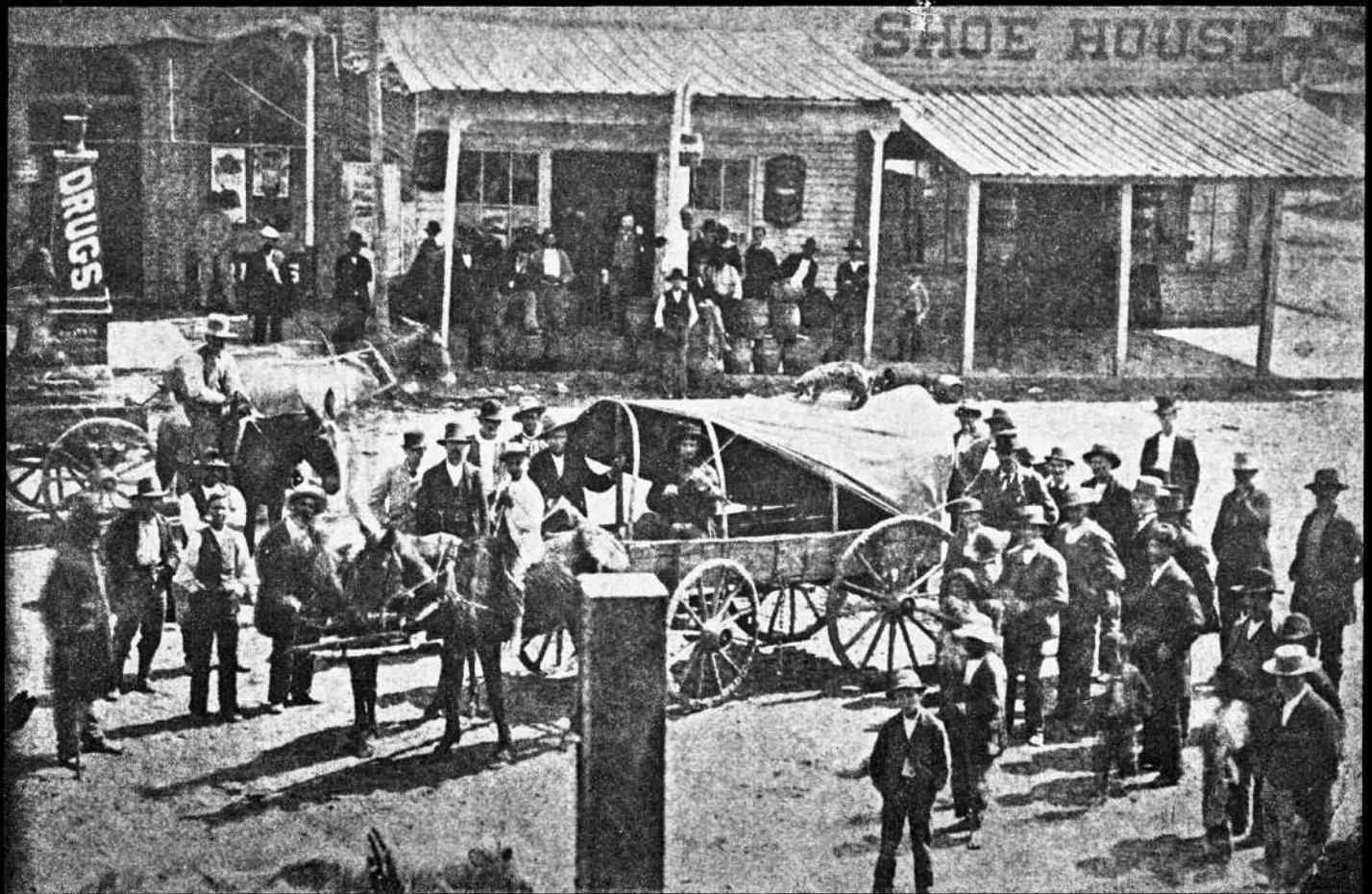
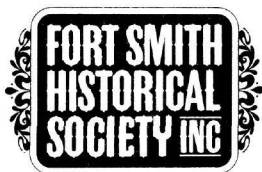


# The JOURNAL

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2, OCTOBER 1978





# The JOURNAL

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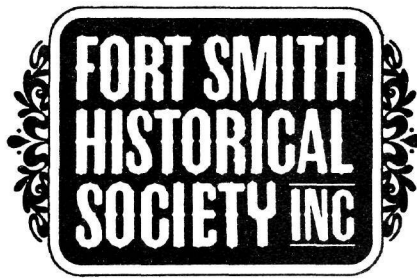
1880 Fort Smith Street Scene.  
6th Street and Garrison Avenue, showing the  
north side of Garrison. Courtesy of Fort Smith  
Public Library.

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Dear Reader:

At the annual general membership meeting of the Fort Smith Historical Society held at the Fort Smith Public Library on 21 April 1978, three new board members were elected. We welcome, Phil Miller, Missy Cole Carroll and Joe Barron, and are looking forward to working with them. The Executive Board then elected new officers. These are listed in this issue of the Journal, and the Executive Board's goal is another progressive year.

Thanks and gratitude are due our retiring board members, Robert Taylor, Carolyn Pollan and Taylor Joyce for their contributions.

