during Dr. H. C. Henderson's pastorate. All of the Methodist organizations in the United States merged into one Methodist Church. The Southern Church and the Northern Church had divided over the slavery issue; the Southern Church was known as Methodist Episcopal Church South - the Northern Church was known as Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodist Protestant Church and others also united into the Methodist Church.

In 1939 Rev. L. L. Evans came as pastor. Under his leadership the additional lots were purchased that gave the church the entire block fronting on Fifteenth Street. A new Educational Building was built and furnished. The cornerstone from the old First Methodist Church located at North 7th and "A" Streets was placed in the new Educational Building in 1940, and it carries the inscription for both the "Old First" and the Educational Building. In addition

to this construction, the present church underwent extensive remodeling, and the membership of the church in 1941 totaled approximately 3,000.

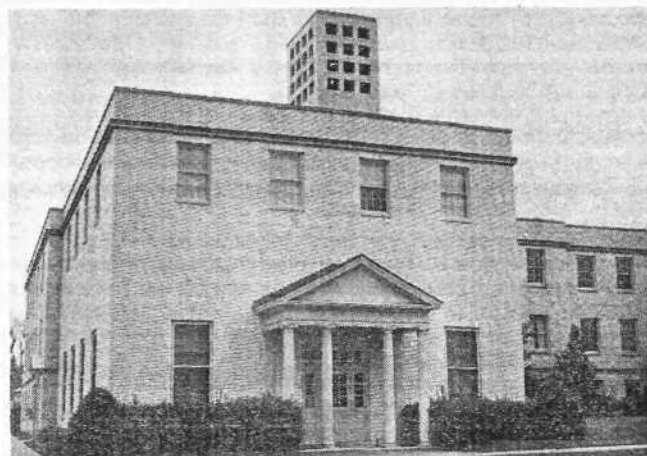


Educational Building erected 1940
Carillon donated by Fagan Bourland

Dr. Oscar E. Rice was pastor from 1941-43.

Dr. Fred G. Roebuck came to the church in 1944 and retired in 1965. World War II was a dark time, but following that, the church began to grow in all phases - church attendance, church school, women's work, music department, and many other areas. By 1950 the people realized the need of additional educational space, so pledges totaling \$77,000 were raised for new buildings. By 1956-57 the new Educational Building and the new Roebuck Chapel, seating capacity of over 200, were completed. The first service was held September 9, 1956, at 8:30 a.m.

The new chapel was without a name until December, 1957, when the congregation unanimously voted to name it the Roebuck Chapel, honoring Dr. Fred G. Roebuck, who had been the pastor for fourteen years.



Roebuck Chapel Erected 1957

Perhaps one of the outstanding "firsts" of 1955-56 was the air conditioned sanctuary, the "coolest place in town."

Dr. John Bayliss followed Dr. Fred Roebuck as pastor in 1965. During his pastorate, the Girls Shelter, located at North Sixteenth and "C" Streets, and the Okla Smith Manor were established. The latter is a part of the Arkansas Methodist Childrens Home, and is located at 320 North Sixteenth Street.

Dr. Bayliss moved to New Orleans in 1972, and as a token of appreciation, the name of Fellowship Hall in First Methodist Church was changed to Bayliss Hall.

Also during Dr. John Bayliss's pastorate at First United Methodist Church, the Evangelical United Brethern Church of the United States and the Methodist Church USA merged and became The United Methodist Church. This merger took place in Dallas April 21, 1968. At this time the First Methodist Church in Fort Smith became the First United Methodist Church.

Dr. Sam Nader became pastor in 1972. He and Dr. Paul Bumpers exchanged pulpits; Dr. Bumpers from the First United Methodist Church in Lubbock, Texas, to Fort Smith, and Dr. Nader to Lubbock.

Dr. Bumpers was pastor from June 1973 to August 1976, and Dr. George Ivey became pastor in September 1976. He was assigned to First Methodist again in June 1977, and is the present pastor. Rev. Aaron Barling is associate pastor, and Dr. Fred G. Roebuck is pastor emeritus.

The membership on October 1, 1977 was 3,780. The budget is \$369,000.00. Although the membership is 111 less than in 1965, the First United Methodist Church of Fort Smith is growing, and 125 new members were added to the church during the past year, 1976-77.

*J. Fred Patton is also the author of "The History of Fort Smith," which was prepared as his thesis preparatory to receiving his master's degree from the University of Arkansas in 1936. This history was published in the Fort Smith *Southwest Times Record* in 1936; then in 1967, for the observance of Fort Smith's 150th Anniversary, Mr. Patton updated it to span the exciting 150 years which saw Fort Smith grow from a tiny outpost on the Western frontier to a sprawling metropolis, and it was published a second time in the *Southwest Times Record*.

Mr. Patton is a native of Alma, Arkansas, but has been a resident of Fort Smith for 42 years. In addition to his BA and MA degrees from the U. of A., Mr. Patton also did post-graduate work at the U. of Michigan at Ann Arbor; George Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn; and Harvard University. He taught government and economics four years at Fort Smith High School and Fort Smith Junior College, now Westark Community College, then was dean of boys at the high school until 1944. During the war years he was guidance director in the school system, and at the time of his retirement was serving as general manager of England Brothers Division of Gordon Transports, Inc.

Since retirement, he continues to be active in civic affairs and in the First Methodist Church, where he is teacher of the Uplifters Sunday School Class. Mr. Patton is also Division Director of Christian Business Men's Committee, USA and is extremely active in the work of this organization.

RECIPES

The following recipes have been selected from the Cookbook which was compiled by the five Wesleyan Service Guilds of the First Methodist Church circa 1960. Copy of the Cookbook is loaned by Mrs. Sam Wakefield for use in The Journal. Special permission for the use of these recipes is given by the North American Press of Kansas City, Missouri, owner of the copyright on the book.

WATERMELON CITRON

To 8 lb. rind put one Tbsp. of lime and cover with water and let stand overnight.

Next morning take out and rinse well, put in pan of clear water, cook till tender, take out again and put one pound of sugar to one pound of rind and cover with water. Slice 2 lemons to 8 pounds fruit. Cook until thick.

(I usually add an extra cup of sugar as we like the syrup. Fine in fruit cakes.)

Mrs. E. C. Aiken

JEFF DAVIS PIE

3 well beaten eggs
1½ c. sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
3 level Tbsp. flour
1 c sweet milk, add last
1 tsp. allspice
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. cloves
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 heaping Tbsp. melted butter (use more for richer pie)

Bake in uncooked crust in slow oven.

Gladys E. Lee

APPLE CAKE

2 Tbsp. Crisco
1/4 c. sugar
1 egg
3/4 c. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1 c. cubed apples (fine)
1/2 c. broken nutmeats
1 tsp. vanilla

Combine in the order given and bake at 350 degrees 30 minutes.

Mrs. Gene Scales

FORT SMITH 1877

Prepared for printing by Carolyn Pollan

Fort Smith 1877 continues in this issue with articles taken from the Fort Smith Weekly New Era, Valentine Dell, Editor.

Editor Dell has many chit-chat items on the third page of the regular four page paper under a column entitled Local Intelligence. Beginning in July of 1877, the items are not as numerous until the later part of December and because of one small item, it is assumed that someone else was acting as editor for a period of several months.

The chief worries of Fort Smith in 1877 seemed to be lawlessness in the Indian Territory, terrible streets, an ill-equipped fire department and a sand bar in the river that caused all kinds of havoc in river navigation for this port city.

The good news was the continuing growth of Fort Smith as evidenced by the many new businesses established and new buildings going up.



Apr. 18, 1877
JUDICIAL ELECTION

The election for Judge and Prosecuting Attorney in this judicial district resulted in the choice of Capt. J. H. Rogers for the first and Mr. J. S. Little for the second position.

The vote is as follows:

	COUNTIES			
	Sebastian	Crawford	Scott	Logan
FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE				
C. B. Neal	940	9	228	136
J. H. Rogers	705	181	163	403
Granville Wilcox	93	430	65	198
J. H. Huckleberry	16	434	27	181

TOTAL - Neal, 1313; Rogers, 1452; Wilcox, 786; Huckleberry, 658.

The vote of Logan County is not official but nearly correct. The vote for Prosecuting Attorney has not been received yet except for this county, which is as follows:

J. S. Little	673
James Brizzolara	404
E. T. Walker	230
R. B. Rutherford	396

P. H. Hillyer 36
Enough is known, however, to make it certain that Little is elected by a major majority.

ONE NORTHERN MAIL IN FIVE DAYS - There is no use in complaining about short comings of officials, knowing as we do, how hard it is for the truth to get to headquarters, though lies and falsehoods get there quick enough. But, for all that, the people of this town have been considerably exercised the past few days on account of the repeated mail failures, caused by negligence and carelessness. Saturday's mail from the East, the chief mail received here, was left at Argenta through the carelessness or drunkenness of the mail agent, it is said, and last night again the mail missed, because it was locked up in the car and no one to open it. This reckless conduct on the part of our public servants is very annoying to the public, and no where would it be put up with except in Arkansas, where the federal patronage, especially in the postal department, has been for some years past in the worst possible hands.