The Journal has had a good year. It has received praise, especially in the field of publishing original records. We have had our largest response from the April 1978, Vol 2 No. 1 issue. The log cabin in the photograph on page 6 has been moved from 7801 Towson to the property of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Combs, 8424 Texas Road.

Our editors, Amelia Martin and Carolyn Pollan, dig deep and spend hours on research. This is a field in which you the membership can help. If you have records or know of any records available let us know. Attic's, trunks and boxes are full of unpublished materials.

One acquisition of great value given the Historical Society this past year was the original land records of Sebastian County and the surrounding area. These were given by Miss Gordon Kelley, Mrs. Pat Kelley and Mrs. Henry Weeks, all of Fort Smith.

Get memberships and copies of the Journal at the main desk, Fort Smith Public Library.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Allen", is written over the typed name "Chris Allen". The signature is in dark ink and is slanted slightly to the right.

61 SOUTH 8th STREET • FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS 72901

# MIGRATION

## IRELAND — FORT SMITH AND POINTS WEST

By: Amelia Martin

"Westward Ho!" — whether westward from Fort Smith, Arkansas, or from Ireland — the 1840's and 1850's marked a time of migration which involved Fort Smith and residents of Ireland who made Fort Smith their new home.

Many of the stories in this issue of *The Journal* tell of the people of this migration, and the migration's influence on Fort Smith.

Various factors entered into the mass emigration of Irish people to the United States during this period. Discontent began when England and Ireland were united in 1800 and the Irish were unwillingly represented in English Parliament. The Church of Ireland was disestablished, and evils of landlordism grew more serious. The Tudors, Cromwell and William III, continued land confiscation, Penal Laws increased difficulties of land-owning Catholics. A Catholic Emancipation Act was passed in 1829, but this did not solve the problems, and hatred for England grew through the great potato famine of the 1840's and an influx of speculators after the passing of the Encumbered Estates Act of 1849.

Following the potato famine and an epidemic of typhus which came in its wake, help poured in from the United States of America and other countries, but emigration was the chief escape from death by starvation and pestilence, and the population of Ireland, which had risen to about 8,500,000 by 1845, had fallen by 1851 to 6,550,000.

In 1850, Bishop Byrnes, with plans to establish an Irish Colony in Fort Smith, bought the 16th Section of School Lands at Fort Smith. There were 640 acres of land, stretching from the southeast border of the city to the distance of a mile into the forest. It included old Fort Belknap<sup>1</sup>, where many of the quarters of the soldiers were still in habital condition. The price was \$5,250.

Father Thomas Hore (also spelled Hoar), a zealous Irish priest, with the sanction of Bishop Byrnes, left Ireland in 1850 with 75 families on the ship *Ticonderoga*, which landed in New Orleans September 4, 1850.

The tedious ocean voyage, and the equally uncomfortable travel on steamboat from New Orleans, so weakened the people, that on their arrival at Little Rock, many of them became sick with cholera. The church and school

buildings on the corner of Seventh and Louisiana Streets were transformed into a hospital, the pews and school furniture making acceptable bed frames. The immigrants who escaped disease, became sadly demoralized. Several who possessed considerable wealth, left for St. Louis, where they became prominent and prosperous. A few of the remainder made their homes in Little Rock, but the greater part carried out their original intention and came to Fort Smith by wagon train.

One of these immigrants was 18 year old Tobias Kelly. Some Irish immigrants who were already in Fort Smith, when Father Hore's party arrived, were the Sparks brothers, three who came in 1836, and a fourth arrived in 1849.

Both of these families were involved in further migration to the west, and their stories are told elsewhere in this Journal.

The 1860 census record of Sebastian County showed 158 persons living in this county who had been born in Ireland. Family names included the following: Barrett, Breen, Burns, Byrnes, Callahan, Carroll, Clifford, Cormick, Cornelius, Crumley, Curran, Dayly, Daugherty, Deal, Donahue, Doyle, Dudson, Dupige (sp?), Eagan, Edmundson, Emright, Fault, Finnigan, Fagan, Fitzwilliams (sp?), Ford, Fribb (sp?), Gallagher, Grant, Greer, Healey, Hendricks, Hennessey, Henry, Hagen, Hagerty, Harrington, Haffermer (sp?), Hineke (sp?), Kannady, Kannelly, Keane, Keating, Keely, Kelly, Kerr, Kerran, Lannigan, Lewis, McBarron, McCarrey, McCarther, McCarthy, McCannon, McEvoye, McKenzie, McLane, McLaughlin, McMullen, McNamie (sp?), Magrath, Mahoney, Manning, Montgomery, Mulligan, Murphy, Noland, O'Connell, O'Keefe, O'Kelly, O'Riley, Pearson, Powers, Quinn, Reed, Roach, Shen (sp?), Skulley, Sparks, Stanton, Sutcliffe, Sweeney, Thompson, Williamson, and four names that were illegible. The whole census record was very hard to read, and the above spellings are as nearly correct as possible.

<sup>1</sup> Fort Belknap, also known as Cantonment Belknap, was located at what is now the east end of Garrison Avenue, and was built as a temporary encampment for troops. A one story log residence had been built for the commanding officer on the north side of the present avenue, just behind the present location of the Immaculate Conception Church.

# TOBIAS KELLY

By N. J. Kelly

Tobias Kelly, of Wexford County, Ireland, arrived in New Orleans, La., on September 4, 1850 aboard the ship Ticonderoga. He was 18 years of age, and only one of a large group of Irish people under the leadership of the Catholic priest, Rev. Thomas Hore, who later served as a priest at Immaculate Conception Church in Fort Smith, Ark. Many other names linked with Fort Smith's history are also on the Passenger List of the Ticonderoga, such as, Keating, Breen, Kerwin, Byrne, Murphy and numerous others.

The trip by riverboat to Little Rock and by wagon train to Fort Smith, was most arduous, and many deaths occurred on the way. However, the privation and persecution in Ireland, the voyage of almost three months, the hardships of the overland journey by wagon train hardened these brave folks to make their way in a new land and a new location, namely, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Tobias Kelly, both before and after the Civil War, engaged in butchering and buying and selling cattle and hogs.

On August 17, 1862, he enlisted at Cloaska, Cherokee Nation with Captain Luney Brewner's Company, 1st Regiment Creek Mounted Volunteers, Confederate States of America. This company subsequently became Company L, 1st Regiment Creek Mounted Volunteers.

The 1st Regiment Creek Mounted Volunteers, also known as Rifles, or Riflemen; as the Creek Regiment of Mounted Indian Volunteers; and as the 2nd Regiment Arkansas Creeks, was organized August 19, 1861, for twelve months, and reorganized in August, 1862, for two years.



Tobias and Mary (Neville) Kelly

Tobias Kelly, born in 1832 in Ireland and died December 13, 1904 in Fort Smith, was married on July 24, 1866 to Mary Neville, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Goetz) Neville. To this union were born fourteen children — six sons and eight daughters, all born in Fort Smith except two, Lucy and William Frank, who were born in Rosita, Colorado, during the Silver Rush. The children are:

Tobias Patrick, b. June 19, 1867; James Nicholas, b. April 8, 1869 (father of N. J. Kelly of Fort Smith); Mary Elizabeth, b. March 30, 1871; Ettie, b. March 1, 1873; Twins: Rosanna, b. Nov. 26, 1874, Katie, b. Nov. 26, 1874; John Tobias, b. March 30, 1876; Margaret Mary, b. April 15, 1878; Lucy, b. April 15, 1880 in Colorado; William Frank, b. Nov. 29, 1882 in Colorado; Bridgette Cecila, b. Nov. 3, 1885; Neville Edward, b. Aug. 29, 1887; Josephine, b. Oct. 27, 1889; Augustine, b. Dec. 10, 1894.

Like many others who went to seek their fortune in the west, the Kelly family, together with a number of Fort Smith people, went to Colorado during the mineral excitement in the seventies. Among the number, W. F. Belt and sons, Al and John, started for Canyon City, Colorado, on April 29, 1879, with seven wagons and quite a number of mules and horses. There were 18 in the party. Charles Gannaway, Phillip Seward and Billy Lane went with them. W. G. Baird and "Tobe" Kelly, accompanied by W. Stevenson, James Kelly, Richard Neville, Lan Sutton, James Keating and Henry Kelly, with two wagons and a train of light ambulances, went directly to Leadville.