Apr. 25, 1877

SEBASTIAN FIRE COMPANY

Under the above name a new fire company has organized, with the following officers;

Jas. Brizzolara, Foreman; Chas. Sengel and J. C. Manning, 1st assistants; Henry Triesch, Henry Hinch, 2nd assistants; Wm. Breen, treasurer; W. L. Euper, secretary. There are 30 members of the most active young men in town. Now let the council do their part. Sell the old useless engine, get a new steam engine, hose etc. and have everything ready when needed, for needed it will be sooner or later.

In the May 16, 1877 issue of the *Weekly New Era*, there is a lot of chit-chat in the column Local Intelligence:

May 16, 1877

Rain . . Rain . . Rain!

Farmers grumbling.

Woods growing.

Strawberries plenty. Nice wild ones brought from the "nation", across the river, sell at one dollar a bucketfull-about ten quarts. Those raised in gardens sell at 25 cents a quart.

Mr. Sam McLoud has left for Cincinnati and Pittsburg to purchase a new ferry boat more adapted to the river at this place than the one now in use. He bought out Capt. Evins last week.

The Baptist Strawberry festival, held last night in the Catholic Library Association rooms was a

perfect success, notwithstanding the dampness of the weather - and the Catholic young men belonging to the Association deserve credit for putting their handsome and convenient hall at the disposal of the Baptist brethren. We like to see that kind of spirit displayed. The floral decorations were unsurpassed, and all the churches of the city were liberally represented.

— — • — —

BROKEN ARM. - Mallie Hendry, son of Mr. J. R. A. Hendry, in the attempt to gratify some of his young lady school mates to procure some locust blossoms from a tree in front of Belle Grove public school, fell to the ground, breaking an arm. He is doing well, at last accounts.

— — • — —

A.I.U. Fayetteville, Ark.
May 19, 1877

Ed. New Era: -

As a student of the Arkansas Industrial University,¹ I am anxious that the people of the State should be made familiar with this institution . . .

. . . There has been in attendance during the past year an average of over two hundred students. Had it not been for the general financial depression throughout the State, we would have numbered many more . . .

There will be public examinations on the mornings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The exercises of most importance will take place on Thursday morning. - The students who graduate will then deliver their orations or essays, and receive their Diplomas. The graduating class consists of nine -- four from the classical, and five from the normal department.

Yours truly,
W. M. Mellette

— — • — —

Hon. Jordan E. Cravens, M. C. from this district, and family was in town for several days, stopping with Col. Wm. M. Cravens.

— — • — —

Judge Jesse Turner, of Van Buren, was over here on Friday to attend to some business at the U. S. Court. Judge Turner has not only lived among the people of Arkansas for almost two generations, but maintains his high standing in the front rank of the Bar of the State, and enjoys fine health.

—————

¹ AIU was the forerunner of the University of Arkansas. It was established by Act 44 of 1871 and opened its doors to students on Jan. 22, 1872.

SURVEY OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER - For a week or two past a surveying party in charge of Capt. D. W. Wellman, assisted by Mr. McCowan, have been at work near town to get the topography of the Arkansas River, previous to commencing work upon the breakwater to be erected on the Cherokee shore above town, to cause the river to resume its old channel and wash away the immense sand bar in front of the town.

— — • — —

A MODEL FARMER. - During a drive in the vicinity of town a few days ago, we called upon General Bonneville at his pleasant residence, about a mile from town, and found the old hero, Cincinnatus like, in his extensive fields, directing the operations of his hands. Though, nearly four score, General Bonneville's activity and robust health would delight his biographer, the great Washington Irving himself. He showed us over his fine, large vegetable gardens, his wheat, oats, rye, corn, and clover fields, his strawberry "patch", orchard and last, but not least, his noble vineyard, where thousands of healthy vines, with the promise of a most abundant harvest cheered the sight.

Then there were the root houses, where potatoes and sich are safely stored; the tool house, everything in apple-pie order: the piggery with its Berkshire and other famous breeds, etc., etc.

But the gem of the place is Mrs. Bonneville's "Partenne" of flowers in front of the residence, which excels almost anything to be seen in this region and we left the place, convinced that Gen'l Bonneville even in his old age was setting an example worth imitation how to be a successful farmer as he was a successful soldier and explorer.

— — • — —

HO! PIC-NICKERS! - Just across the Arkansas River opposite the foot of Garrison Avenue is a beautiful Walnut grove, belonging to the estate of the late Dr. Payne. This grove Capt. Evins, of the steam ferry R. N. Miller, has fitted up nicely with music stand, seats etc., for the benefit of pic-nickers. So, there is no necessity any more to go any distance from town to enjoy the advantages sought by rural parties. No long walks or costly carriage rides to reach the finest pic-nic grounds within a hundred miles. The grove is right on the bank of the river and from the shore of Oklahoma one enjoys a beautiful view of the Arkansas shore, the town, the green slopes and the stately blue mountains in the far distant South. We understand also, that Capt. Evins will take across the members of any society or organization, wishing to use his pic-nic grounds, free of charge. This is liberal indeed.

— — • — —

May 30, 1877

Two fine herds of Arkansas cattle, consisting of about 300 head purchased at Dardanelle and vicinity crossed the river at this point, enroute for Missouri.

In mid-year - 1877, the June 6th Weekly New Era issue had some articles on the Civil War, which was still a favorite topic 22 years later. Several articles, one about Gen. Grant and another on Decoration Day helped keep alive the past struggle.

The Fort Smith events column of that week once again proved the Editor knew what was going on in town.

— • —

June 6, 1877

The new office of Dr. A. Dunlap and Dr. J. T. Booth is over Griffith's store.

— • —

The citizens of Fort Smith will honor their distinguished guests, of the Arkansas Press Association, with a grand ball at Adelaide Hall, tomorrow (Thursday) evening.²

— • —

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church will give, on next Friday, the 8th inst. at their new church and adjoining lawn, a sacred oratory and lawn fete. This is sure to be a delightful affair, and should be patronized by all lovers of rare and refined pleasures.

— • —

U. S. District Attorney, W.H.H. Clayton and Col. H. A. Rogers have returned from Fayetteville, where, we are confident, they creditably represented Fort Smith, sustained their brilliant reputations and filled their part of the programme on decoration days, by delivering eloquent orations.

— • —

The El Paso stage property, fronting on Wayne Street, and consisting of lots 1, 2, and 3 to block No. 15, together with the office, stables, blacksmith-shops and sheds thereon situated, was sold on last Tuesday, at commissioner's sale, and bid in by County Clerk McClure, for Slaughter H. Ficklin, the mortgagee, for the sum of two thousand dollars.

— • —

U. S. Deputy Marshals, Capt. Fowler and J. R. Rutherford reported from Fort Sill, during the week, with six prisoners, charged with larceny in the Indian Country.

The gallant Captain, was as on two previous occasions, accompanied by his devoted wife, who we are pleased to learn enjoyed a very pleasant trip.

— • —

² The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Press Association was held in Fort Smith, June 6, 1877.

The Arkansas Press Association meetings were completely reported in the June 13th issue, Weekly New Era, taking up 4 columns.

Local Intelligence had this item of interest.

— • —

June 13, 1877

OUR ENTERPRISING CITIZEN, Capt. S. McLoud, safely and triumphantly landed his fleet, light-draught ferry boat, The Bessie Pearl, at the Fort Smith wharf last Sunday and was heartily welcomed by a large concourse of citizens. She is 85 feet long, 25 feet wide, and has a two superior 3½ feet stroke engines.

The Bessie Pearl is a substantial swift-running steamer, and is admirably adapted to the business of a ferry boat. At this point Capt. McLoud proposed to have her thoroughly repaired, handsomely painted, and put in good trim general for business by the first of July.

— • —

The back page of the June 13, 1877 begins highlighting the latest in fashion for M'lady:

FASHION NOTES

Long Llama scarfs are shown.

Parasols are finished with loops of ribbons.

India silk sun umbrellas are new and taking.

Coffee parties take place of tea, as formerly.

Skirts grow beautifully less as the season advances.

Crepe lisse veils of a delicate shade of blue are new.

High pointed or square crown hats are most in vogue.

White straw or chip hats are most used for dress occasions.

A modification of the Breton dress is very popular with misses.

Black goods are not used as much as formerly for street costumes.

Lawns and muslins are more noticeable than for many years past.

The brooch has taken the place of long scarf pins almost entirely.

Striped silk and lisle stockings, with stripes perpendicular are in demand.

Bonnets are almost completely covered with beautiful flowers this season.

Bunting suits still hold a bright spot in every lady's heart these warm days.

Dinner dresses of black satin, with lace overdress and trimmings, are the latest.

Large, old fashioned leghorn flags, with a long white plume, are stylish garden hats.

The old style double link sleeve buttons are worn again, and will meet favor.

A black satin slipper, garnished with white lace and silver buckle, is the latest innovation.

The Oxford tie, cut slightly higher than usual, with broad soles and moderately low heels, are stylish. Different shades of embroidered flouncing are to be found on different shades of linen for trimming. Tilleul, yellow, and canary colored ribbons, combined with blue or cardinal, still hold their own on bonnets.

— • —

Fashion news was still very much in discussion, with a front page article on the latest in women's wear June 20, 1877. Weekly New Era.

FEMININE MATTERS

Black and silver fans with Japanese designs are the most stylish.

A novelty in feathers for Panama hats is a plume tipped with straw.

Lisle thread gloves with long cuffs are the most fashionable.

Five-button silk gloves, kid fits, are now popular for ordinary wear.

Lawn dresses and hats, covered with the same light material are "en regie".

Ice wool is used for knitting clouds, shawls and hoods for plaza wear in the country.

Small velvet chatelains, heavily ornamented with cut steel, are new and much worn.

China crape, Indian tissues, and all kinds of oriental fabrics, are among the novelties of hat trimmings.

New kid gloves have no seams on the back, their placo being supplied by embroidered floral designs.

Suits for watering places are made of handsome blue, and white and yellow checked linen, trimmed with torchon lace.

Batiste suits are beautiful when trimmed with plaiting finished with fine torchon lace, with a bordering of colored threads.

Long scarfs of white illusion are worn over the neck and shoulders, crossed at the waist, and are tied in a large bow at the back.

New York hair dressers say that it is almost impossible to supply the demand for white coiffures of gray hair among the fashionable young ladies.

— • —

GRANDPA.

The Grandpa is an individual, aged somewhere fifty and one hundred years, and is a common occurrence in most well regulated families.

Next to a healthy mother-in-law, they have more bizness on hand than any other party in the household.

They are the standard authority on all leading topicks, and what they don't know about things that happened sixty-five years ago, or what will happen for the next three years to come, iz a damage for everybody to kno.

Grandpas are not entirely useless. They are handy to hold babies, and feed pigs, and are very smart at mending broken spoon-handles or putting up the clothes line on washing days.

I have seen Grandpas that churn good, but I kon-sider it a mighty mean trick to set an old man over eighty years to churning butter.

I am willing to rock the baby while wimmin folks are biling soap: I am reddy to kut rags to work into ragcarpets; they can keep me hunting hen's eggs, or picking green currants; or, I will even dip candles or kore apples for sass, but I won't churn.

I have examined myself on the subject, and will bet a jackknife that Josh Billings won't churn.

Grandpas are poor help at bringing up children; they are full of precept and catekism, but the young ones all seem to understand that Grandpa minds them a heap more than they mind Grandpa. - Josh Billings.

— • —

June 27, 1877

June apples, yellow and red, in abundance at from 50 to 75 cts per bushel.

— • —

The Bessie Pearl, Capt. McLoud, Master, made a moon-light excursion up the Poteau on Monday night last, and all the "excursionists" had a fine time.

— • —

The Arkansas River has descended too far beneath our notice to merit much mention. The big sand bar in front of town has made its vast appearance, and some one should send straight way for the U. S. Engineers to come and dig it away.

— • —

Mrs. Dr. A. Dunlap and Misses Jeanie Rutherford and Maude Sutton departed by stage during the week for Fayetteville. We understand that Mrs. Dunlap and Miss Sutton will return soon, while Miss Rutherford will extend her visit during the summer months.

July through December of 1877 in Fort Smith will be continued in the December Journal.

— • —

The court system provided much material for newspaper space. The August 1 and August 8 issue of the Weekly New Era had stories on the coming court session.

The U. S. Court for the Western District of Arkansas will convene on next Monday, the 6th day of August.

OFFICERS OF THE COURT. - Hon. Isaac C. Parker, Judge; Hon. W.H.H. Clayton, Prosecuting Atty; James Brizzolara, Ass't Prosecuting Att'y; Gen. Stephen Wheeler, Clerk; Sam'l A. Williams, Dep'y Clerk; Gen'l D. P. Upham, Marshall; Maj. C. M.

Barnes, Chief Deputy; Charles Burns, Jailer; J. P. Clark, Crier, U.S. Commissioners - J. B. Latham, Stephen Wheeler.

Cases pending before the Grand Jury:

Murder	3
Attempt to commit murder	1
Manslaughter	1
Assault with intent to kill	7
Resisting process	1
Illicit distilling	1
Bribery	1
Impeding justice	1
Bigamy	1
Larceny	41
Cutting timber	1
Violating Int. Rev. Law	2

Of these, 46 are in jail, and 28 on bond.

A glance of the criminal docket, comprising seventy-one cases, published in our last issue, irrespective of a large civil docket indicates that the present session will be a very protracted one.

The attendance of witnesses and others is very large and presents the usual strange mixture of races, Caucasian, American, and African, in all their gradations and shades of character and color.

Sept. 5, 1877

Colonel John Carnall went Little Rocking last Saturday.

Major Thomas Lanagan left Thursday for a brief business visit to St. Louis.

Principal R. G. Woods and Assistant Miss Emma Walker, auspiciously opened Howard School (colored) last Monday, with the large attendance of 72 pupils.

Mr. Henry Tischer is having the late Guler and Brunoli stand neatly and expeditiously renovated and remodeled for his new drug store, and will be ready for business in a few days.

Sept. 12, 1877

Mr. George Tilles, the popular proprietor of the News Depot and Tilles' Granger, continues to supply the public demand for the New York, St. Louis and Little Rock dailies, and the religious, political, and literary papers and periodicals generally published throughout the country.

LIVELY RUNAWAY

While standing in front of Dr. Bailey's Drug Store last Monday, Mr. John Colbert's team became frightened at the crack of a whip, and of course, availed themselves of this good excuse to run off and create a lively commotion. They took their wild flight up Garrison Avenue, collided with Mr. T. Vogel's wagon, broke one of its wheels, dumped out Mr. V., overturned and tore away from their own wagon, and continued their course up the avenue for the dis-

tance of several blocks, when they were finally stopped. Today's damage: two badly smashed wagons, two slightly skinned and bruised horses, and one muchly scared man.

Sept. 19, 1877

The upper brick block on the Avenue, consisting of five fine two story buildings, has just been embellished with a handsome galvanixed iron dental cornice. The building is now being covered with a tin roof and will be ready for occupancy about the 15th of next month.

The Guler and Brunodli and Haglin and Pape block³ is completed, the firms have moved to their new quarters and now make a fine display of their good. The building is a substantial two story brick, 46 x 120 feet, and is supplemented in the rear by a one story brick 50 x 50 feet. The new structure has a handsome ornamental front and is a decided addition and ornament to the city.

Sept. 26, 1877

SERIOUS FIRE IN THE U.S. PATENT OFFICE BUILDING

Yesterday about noon the Patent Office building in Washington, one of the most elegant and spacious offices in the world, was discovered to be on fire, in the Model room on the ninth street side. The fire is supposed to have started in the conservatory from spontaneous combustion. An immense number of very valuable models were destroyed, but the fire was mastered before it reached the records of the Land, Patent or Indian Offices.

Capt. S. McCloud, of the transfer office received Monday 6000 Lbs. of general merchandise for Bell & Roland of Waldron; one car load of cotton ties and haggings and sundry other freights for J. B. Harwood, of Big Creek; one car load of stoves and tinware for Atkinson and Triesch, also one car load for Mr. John Vaughn and a handsome assortment of household furniture for Mr. John Smith.

The enterprising Capt. S. McCloud is having a substantial plank road constructed across the sand bar in front of the city. The work is being done under the skillful supervision of Captain J. Evans and will supply a long felt need.

Substantial stone flag pavements are being laid in front of the stores of P. Berman, Guler and Brunoldi and Haglin and Pape.

³ These buildings are discussed further in this issue in the article Fort Smith Architecture. Also see Guler and Brunoldi article.

Oct. 24, 1877

HO! FOR THE WILD WOODS

U. S. Marshal, Gen. D. P. Upham, U. S. District Attorney, Hon. W. H. Clayton, Maj. C. M. Barnes, Dr. W. W. Bailey, Col. R. M. Johnson, Messrs. Eli Mitchell and John Vail and the cook, Billy Hicks, with two big wagon loads of assorted supplies, excorted⁴ to the Indian country yesterday on a several days hunting expedition. Jolly success.

— • —

Oct. 31, 1877

A "FAIR" ITEM

At the State Fair at Little Rock last week, there was exhibited a fine lot of homemade bread; but in every instance the exhibitor was either Mrs. So and So or little Miss Jenny, Ada, Mary, as the case may be, aged nine or ten years or there about. Not a single loaf was exhibited purporting to have been made by a girl of a marriageable age. Ah no! A young LADY of eighteen could not well risk her reputation of being known and openly acknowledging to the fact of being able to bake a palatable, wholesome, loaf of bread. Hor-r-i-b-l-e! Leave that drugery to old matrons or little misses not in their teens. And yet we venture to say, that to a sensible young man the fact of a girl being able to make a good loaf of bread, taken as an index to other necessary creature comforts and good housekeeping, will weigh as much as all the other accomplishments combined. He will have an eye on that girl and she will stand a better chance of getting a good husband, than any of your nice, shilly, shally, primping, mincing, coquetting bellies.