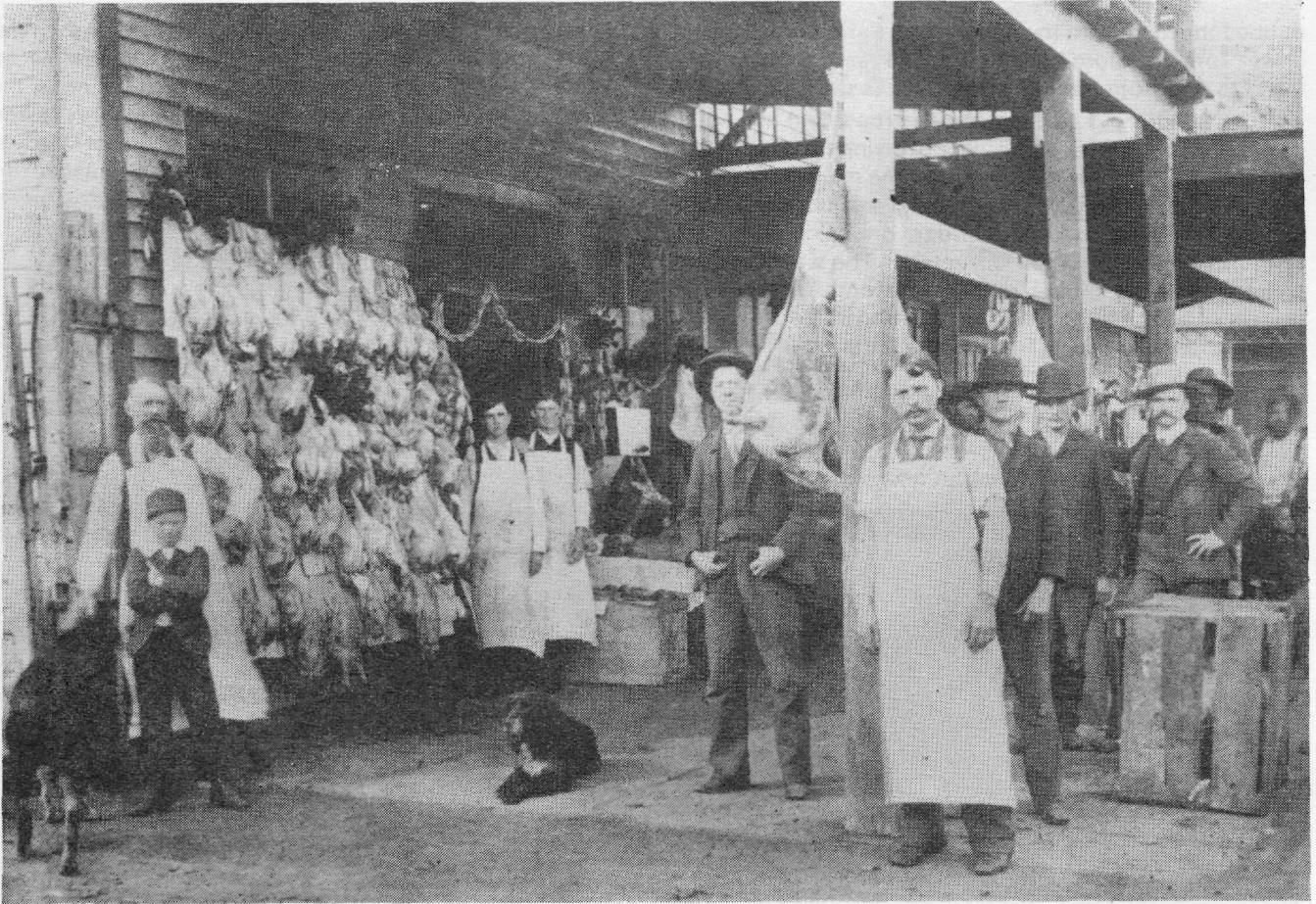
A. E. Bloomberg was already in Colorado. Captain T. F. Moore, who had charge of Captain Samuel McCloud's teams, returned home on May 15. John Lauderback, who had just come back, reported that Leadville did not come up to the glowing description, and that there was great suffering and sickness, the deaths averaging eight to ten a day.

Tobias Kelly and his family remained in Colorado until 1883. Upon his return to Fort Smith, together with his son, Tobias Patrick Kelly, he founded the business of "Kelly & Son, Dealers in Fresh Meats." This business was in a frame building, at 1208 Garrison Avenue, and had a wide canopy front roof extending to the Garrison Avenue street line, as did most business buildings of that day. This building is not standing today, but stood on the southside of Garrison Avenue, next door to the building which has recently been vacated by "The Warehouse."

The Kelly & Son Market offered a wide variety of fresh meat. Fresh killed beef, pork, wild game, and bear meat were hung on hooks under the canopy front roof for cooling before being transferred to the iced cooler inside the market. Even live possum was offered for sale.

Tobias Patrick Kelly, the Son partner, died in 1885, at the age of 18, and his younger brother, James N. Kelly, then became a partner at the age of 16. Sometime after this, the business was moved to a new and larger building at 1016 Garrison Avenue; then, about 1905, after the death of Tobias Kelly, the founder of the market, the name of the





*Kelly & Son, Dealers in Fresh Meats in location at 1208 Garrison Avenue. At extreme left, in white apron, is Tobias Kelly with his son William in front of him. In the doorway are Farrell and Parmer, employees. Man behind crate with left hand on hip is James McCauley. Beside the post in right foreground are John Kelly on the left, and Henry Burns to the right of post. James N. Kelly, in white apron, is in front of post. The crate in right foreground houses a live possum.*

business was changed to Kelly Brothers Meat Market.

In this new location, the fresh killed beef and pork was hung on meat hooks on either side of the interior of the building before being placed in the ice cooler. Barrels, or casks, of pickles, pigs feet, pickled herring and smoked meats were located prominently near the front entrance.

The market, at both locations, had a walk-in cooler for keeping the meats. Cooling was by ice cut from the Poteau River near the mouth of Mill Creek. An ice house of native stone was located on the bank of Mill Creek, just west of the present railroad tracks. This ice house had a louvered vent in front and rear eaves, one door, but no windows. Ice cut from the Poteau River during the winter was stored here for use in the market cooler throughout the year. The blocks of ice were stored in the ice-house with sawdust between the blocks. The saw shavings and dust were obtained from a handle factory located across the road from the ice-house.

The meat market opened at 6:00 a.m., and closed at 9:00 p.m. daily except Sunday. On Sunday, the market was open from 6:00 a.m. until noon. During those years, before ice refrigerators were used in the homes,

housewives would order fresh meats for each meal. Although telephone service made its debut in Fort Smith in 1883, it was years later before there was a sizeable number of telephones in use.

The Kelly Meat Market, in both locations, operated a spring wagon delivery service. When a delivery was made, the housewife would present the delivery boy with a note ordering meat for the next meal. Some husbands, on the way to work, would drop off a note at the market ordering meat for the day.