Tilles has just received a large invoice of "Bonneville's Adventures" by Washington Irving; "Tom Sawyer's Adventures," Mark Twain's last; and "Other People's Children", sequel to "Helen's Babies".

— • —

Nov. 7, 1877

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

After a period of only three weeks since its last session, this great court entered on its November term last Monday.

The officers of the court were certainly entitled to the brief breathing spell between the terms, for it was obtained only by the faithful, unremitting and intelligently expeditious manner in which they dispatched the vast accumulation of business transacted during the last session.

The court proceeded to work with its customary promptness, the Grand and Petit Jurors being impaneled, the charge of the Judge delivered, one

prisoner arraigned, convicted and sentenced, and much other business dispatched during the first day.

Judge Parker's charge was exceptionally able and interesting and was delivered in his usual clear, forcible and impressive style, and was addressed directly to the Grand Jurors, and not at them through the marring medium of a manuscript. A brief, timely and appropriate charge was also addressed to the Petit Jury.

The docket contains between 50 and 60 criminal cases, which embrace about 100 parties, 25 of the numbers are charged with murder, and the others principally with assault to kill, larceny and violation of internal revenue law.

The offences were committed, almost without exception, in the Indian country, many of them hundreds of miles away from the court. The larger proportion of the prisoners are on bond, only 36 being confined in the U. S. Jail.

— • —

TRUIMPH OF ENTERPRISE

One of the Finest Brick
Blocks in Fort Smith

Just Completed

A Most Substantial and Ornamental Acquisition to the City
The Merchants in Their New Quarters - -
A Cheerful Scene of Busy Life

The new structure situated on Lafayette Street and Garrison Avenue, comprises five two story fire proof stores.⁵

— • —

Nov. 21, 1877

Romantic open air marriages on our Choctaw border are now of weekly occurrence, and are all celebrated by the popular minister, Rev. Henry Turner.

The last couple, Mr. Abel Bowser and Miss Mary Sorrel, hailed from this country, and on last Sunday consummated "love's young dream".

— • —

Nov. 28, 1877

Mr. Ben Wolf has established a dry goods and clothing store on the corner of Wayne Street and Garrison Avenue.

This town will some day or night go up the spout for the want of a good fire department. All the apparatus of that description now on hand is absolutely worthless and the cisterns partly in bad repair. Three or four thousand dollars would buy a steam engine sufficient for present need. There are over 100 business houses in town, who with the owners of houses and stores, could easily raise the necessary amount for the engine, and the city the other ap-

⁴ Excorted was evidently used as meaning "going on an excursion!"

⁵ This item will be completed in the next issue of *The Journal* in the Fort Smith Architecture article on Garrison Avenue Buildings.

paratus, such as ladders, hose, buckets, etc. One small fire will cost more than the amount needed to buy the engine; while, if a conflagration once gets a good headway among the shanties of the Avenue, the good houses will go too; and the damage be counted by hundreds of thousands.

CONFERENCE OF THE A.M.E. CHURCH OF ARKANSAS

This ecclesiastical body adjourned this morning after a continuous session of one week, performing a great deal of work. Its deliberations were presided over by Bishop Thomas M.D. Ward, a man of considerable force and executive ability. The members appeared to be men of intelligence, and were all of the African race with the exceptions of one, the Rev. J.F.A. Sisson, who besides his decidedly Caucasian looks, differed also in the cut of his clothes from his sable brethren. The latter were mostly dressed in neat clerical style, while their white brother's outfit gave evidence of the hardships of presiding over the flocks in the Indian Territory, which forms part of the Arkansas Conference and the special field of labor for that sturdy champion of the Church militant. The A.M.E. Church is doing good work among the colored people of this State and the Territory adjoining.

Last Monday, Deputy Constable Joe Swift, rescued the ferryman of LeFlore's ferry from a rather awkward predicament. The boat had escaped from him, leaving him astraddle of a rope over the middle of the river!

Dec. 5, 1877

There will soon be a telegraph office in Fort Smith. Our streets are in a condition, that is a positive disgrace to the town and throws no very favorable light upon the efficiency of our town authorities, not only is Garrison Avenue, our principal street, after every rain a perfect swamp from the want of drainage and the outrageous practice of filling up with loose soft soil, but nearly every other street has washed out to such an extent, as to form gullies and become dangerous and sometimes positively impassible. The wharf, too, built at so great an expense, is becoming badly wasted and in every instance a slight, timely repair would have prevented much damage.

Dec. 9, 1877

A lot 70 x 100 feet on the Avenue, was recently sold for \$3,000.00.

The steamer Rose City, Capt. Yerkes master, arrived this morning with 50,000 shingles and other freight.

Rumor of a horse race on the reservation race track on New Year's Day. Single mile dash for \$1000 a side.

Col. J. E. Cravens, M. C. from this district, has introduced a bill for the organization of territory of Oklahoma. We have not yet seen the bill.

Dec. 12, 1877

The Fort Smith Schuetzen Verdin will give a grand mask ball at Adelaide Hall on the 31st of the present month.

The Frontier Rifle Club will give a party and ball at Adelaide Hall on the 18th inst. It is sure to be one of the grandest affairs of the season.

The citizens of the DuVal Addition to Fort Smith are praying for annexation to the city. Let them be annexed.

Dec. 12, 1877

The appropriation for removing the sand bar in front of Fort Smith is nearly exhausted and the work is only about half completed. There is a sufficient amount remaining, however, to use up the materials on hand and secure the work from damage during the winter. It is estimated that another \$10,000 will be sufficient to complete the work and it is confidently expected that this sum will be duly appropriated. The work so far, under the able supervision of Capt. J. D. Wellman has proved a perfect success. Let all parties concerned work hard to secure the appropriation.

Don't indulge in intoxicating liquors, cigars, or tobacco in any shape. They are expensive, unnecessary and injurious. But if you *will* indulge in such things go to Mike Brogan's City Saloon and get the purest. Cigars a speciality.

Tone Plesher's confectionary and fruit store, No. 63 Garrison Avenue, is chuck full of the most delicious goodies; all of Mr. P's customers wonder how he can sell goods so cheap. Give him a call.

The general merchandise store of E. Hunt furnishes a standing proof of the mere policy of *quick sales and small profits*. For dry goods, groceries and country produce, go to Mr. H. and be assured of perfect satisfaction.

Sustain home industry by having your wagon and all kinds of agricultural implements manufactured and all kinds of blacksmithing done at the old reliable establishment of Jos. Sherman on Knox Street near the Avenue.

Casper Reutzel's Store is the place to get the very choicest groceries, or any article of general merchandise. A constant supply of the freshest butter and eggs, the fattest chickens and turkeys and all kinds of country produce.

— • —

The election for school directors came off last Saturday with following result:

W. N. Ayers	176
S. A. Williams	174
Dr. W. W. Bailey	100
Dr. R. D. Seals	107

There was considerable feeling manifested among the friends of the opposing candidates, still the vote was very light.

— • —

On Dec. 26, 1877 an item indicated that there was a rivalry between the two towns of Van Buren and Fort Smith.

— • —

Dec. 26, 1877

The Van Buren Press is bitterly opposed to any further appropriation to remove the immense bar in front of the city and wants a congressional committee to investigate what has become of the \$10,000 of the first appropriation. We have no objection to ascertaining how the money was expended, but we fear the Press is simply jealous of the benefit accruing to Fort Smith from this so necessary work. There are lots of sand bars in the Arkansas River, but none of the size of this one here in front of the largest town in Arkansas next to the capitol. We regret to see the narrow spirit displayed by a paper of a neighboring town. Any improvement in Western Arkansas benefits the region at large.

— • —

Wagon loads of turkeys in the city during the week. Choicest 75 cents.

— • —

Quite a large number of citizens from Van Buren and other neighboring towns spent Christmas in Fort Smith.

— • —

There was a fine Christmas tree and sociable gathering at the Christian Church on Monday night.

— • —

Fifteen immigrants from Georgia arrived last Friday. They have all permanently located in Sebastian County and are well pleased with their new home.

Plenty of room and a cordial welcome for 10,000 more.

— • —

FORTY CHRISTMAS IN THE OLD LOG HOUSE

On Christmas Day, Col. J. R. Kannady, Ex-mayor, etc., etc., but equally well known as plain Uncle Jerry, gave his fortieth Christmas entertainment to

his friends at the "Old Loghouse" on Garrison Avenue, once in the woods, but now in the business center of the liveliest town in Arkansas. He was assisted - shall we say how ably? - by Mrs. Kannady, "Aunt Sophy", as all her friends call her - her matronly face beamed, as she bade her visitors welcome and made all feel at home, *sans* ceremony, *sans* style, *sans* everything, except good will and kindly regard. And there was her niece, the pet of the old household, Miss Lilly Pryor that was and Mrs. Lilly Pryor Dave Sparks that is. She was the Adjutant of Aunt Sophy and how well she did perform her arduous duties on the occasion all who were there will testify.

Uncle Jerry was in his glory and he glowed. And all his old friends and new ones glowed too, in spite of the dull, gray afternoon. And many were the toasts drank on the occasion, as well there might. Forty years in the same old log cabin ever since Uncle Jerry left his old native Buckeye State. Just think of it.

What memories of genial hospitality and generous cheer cluster around that old building! But alas as all things terrestrial must perish, so will the "old loghouse" perish; for it is understood, that the Christmas just past was to be the last for the old mansion and that Col. Kannady contemplates erecting a fine new family mansion to be ready for occupancy during the coming year.

Well, all we have to say is, that we hope, Uncle Jerry and Aunt Sophy may spend as many happy days in the new house as they did in the old.

— • —

And so ended the year 1877 in Fort Smith as recorded by the newspaper, "The Fort Smith New Era". It was decidedly a frontier town trying to be civilized.

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Liberal terms of Exchange for Second hand Machines of every description.

"DOMESTIC" Paper Fashions

The Best Patterns made send for Catalogue.

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ATTN: WANTED NEW YORK

BOOK NOTES

by Amelia Martin

RECORDS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS. 80 pages, softbound, \$5.00. Compiled by Oma Cole and Hazel Brown.

Available from:

Oma Cole, Route 3, Box 1, Alma, Arkansas 72921
and

Hazel Brown, Route 1, Alma, Arkansas 72921

This book is the first of a series of books of Crawford County records that are being prepared by Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Brown. Its contents are:

Marriage Book "A", 1877 to 1880; Early Gazette Records of Marriages of Crawford County, 1829 to 1842; early Van Buren Press Records of Marriages of Crawford County, 1860 to 1875.

While these are called records of Crawford County, they contain marriage records of many Fort Smith residents, because Fort Smith was in Crawford County until Sebastian County was formed in 1851. Also, after that date, many Sebastian County residents were married in Crawford County.

The second of this series of books, *Marriage Book "B"*, is now at the printers and *Marriage Book "C"* is nearing completion. Plans are to print in book form all marriage records and probate records for Crawford County.

HISTORY IN HEADSTONES - 476 pages, hard-back cover. \$12.50 ppd.

Compiled by Susan Stevenson Swinburn and Doris Stevenson West.

Available from Mrs. Tom Swinburn, 1012 Cedar St., Van Buren, AR 72956 or Mrs. James E. West, 3201 S. Dallas St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

This book contains headstone listings of over 150

cemeteries in Crawford County, including Black cemeteries. A short history and the location is included in each cemetery listing.

There is also a listing of individual burial plots, as well as a section on cemeteries that have been destroyed.

Mrs. Swinburn and Mrs. West, her niece, are members of the Crawford County Historical Society. The idea for the book was conceived after the authors found that many of the cemeteries in the county were being destroyed.

It took three years, using every minute of their spare time, to list and write the book. This involved driving all over the county looking for cemeteries. Many of the old cemeteries had been abandoned for years and the only way to reach them was to walk through dense underbrush and literally search them out. There was always the fear of snakes!

The work was hard and tedious but interesting. It was noted that the history of the county could be traced by the headstones. For instance, the stones told of wars and epidemics. They also revealed some unusual facts. More adults die in January, February and March than any other months of the year. More infants die during the summer months. The high mortality rate among infants between the years of 1860 to 1900 was quite noticeable.

The authors are proud of the fact that the printing of the book has brought attention to the abandoned burial grounds and several are now getting perpetual care. Also many new headstones have replaced the old broken ones or a field stone marker.

The book is dedicated to the memory of those numberless pioneers of the Indian frontier who rest in unmarked graves, their identities known only to God.

SOME OF THE SEBASTIAN COUNTY BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH AT THE FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fort Smith 1817 - 1824

By Edwin G. Bearss, Research Historian, November, 1962

Fort Smith City Directories

1894-1975 R. L. Polk and Co.

The First Fort Smith Report

Fort Smith National Historic Site,

Fort Smith, Arkansas 1966

Clyde D. Dollar

Fort Smith: Past and present; a historical summary

Creative Div., International Graphics, Inc.,

Little Rock, Arkansas 1972

William J. Butler

Funeral Records - Birnie

H. C. Birnie Funeral Records 1882-1904

Birnie Bros. Funeral Records 1891-1901

Fort Smith and Sebastian County, 1817-1917

John Franklin Weaver

Plat book of Sebastian County, Arkansas

Imperial Pub. 1903

Stories

Fort Smith, Arkansas May 1935

Claude E. Laws, M. D.

History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin and Sebastian Counties, Ark.

Goodspeed Pub. Co. 1889

INQUIRIES

Inquiries by members of the Fort Smith Historical Society will be run as space permits. Address your inquiries for the next issue to:

Mrs. Violet Burton
P. O. Box 3035
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913

BERRY-LANGLEY-PRATHER: Desire info on descendants of Amanda BERRY LANGLEY and her husband Calvin Echols LANGLEY. Do any still live in the Fort Smith area? Amanda, who died ca 1849 at the age of 101 years, was the daughter of William BERRY, Jr., brother of Henry BERRY. Henry BERRY was father of: Catherine (BERRY) PRATHER, worthy matron of an Eastern Star chapter before 1898 near Charleston (Franklin County), Arkansas; and Henry Pleasant BERRY, resident of Fort Smith who is believed to have been a member of the Police Department, perhaps Chief of Police. Where was the town of Donovan located? - Reba Prather Hafner, 1100 North Lemon, Apt. #3, Fullerton, CA 92632.

CALLAN-DAVIS: George CALLAN b. 1802 North Carolina m. Matilda DAVIS, d. Yell Co., Ark., had son named William. Want parents of George - Mrs. Callan Nigh, 2216 N. 57th Lane, Fort Smith, AR.

LOCKE-TUCKER: John LOCKE b. 1882 Henderson Co., KY. d. Pocola, OK. m. Phula TUCKER. Need parents of John - Mrs. Robert H. Dean, 3708 Ridgeway, Fort Smith, AR.

KIRKPATRICK-MORRIS: Simeon KIRKPATRICK b. Roane Co. TN m. Penelope MORRIS in Bolivar,

Alabama. Simeon d. after 1870 in Arkansas. Want info on place of burial - Mrs. W. D. Barksdale, 2515 S. "N", Fort Smith, AR.

ROGERS-MARR: William ROGERS b. Haywood Co. Tenn. m. Tilda MARR. Son Robert Edwin b. 1846 Tenn. d. 1922 White Co., Arkansas. Any info on William - Mrs. Guy Knox, 6510 Meadowcliff, Fort Smith, AR.

BERNARD-WILLIAMSON: Horatio BERNARD b. 1802 VA. m. Margaret WILLIAMSON in 1826 Wilson Co., TN. d. ca 1855 Pope Co., AR. Need parents of Horatio - Mrs. Carl Burton, 7115 Riviera Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72913.

WILKINSON-VALLE: Walter WILKINSON, b. 1784 Maryland, d. Perry Co. St. Louis, MO. Son of Joseph & Barbara, m. Emily L. VALLE. Want info on Walter WILKINSON'S children and family - Sam McCartney, 500 S. 19th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

HAYDEN-McCARTNEY: Julia Ann HAYDEN b. Boone Co. KY. m. Samuel McCARTNEY. Brother of Julia was William Hayden. All info on Hayden family - Sam McCartney, 500 S. 19th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901.

RYAN: Need info on Henderson RYAN, building contractor in Ft. Smith in the late 1890's. He was contractor for "Old Central", the oldest building on the Oklahoma State University Campus (which was completed in 1894) and was listed in the Fort Smith Business Directory 1894-95. - Mrs. Amelia Martin, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72901.

BLOOPERS

Your editors were so proud of a "perfect" first issue - but, some of our astute and knowledgeable readers pointed out it was not so perfect. Our face is red, but we want all of you to know the truth.

Corrections in September 1977 Journal:

PAGE	PRINTED	CORRECTION
Pg. 10	F. F. Reynolds	F. T. Reynolds.
	Lawson Thrust	Lawson Thrash
	W. B. Rutherford	R. B. (Robert Beall) Rutherford
	P. J. Delavney	P. J. Devaney (also pg. 13 and 35)
	John Smith	John P. Smith
Pg. 11	B. Terbieten	B. Terbieten (also pg. 13)
	Bledelman's Drug	Beidelman's Drug
Pg. 13	P.C.M. Barnes	C. M. Barnes
	Garrett	Garrett
Pg. 14	Charles Jewell	Charles Jewett
	Edison-Hix	Edson-Hix
Pg. 35	Bob Khun	Bob Kuhn
	Lotis Sively	Leotis Sivley
	Auton	Anton Neis
	Kayserm	Charles Kayser

Pg. 36	Trieach	Triesch
	Ellen	Helen Gookin
Pg. 37	Sandeld	Sandals
	Houdry	Hendry

Page 26 - the name of the painter of the illustration was omitted. The painting was done by Mr. Lee Ethel, a well-known Dallas graphic designer and painter. He is represented exclusively in Arkansas by Moulton Galleries of Fort Smith.