The "ranch" and slaughter pen of the Kelly Markets was located on May Branch at the location which is now Creekmore Park. Kills were made each day and carcass hauled by wagon to the market on Garrison Avenue. The original slaughter house, with all butchering outfits, was destroyed by a fire on the morning of December 16, 1889. However, new facilities were soon erected.

The death of Tobias Kelly resulted from injuries sustained in an unusual accident while enroute home one night.

A customer, Tom Sandford, had run up a sizeable meat bill at the market. He gave Tobias a mare horse in settlement of the account. The boys at the market immediately



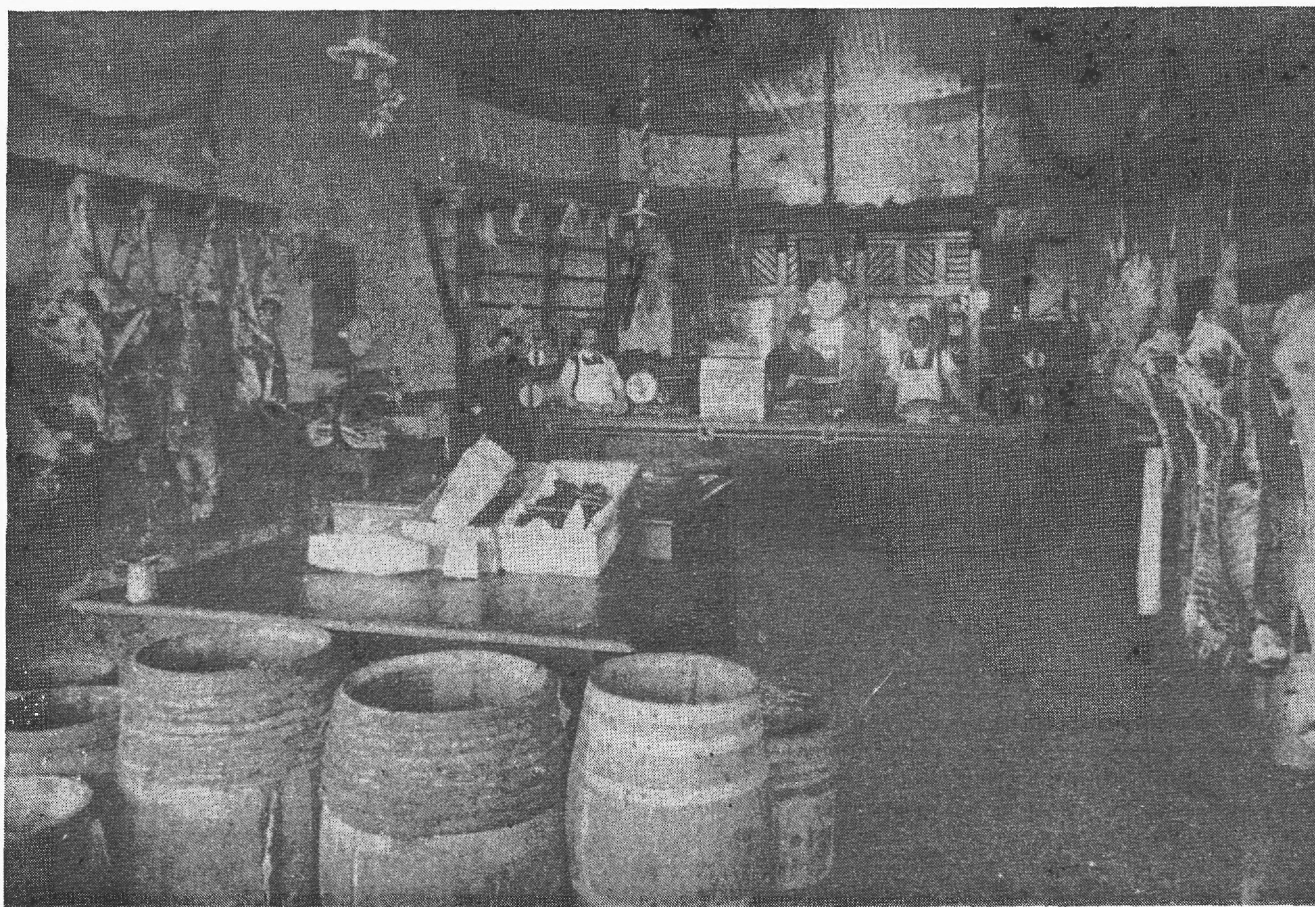
dubbed the mare with the name "Tom Sandford." Tobias used "Tom Sandford" to hitch to his spring wagon for travel to and from the Kelly home on Texas Road.

"Tom Sandford" soon learned the road, and Mr. Kelly would doze in the seat of the wagon, giving free rein to the horse, while homeward bound after the market closed at 9:00 p.m. One night, on the homeward journey, "Tom Sandford" approached the bridge on Texas Road at Catholic Creek somewhat off-center. The wagon wheel collided with the bridge railing, throwing Tobias Kelly from the wagon seat to the road, resulting in head injuries. Catholic Creek crossed Texas Road at the location which

is now about the center of the 700 block on Towson Ave.