On Page 23 - Footnote 17 was omitted. It reads as follows:

Minutes of the Sebastian County Medical Society show that in July 1897 Miss Lula Beasley, of Little Rock, was the first and only graduate of the nursing training school at the City Charity Hospital in Fort Smith, and was awarded a diploma after being examined by a committee of three physicians from the Medical Society - thus becoming the first nurse to graduate in Fort Smith and in Arkansas. City Charity and St. John's Hospitals merged, under the name of St. John's, and the first graduating class from St. John's School of Nursing was 1898 with three members: Irene Howard, Dolly Sieber, and Mary Etta Wood. These three have been erroneously reported to have been the first nurses graduating from a school in Arkansas.

On Page 28 - under picture of Union Church, correct spelling for names is Fadjo Cravens, Jr. and Ramey Elliot.

On Page 47 - our sincere apology to Miss Gordon Kelley. The name of her company is Kelley Realty Co. (with the "e") and not Gordon Realty Co. as listed.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM READERS

The editors are pleased to hear from our readers, and, as space permits, letters from them will be printed. We value your comments and suggestions. The following is from letters received from California and Minnesota:

"Received my Fort Smith Journal — read every word. Now, how about a history of the Police Department?"

Signed: Mrs. E. D. Hafner
1100 N. Lemon, Apt. 3
Fullerton, CA 92632"

"In the September 21, 1977, Southwest Times Record, a column by Mr. Tom Blake included information concerning the formation of the Fort Smith Historical Society. Tremendous! In my opinion there is no more worthy city than Fort Smith which is

deserving of such a group as is now initiated.

Please enter my name as one who chooses to become a charter member of this organization. I enclose the required dues.

Having grown up in Fort Smith, I have roots that go deep in that area . . . My family was among the pioneer families in the German Community settling at Long Prairie in 1850 and then coming into Fort Smith. Family names include Bollinger, Meister, Grober and Euper.*

Signed: Eric W. Nelson, Jr.
1530 E. Highway 23, #104
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301"

* Editor's Note - See story of Brunoldi-Guler for mention of some of these families.

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP (CONTINUED)

ANNUAL SUSTAINING:

United Peoples Federal Savings & Loan, 17 N. 6th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

LIFE:

Gambrel, Francis O'Kelly, 1004 S. 20th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Geurin, Mr. & Mrs. James R., 1007 Woodlawn, Graham, TX 76046
Joyce, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor A., 1713 Savannah Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Walker, Henry E., Jr., 2215 N. 10th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Westfall, Ernest N., Ernest Westfall Co., Inc., 320 S. 18th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTING:

Altman, Betsy Holt, Rt. 2, Box 233-A, Ft. Smith, AR 72947
Birkett, Mr. & Mrs. M. L., 9001 Balachan Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Blackman, Mr. & Mrs. Harry N., 1607 S. 29th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Blakemore, Mrs. J. F., 1225 Elizabeth Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Bone, Dr. & Mrs. Larry, 2821 Fresno, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Bonneville School, 2500 S. Waldron, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Cabell, Dr. & Mrs. Ben, 2900 Rogers Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Caldwell, Mrs. Walter O., Jr. 6105 Kinkead, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Carter, Mr. & Mrs. Walter L., 3517 Oaks Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Copenig & Assoc., P. O. Box 2725, Ft. Smith, AR 72913
England, Mrs. Wm. P., 3112 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Fisher, Robert D., 1214 E. Jackson Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Gill, Mrs. James A., 2515 S. Houston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Goodman, Dr. & Mrs. R. C., 7 Free Ferry Circle, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Griggs, Dr. & Mrs. W. L., III, 2701 S. Dallas Ct., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Hoge, Dr. & Mrs. Marlin, 5501 S. Cliff Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Hughes, Dr. & Mrs. R. P., Jr., 6717 Free Ferry Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Irvin, Jessie R., 2309 S. "O" St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Irwin, Dr. & Mrs. Peter J., 2819 Enid, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Kimbrough, Warren O., 2600 S. 46th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Luce, John B., 504 N. 39th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
McCain, Mrs. Kenneth (Sue), 4506 N. 46th Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Marks, Morton B., & Isabel L., 1018 S. 23rd, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Marquette, Mr. & Mrs. Donald G., 2601 S. Houston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Mosley Abstract Co., 509 Rogers, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Olympic Health Club, 8701 Hwy. 59-T, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
O'Neal, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn A., 4420 Wynnwood Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Overstreet, Mr. & Mrs. Russell, 1618 N. "I", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Pence, Rema, 2507 Dodson, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Platt, Mrs. Hugh T., Sr., 4602 S. "V" St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Powell, Margaret M., 4211 S.E. 54, Okla. City, OK 73135
Price, Miss Ethel, 221 Lecta Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Randall - Dyer, Mary, 3709 Country Club, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Reding, Lawrence, Rt. 1, Box 320-K, Ft. Smith, AR 72915
Riddle, Mr. & Mrs. Joe, 820 S. 25th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Rutledge, Mr. & Mrs. Jas. N., 321 May Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Shoulders, Mr. & Mrs. Warren, 1510 Hendricks, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Sisk, Mrs. E. Charles, 1710 N. 45th Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Kent, 2620 S. 22nd, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Stolberg, Mary Margaret, 1004 N. 40th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Stough, Ben J., 149 N. 49th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72902
Tedder, Mr. & Mrs. Robert F., Jr., 436 N. 39th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Thames, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn, 3007 S. 58th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Vick, Mrs. Roy, 4417 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Williams, Mrs. Elizabeth, 3822 Country Club Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Yeakley, Mr. & Mrs. Harold, 2112 Packard Pl., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

ANNUAL:

Ackley, Mr. & Mrs. Billy H., 1510 S. Houston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Adams, Elva, 1421 N. 39th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Allen, Mr. & Mrs. P. D., 437 N. 53rd, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Allison, Leo D., Rt. 1, Box 108, Hartford, AR 72938
Ammons, Mrs. Mabel, Rt. 1, Box 139, Muldrow, OK 74948
Appleyard, Mrs. H. M. 5115 N. "T", Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Arkansas Library Commission, 506½ Center St., Little Rock, AR 72201
Armstrong, Mrs. Henry C., 3306 Free Ferry Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Arnold, Travis T., 2101 Wedgewood Blvd., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Avery, Patsy J., Rt. 1, Box 123, Cartersville, OK 74934
Babb, J. C., Box 357, Spiro, OK 74959
Baird, Mrs. Silas J., 4420 Park, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Baker, Mr. Ralph, 8 N. 5th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Ballard, John C., 6006 S. Boston, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Barber, Mr. & Mrs. J. M., 6318 Free Ferry Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Barker, Dr. & Mrs. Robert, 2124 Warwick Pl., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Barling Elementary School, Rt. 1, Box 229 R-8, Ft. Smith, AR 72923
Barnett, Herbert G., 1008 S. 25th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Barr, Mrs. Harry G., 1415 N. Waldron Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Barron, Joe M., 1606 Burnham Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Barry, Mrs. Bernie, 1117 S. 22nd, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Bateman, Mrs. Harold, 2415 S. Raleigh, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Beals Advertising Agency, Suite 600, 1st National Bank, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Bear, Mr. & Mrs. John L., 2700 Heather Oaks Way, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Beard School Media Center, 1600 Cavanaugh Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Beland, Louis E., 1320 S. Albert Pike, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Bell, Maxine, 3806 Victory Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Billingsley, D. C., 3100 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Bishop, Judy Ware, 1510 S. "R", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Black, Ms. Thelma, 2801 S. Houston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Blanpied, Mrs. Lottie, 645 McCormick, Shreveport, LA 71123

Bledsoe, Wayne, 3624 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Blevins, Mrs. W. R., Box 244, Dyer, AR 72935

Blythe, Gary F., Box 554, Waldron, AR 72958

Bollinger, Mrs. Rodney, Box 283, Charleston, AR 72933

Boroughs, Joan Crockett, 1504 N. 35th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Bounds, Mrs. Mary Leila, 3726 Hendricks Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Bradford, W. H. (Brad), P. O. Box 864, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Bradley, Mr. & Mrs. T. W., Greenwood, AR 72936

Broccchus, Laurabel Brooks, 4001 Rogers, Mirado Apt. #15, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Brown, Mrs. Byron L., 2315 Hendricks, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Brown, Dale, 823 Cavanaugh Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Brown, Frank, 1524 N. 39th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Brown, Mrs. James A., 6810 S. "T", Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Brun, Lucile T., 1453 N. 36th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Bryan, Horace, P. O. Box 725, Greenwood, AR 72936

Buell, Mrs. Larry, 1229 Boyd Ave., Newton, KS 67114

Burris, Michael G., 3500 S. 62nd, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Burrow, Mrs. S. H., Box 134, Ozark, AR 72949

Butler, W. Daniel, 5801 Kinkead, #64, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Buzbee, Mrs. Reedy, 1305 N. 58th Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Caldwell, Jimmie Delle, 5116 Poplar, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Callan, Captain & Mrs. A. W., Jr., 326 Green St., Auburn, AL 36830

Calvert, Betty, 1118 N. 36th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Canham, Elizabeth M., 53 Chafford Woods, St. Louis, MO 63144

Cantwell, Mrs. Archie, Rt. 1, Box 247 1/2, Ft. Smith, AR 72915

Chaffin, Mrs. Corrine, 1305 N. 34th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Chaffin Jr. High, 3025 Massard Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Chausteur, Jules, 4422 S. 31st, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Chiolino, Mrs. Frank J., 519 Melrose, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Clark, Mrs. L. W., St., 106 Poplar, Clarksville, AR 72830

Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Rex, 1812 Taylor, Springdale, AR 72764

Clouse, Vester W., Rt. 2, Box 212, Cameron, OK 74932

Coffman, Dr. Troy, 4800 S. "U", Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Coggins, E. K. 2416 S. Houston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Cole, Bernice, P. O. Box 509, Van Buren, AR 72956

Cole, Mrs. R. M., 2202 S. "S", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Cole, Mrs. Leo, Jr., 2100 Wolfe Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Coleman, Billy G., P. O. Box 479, Spiro, OK 74959

Coleman, Mrs. Leslie, 1400 N. 50th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Collier, Mrs. C. C., Rt. 1, Winslow, AR 72959

Collins, Barbara Alice, 1320 S. 24th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Collins, Mr. & Mrs. J. R., Jr., 501 Jenny Wren, Van Buren, AR 72956

Cook, Mildred A., 1112 S. 21st, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Cooley, Mrs. Wade H., 2504 S. "N", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Copeland, Mrs. Mary C., 5516 Country Club, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Corbin, Reva, 3615 N. 50th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Core, Ben, P. O. Box 1446, Ft. Smith, AR 72902

Cotton, Ray, 1425 N. 52nd, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Cowne, Mr. & Mrs. Chas. E., 817 Garrison Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Craig, Shannon D., 1425 55th Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Crandell, Rubye L., 4604 S. 21st, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Cravens, Byron, Box 334, Roland, OK 74954

Cretnik, Leo, 323 S. 17th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Crews, Polly, Ft. Smith Art Ct., 423 N. 6th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Crigler, Ralph E., Jr., Rt. 2, Box 344-J, Ft. Smith, AR 72916

Crow, Dr. & Mrs. Neil E., 19 Berry Hill, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Crump, Mr. & Mrs. Robert G., 37 Vista Blvd., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Daniel, D. Gene, P. O. Box 1391, Ft. Smith, AR 72902

Danner, Mrs. John M., 1615 S. 22nd, Apt. #1, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Darr, Edwin L., Jr., 3601 N. 31st, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Davidson, James B., 1807 Hendricks, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

DeFatti, Greg, Box 488, Claremore, OK 74017

DeLong, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert B., Jr., 10 Ferndale Hillcrest, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Dew, James D., 2714 Kelley Hwy., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

DeWitt, Mr. & Mrs. David L., 8706 Royal Ridge Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72915

Dixon, Gilmer K., 301 Garrison Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Dodd, Juanita, Rt. 4, Box 281, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

DuVal, P. H., 137 Swede Ave., Shreveport, LA 71105

Dyke, Mrs. Francis W., 4825 S. Cliff Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Eddleman, Janice, 3921 Wirsing, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Edwards, Miles, Box 188, Helen, GA 30545

Eichling, Elaine M., 519 N. 19th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Elmore, Mr. & Mrs. Allen A., 2800 S. Dallas, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

England, Raymond, 1408 S. 40th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Etter, Elijah C., 1906 N. 8th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Euper, Mary Nell, 1415 N. Waldron, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Evans, Joseph M., 4001 Rogers Ave., Apt. #35, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Evans, Mrs. Mary Ann, 2525 S. "R", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Falk, Mrs. Geo. R., 1219 Elizabeth Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Farmer, Bob, P. O. Box 624, Ft. Smith, AR 72902

Faucette, Shirley, 301 Jefferson, Clinton, MS 39056

Fent, H. Don, 2304 S. 65th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Ferguson, Jackson, P. O. Box 613, Blacksburg, VA 24060

First Presbyterian Church, 116 N. 12th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Fishback, Bernice Krone, 4221 Grand Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Ft. Smith Public Library, 61 S. 8th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Foster, Mr. & Mrs. Robert I., 8205 Mark Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Franklin, Mrs. Earl B., Rt. 3, Box 213, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Frazier, Mrs. Raymond, 3650 Barry, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Fries, JoAnn, 2221 N. 8th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Fry, Leroy, Southwest Times Record, P. O. Box 1359, Ft. Smith, AR 72902

Gage, Dollie, 8306 Hermitage Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Gammage, Jim, 3816 N. 43rd, #2, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Gardner, Mrs. Camall, 5315 S. Cliff Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Garnder, Mrs. Katherine, 706 Clayton Ave., Tupelo, MS 38401

Garrison, C. G., 3418 S. Cliff Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Gilstrap, Vernon, 3306 N. "S", Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Giuffre, Mrs. Paul L., 2707 S. Dallas Ct., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Goldsborough, Louann, Greg & Brad, 10 Coachlight Dr., Little Rock, AR 72207

Golofski, Martin, 207 S. 23rd Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Goodman, Roberta, 3600 Kinkead, Apt. 28, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Goodsell, Mrs. Roger, 3000 Beverly Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Grace, Maxine Cox, 1015 S. 20th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Graham, Glenn W., Rt. 3, Box 338, Alma, AR 72921

Gray, May, 1315 55th Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Hammonds, Flora, Allied Gardens Estate #2, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Hancock, Madeline, Rt. 2, Box 71, Booneville, AR 72927

Harvell, Brenda, 2420 S. "P", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Hendricks, John P., P. O. Box 746, Ft. Smith, AR 72902

Henson, Mr. & Mrs. Perry, 1514 Hendricks Blvd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Hickerson, Marie Skinner, 4105 MacArthur Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Hicks, David, 2100 N. 31st St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Hightower, Mike, 5809 Apache Trail, Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Hill, Miss Gretchen, 6801 S. "W" St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Hornberger, Mrs. E. Z., Jr., 3408 S. Louisville, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Hornberger, Robert E., 6411 S. "Q", Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Horton, Mr. & Mrs. Jim, 2112 S. Carthage, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Horwedel, Brenda, 422 S. 19th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Hosford, Dorothy E., 1331 S. 46th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Hubbard, Virginia, 1208 Bluff Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Jarman, Mrs. H. E., Mill Creek Mountain, Charleston AR 72933

Jasper, Mr. & Mrs. Allen, 3909 S. "Q", Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Jedlicka, Frank, 2139 Churchill Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Jensen, Benoyd, 4900 S. "W", Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Jetton, Faye, 1221 N. Waldron Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Johnson, Bill, P. O. Box 428, Mansfield, AR 72944

Johnson, Robert E. 3222 S. 39th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Johnson, Sammie Brown, 2229 S. "X", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Jones, Mrs. Ann, 8039 Calle Des Circle, La Jolla, CA 92037

Jordan, Lorena M., 1500 S. 37th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Joyce, Georgia, 2311 S. "N", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Karr, Suzanne & Charles, 7415 Westminster, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Kelley, Mrs. Tom, Box 157, Killen, AL 35645

Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. N. J., Sr., 2029 S. "M", Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Kidder, Brad, 1801 Rogers, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Knight, Robert F., Box M, Mulberry, AR 72947

Kopp, Mrs. John, 5116 Lovett Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Kramer, Mr. & Mrs. Donald E., 5906 S. Boston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Krock, Dr. F. H., 3700 Free Ferry Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Krone, Mrs. Tim M., Sr., 1420 55th Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Kunkel, Joe, P. O. Box 758, Ft. Smith, AR 72902