Shortly after the death of Tobias Kelly, his widow placed a statue of St. Joseph<sup>1</sup> in the triple grotto shrine in the chimney of the former home of Gen. Zachery Taylor, which is on the ground of the Catholic Convent of Mercy at the end of Garrison Avenue. Mary Neville Kelly placed this statue in the old chimney in memory of Tobias, because that had been their trysting place during their courtship days.

1. See poetry page for picture.



*Kelly Brothers Meat Market at the 1016 Garrison Avenue location. William Kelly is at left end of counter. Next right is James N. Kelly. Dave Cheny is beside cash register. Leo Parmer is at right end of counter.*

# POETS AND POETRY

## THE SHRINE OF SAINT ANNE'S

By: May Gray

The homestead  
Of General Zachary Taylor,  
Near the old fort by the river,  
Was dark and lonely as doubt —  
Forsaken as a little lamp  
In a window  
Waiting for those who no longer came.

A casualty of time,  
The dwelling place is gone;  
But the shadows could not escape  
From the chimney standing tall against the sky —  
Strong as its brave owner.

Although the fires are banked forever  
The hearth of the chimney  
Is no longer lonely....  
It has a task to perform,  
A duty to fulfill:  
Ringed in by vine and root  
With the dust of roses clinging,  
A mother's symbolic love  
Companions the hearthstone once more.

A worn and beaten path  
Leads to a shrine in the chimneybreast;  
Voices echo....  
Serene — the Madonna of Saint Anne's  
Calls to prayer.



## MAY GRAY

Few Fort Smith poets have received more recognition than May Gray. Awards totaling more than 80 include: The Dylan Thomas Award, presented by the Poetry Society of America, 1968; first place in the Unpublished Book Award, sponsored by the National League of American Pen Women, 1970; the John Gould Fletcher Award for 1964 and 1968; the Jesse Suart Award; and the Edsel Ford Memorial Award, to mention only a few.

Many of her poems have been published in *Good Housekeeping*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Arkansas State Magazine*, *Fort Smith Times Record*, *Poetry Digest*, *Modern American Poetry*, *The Writer's Voice*, and anthologies including *The Diamond Anthology*, *Kentucky Harvest*, *Poets of the Midwest*, and *North American Book of Verse* Vol. 1.

Her three books of poetry (with a fourth in progress) include *In the Garden*, published by Calvert-McBride, 1935; *The Voice of the Sea*, published by South & West, 1963;

and *Moment Before Summer*, published by the Golden Quill Press, 1970.

Mrs. Gray was born in Canton, Trigg County, Kentucky, the daughter of James Robert and Mary (Bridges) Harris. A graduate of Draughns Business College and Louisiana State Normal, she taught school in Louisiana.

She married Thomas V. Gray (deceased) of Arkansas. Their children are: Jean, the wife of Dr. Louis Hall Peer of Van Buren, Arkansas; Dorothy, Mrs. Joseph Edwards; and Thomas V. Jr., married to the former Rita Staton Cates.

Mrs. Gray is a member of The Poetry Society of America, The Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith, The P.E.O. Sisterhood, and DAR; and has been included in Marquis *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who of the South and Southwest*, *Arkansas Lives*, *Dictionary of International Biography* (England), and *Who's Who in Arkansas* 1974.



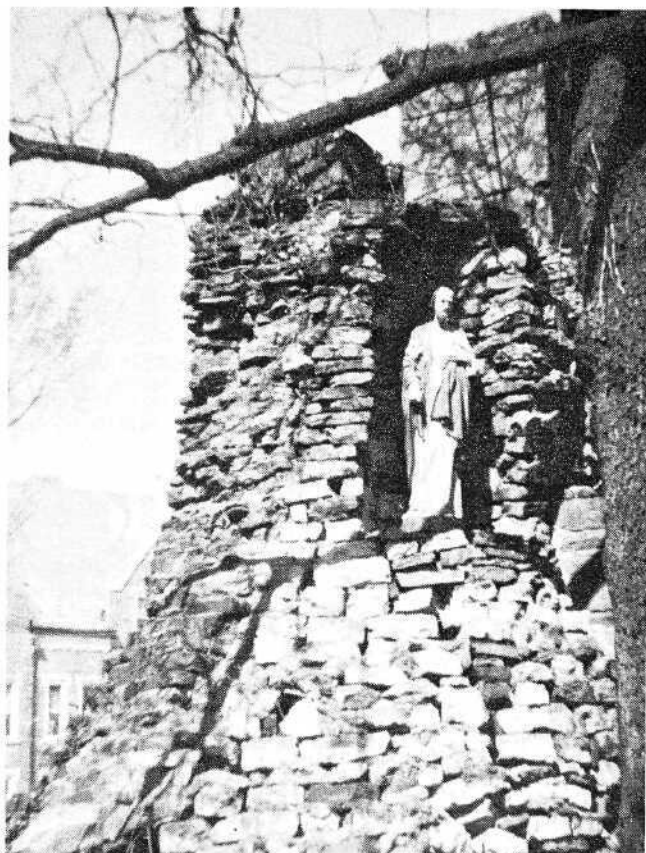
The Shrine of Saint Anne's has three sides, and contains statues of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. Aloysius. The picture of the Blessed Virgin was made by Tom Gray, Jr., and pictures of St. Aloysius and St. Joseph were contributed by N. J. Kelly.