Lackey, Edythe T., 217 S. Holly St., Sallisaw, OK 74955
Laffoon, Neta Jo, 1400 S. Gary, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Lairamore, W. H., 3215 Old Greenwood Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Landers, Mrs. Will (Arba) Rt. 4, Box 186, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Larson, Mr. & Mrs. Durwood, Kempton, IL 60946
Lay, Ms. Lorine, Chaffin School, 3025 Massard Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Ledbetter, Mrs. Ruby, P. O. Box 203, Charleston, AR 72933
Lindquist, Dr. & Mrs. Karl, 1405 N. "B" St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Linnemann, Mrs. Lowell, 811 N. 13th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Lockhart, Mrs. William G., 3 Free Ferry Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Lockwood, Dr. & Mrs. F. M., 70 Haven Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Long, Dr. & Mrs. James W., 3019 S. Dallas Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Looper, Miss Floy, 1140 N. 57th Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Lothery, Mrs. E. Frank, Rt. 1, Box 142, Ft. Smith, AR 72915
Ludington, Don, 1803 S. "V", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Luyet, Sister Vivian, 122 N. 18th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
McCluney, Gene E. Co., P. O. Box 3220, Sta. A, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
McCullough, Mrs. Warren, 7816 Texas Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
McDonough, J. Martin, Carroll Rd., Sparks, MD 21152
McMillion, Thomas, 621 N. 14th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
McNees, Billy, Rt. 3, Box 318-A, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
McNeil, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce, 3901 S. 33rd, Ft. Smith, AR 72902
Manning, Andrew D., 904 N. 4th, Barling, AR 72329
Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Cy, 2519 Daisy Ln., Fort Worth, TX 76111
Meek, Mrs. Roger S., 910 Burnham, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Meltzer, Mrs. Thelma, 3801 Wicklow Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Merrett, Mrs. Mary Lee, 1314 S. Blvd., Houston, TX 77006
Mesnard, Alma, Medi-Homes, 4623 Rogers, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Mickel, Mrs. Lillian, Hwy. 64E, P. O. Box 250, Clarksville, AR 72830
Mikel, Mrs. Teele, 1012 N. 38th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Mikel, William, 1012 N. 38th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Miller, Nancy L., 209 N. Cass, Middletown, DE 19709
Mitchael, Mrs. A. W., Rt. 2, Box 430, Ft. Smith, AR 72916
Montgomery, Mrs. & Mrs. Fred, 2000 S. "Q", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Montgomery, John Robert, Box 787, Sallisaw, OK 74955
Montague, Miss Jean, 205 N. 17th, Apt. 7, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Moore, Mr. & Mrs. Walter T., 2315 S. 65th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Moore, William D., 102 E. Green St., Middletown, DE 19709
Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. Edward J., 6819 Sheffield Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37719
Mott, Mrs. Ralph, 1104 S. 26th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Moye, Jane L., 2712 S. Utica, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Mulloy, Richard L., 4701 Mussett Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Nash, Mrs. William L., 2105 S. "N", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Neece, Mr. & Mrs. George, Jr., Rt. 2, Box 460, Ft. Smith, AR 72916
Neihouse, John, 501 N. 11th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Nelson, Eric W., Jr., 1530 E. Hwy. 23, Apt. 104, St. Cloud, MN 56301
Newman, Mrs. Betty B., 3208 S. 65th Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Newman, Elizabeth K., Rt. 1, Box 122, Chapman Ln., Lavaca, AR 72941
Nichols, Guy L., 4909 S. 18th Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Nigh, Mr. & Mrs. Bill, 2216 N. 57th Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Northum, Patsy B., Rt. 3, Box 315-A, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
O'Brien, Fontaine, 3610 Morris Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Osburn, Ms. Romalee, Rt. 1, Box 708, Ft. Smith, AR 72915
Paine, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. 5215 Elm, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
palmer, Mr. & Mrs. Charles, 6221 Duncan Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Peak, Mary Wright, 10351 Miralago Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92705
Peer, Mr. & Mrs. Donald C., 4600 S. "S", Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Pendergraft, Ross, P. O. box 1359, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Perry, Ms. Carolyn, Chaffin School, 3025 Massard R., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Phillips, Mr. & Mrs. Bill R., 2801 Heather Oak, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Phillips, David P., D.D.S., 400 S. 16th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Phillips, Ms. Marianna, Chaffin School, 3025 Massard Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Pierce, Harlan D., Rt. 1, Box 255, Lavaca, AR 72941
Pinkston, Mrs. Marvin, 814 S. 11th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Pittman, Earline J., 1510 N. "J", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Pollan, C. A. 3500 S. 62nd, Apt. 167, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Pollan, Clayton, P. O. Box 2, Gatigne 5 Sta., Miami, FL 33168
Plyler, Mrs. O. F., 5904 Jenny Lind, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Porter, Donald, P. O. Box 185, Mansfield, AR 72944
Porter, D.V.C., Sr., 4413 N.W. 44th, Okla. City, OK 73112
Presson, Hazel G., 3410 S. "M", Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Presson, Martha Ward, P. O. Box V, Van Buren, AR 72956
Pryor, Mrs. Brady, 424 May Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Rambo, James B., 2028 Nuche Ln., Bryan, TX 77801
Randall, Mrs. Larry E., 5100 E. Valley Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Rebsamen, Mrs. C. B., 2110 Wolfe Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Rebsamen, Dr. R. D., 615 Lexington, P. O. Box 3066, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Reed, Mildred N., Box 4192 Sta. B., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Reutzel, Charles A., 1700 Burnham Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Will T., 5228 S. 67th E. Pl., Tulsa, OK 74145
Rhodes, E. F., 4112 S. 35th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. John Gordon, Jr., P. O. Box 16218, Ft. Worth, TX 76133
Riggs, Mrs. Ralph J., 4117 Bradley Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Rincon, Mrs. Fred, 920 N. 12th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Robison, Mrs. Ivo, 7309 Texas Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Robinson, John V., 320 N. 8th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Rogers, Mrs. Douglas G., Jr., 6101 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Rogers, Mrs. Hugh, 2315 S. "O", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Roop, B. O., Rt. 1, Fayetteville, AR 72701
Rose, Miss Nellie, 601 N. 34th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Sanders, Sandra H., 5801 Kinkadee, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Saviers, Mrs. Boyd M., 2106 S. 46th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Schick, Lily, Rt. 1, Van Buren, AR 72956
Shermer, Edyce, 6801 Hestand Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Sisco, Blanche D., Rt. 1, Muldrow, Ok 74948
Sivley, Dorene, 800 Waldron Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Sloat, Don H., Jr., 623 Belle Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Smithson, Jack E., P. O. Box 817, Ft. Smith, AR 72902
Sorrell, Jimmie, 1515 N. 43rd St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Soucy, Marcel L., 5804 Chippewa Trail, Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Southwestern Bell Tel. Co., District Mgr., 22 Sheraton Plaza, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Speaker, Mr. & Mrs. Tris E., 725 N. 44th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Spruill, Mrs. Dale, 5905 S. 60th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Standrod, Mrs. Garland, 2723 N. 23rd, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Staton, Eugene L., 2510 S. 67th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Steelman, Roy G., 1701 N. "A", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Stroud, John C., 610 N.E. 2nd, Atkins, AR 72823
Swafford, Mrs. Hugh, 6205 Grand Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Swearingen, Carlene, 2105 S. Independence, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Sweeney, Reno, 400 W. Kansas, Trinidad, CO 81081
Sy, Dorothy, 3212 S. 94th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Tatum, Evangel, 1924 S. "M", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Thompson, Mrs. Clover, 5221 Johnson, Apt. 21, Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Townley, Harold, 1614 S. "Q", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Townley, Mamie E., Rt. 4, Box 610, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Treat, Mrs. Elmer, 612 N. 35th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
University of Ark. Library, Serials Dept., Fayetteville, AR 72701
Van Nordsall, Mrs. Alma, 7850 Euper, Apt. 83-J, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Vandermillion, Mrs. Zeda, Rt. 2, Box 224, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Vertrees, Mrs. Tom, Sr., 4218 Free Ferry Ln., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Vorster, Sister Pierre, 1205 S. Albert Pike, Box 3489, Ft. Smith, AR 72913
Wasson, Mr. & Mrs. Joe, 423 1/2 N. 16th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Wasson, Mrs. Wanda, 504 N. 16th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Watson, Mrs. Allen E., Rt. 2, Box 83A, Charleston, AR 72933
Weeks, Hazel E., 800 S. 18th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Werner, Joseph, 2015 S. "R", Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Westark Community College Learning Resources Ct., P. O. Box 3649, Ft. Smith, AR 72913
White, Alice J., 621 N. 32nd, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Whitehead, Mrs. C. P., 10625 Aztec Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373
Wiggins, Alpha P., 7000 Free Ferry Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Wiggins, Corene, 1537 S. 36th, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Wilder, Franklin, #3 Riverlyn Ter., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Wilson, Ms. Jane, Chaffin School, 3025 Massard Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Wolfe, Jim H., 3820 Dallas, Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Woodhull, John, 10941 Galax, El Monte, CA 91733
Wooten, G. Alan & Carol Sue, 2700 Riviera Cr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Wright, Hazel Howard, 1716 Burnham Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Wright, Mr. & Mrs. Hunter, 1112 N. 37th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Wright, Mr. M. E., 2001 S. 71st St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Wright, Mrs. M. E., 2001 S. 71st St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903
Young, Rosy, 1113 N. 46th, Ft. Smith, AR 72904
Zander, Betty M., 8927 S. Fresno Ct., Ft. Smith, AR 72903

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***NOTES:**

1. il = some sort of graphic is used other than a portrait.
por = a portrait accompanies item.
(, . .) for such things as spouse, title, marital status, nickname, rank, etc.