ST. ALOYSIUS



BLESSED VIRGIN



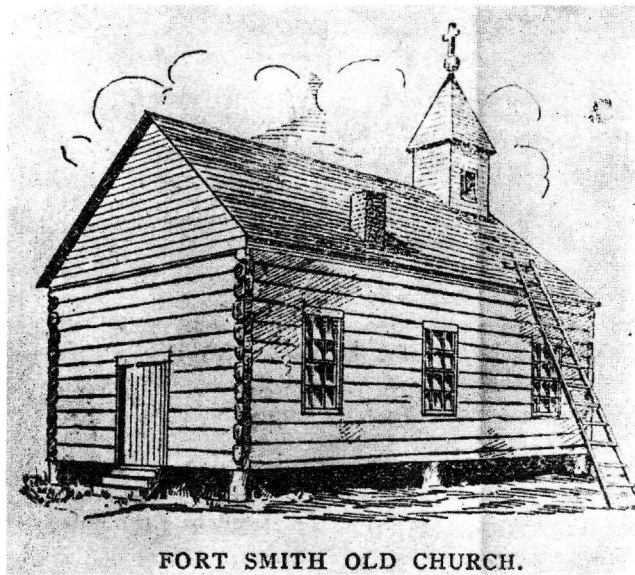
ST. JOSEPH

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH AND CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

By: Amelia Martin<sup>1</sup>

During the entire eighteenth century missionary priests, mostly Jesuits from Canada, labored in Arkansas among the Osage and Quapaw Indians. The Jesuits were withdrawn from Arkansas in 1764, but other missionaries<sup>2</sup> continued their work.

From 1817 until 1844 the Lazarist Missionary Fathers conducted missionary work in Arkansas, serving the Catholic soldiers and immigrants in Fort Smith, but it was not until 1847 that a Catholic church was built in Fort Smith. The church, called St. Patrick's, was built at the corner of 3rd and Hickory, now North 3rd and "D" streets. Father Corry had started a church on the same site in 1845, but there is no record of its completion. Father Corry returned to his old home in Albany, N. Y., after spending nine months in the service of the Arkansas Diocese.



FORT SMITH OLD CHURCH.

St. Patrick's Church built in 1847. Printed in Centennial Jubilee Directory of Church of the Immaculate Conception — courtesy of Mr. Henry Buskamp.

In the *History of Catholicity in Arkansas*, published in 1925 under the auspices of the Historical Commission of the Diocese, we find: "Almost hidden in the back of an old

church register of births is a historical gem of interest in the early history of the Church of St. Patrick, the first Roman Catholic Church in Fort Smith<sup>3</sup>. Inscribed in the very small, fine script-like handwriting of Father John Monaghan, first priest in charge, is given a brief but graphic account of the building of the church, and its formal dedication by Bishop Andrew Byrne, first Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock.

"Father Monaghan writes: 'Contract for the building of this church was entered into by Reverend Father P. W. Walsh by order of the Right Reverend Bishop Byrne on December 3, 1847. The edifice cost as follows: The logs, roof and boards, \$175; the flooring, windows, frames, sashings, doors, \$50.00; nails, clips and hardwares, all the benches, steps \$28.50; stone pillars, \$5.00 making a total of \$258.50. Subscriptions were contributed by Michael Manning, Captain John Rogers, Evanston Marchard, Thomas McCarron, Frances McKunian, George Birnie, Sutton and Griffith, Sparks and Miller, Samuel Boothe, Harry Harrington, Jerry Kannedy, Roper, William Moore, Backel, Neville, Cornelius Prior, Joseph Bonnefour, Huber, William Crowley and Bishop Byrne (Editor's note — These subscriptions ranged from \$25.00 to \$2.50.)

'The ceremony of dedication was performed by the Right Reverend Bishop on Quinquagesima Sunday, the fifth of March, 1848. Reverend Fathers Walsh and Monaghan assisted at the ceremony. The Bishop preached on the occasion to a large audience.

'The Reverend M. John Monaghan was appointed first pastor of St. Patrick's church of Fort Smith.

Signed: John Monaghan, priest in charge.' "

The history continues, "Father Monaghan does not state the location of the church, but old residents remember it situated at the corner of North Third and Old Hickory streets.<sup>4</sup> In that early day the cross streets were named instead of lettered, and Old Hickory was between the present C and D streets.

"Opposite the church on the north side was the old city cemetery. The DuVal mansion, then the finest in the city, was in the same neighborhood. The church was built of logs and was about 20 by 40 feet in size. Services were held in the small log building until 1867, when the Church of the Immaculate Conception was built."

<sup>1</sup>. Sources for history: Church of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Centennial Jubilee Directory 1849-1949; Research by Carolyn Waddell, Secretary of Immaculate Conception Church; and Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian counties, 1817-1976, by Amelia Whitaker Martin

<sup>2</sup>. 1824 the Rev. John M. Odin and Rev. John Simon, New Orleans, visited Fort Smith

and Fort Gibson, etc. as missionaries.

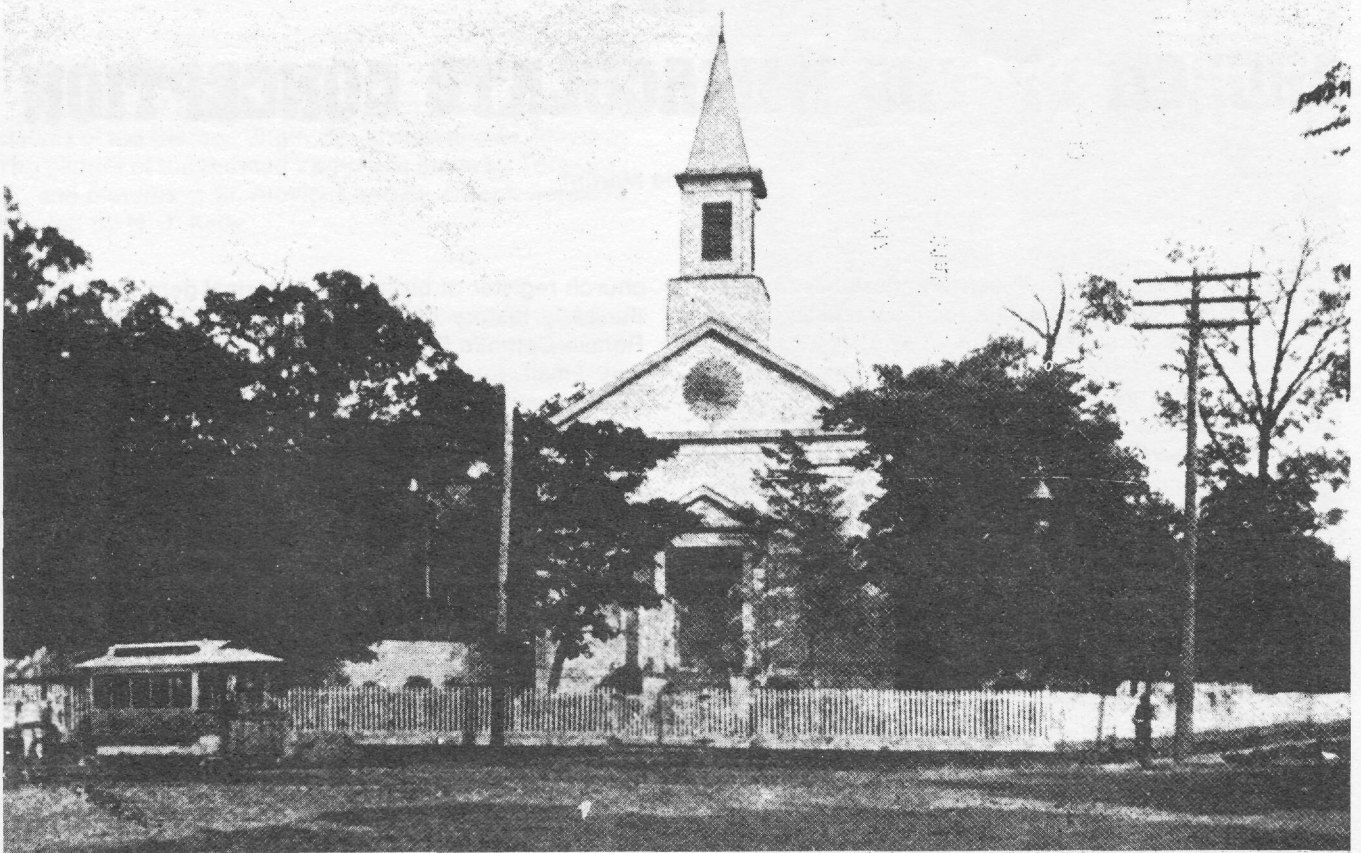
1837, Father Odin said mass at Fort Smith at home of Michael Manning.

1843, Diocese of Little Rock placed in charge of Rt. Rev. Andrew Byrne.

<sup>3</sup>. This church is now known as the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

<sup>4</sup>. North 3rd and D Streets





Second church built in 1867. Note street cars at lower left corner of picture.  
Date of the picture is unknown.

#### NEW CHURCH IN 1867

The new church was built at the site of the present church, 13th street and Garrison avenue, under the direction of William Sullivan, who drew the plans and superintended the building of the structure. The building complete, both within and without, cost \$6,400. It was formally dedicated August 18, 1867, by Bishop Fitzgerald. There was not a dollar due on the sacred edifice on the morning of its dedication. Miss Susie Neis<sup>5</sup> was the organist.

The bell which was used on both this church, and the church which was built in 1898, was received in 1888. It had been the property of the church at Napoleon. Of the bell, Father Laurence Smyth wrote in his memoirs: "I bought this bell from Major John D. Adams. It was the bell on his steamboat that got snagged in the river above Napoleon. I had a crank attached to it and used it on the church in 1857 until the close of the war."

This church did service until the night of the destructive cyclone January 11, 1898. The building, while not blown

down, was partially wrecked, but was afterwards repaired and made as good as new, at a cost of about \$1,500.00. After its restoration, the building was used for a time by Catholic societies as a hall, but was later moved to the 1800 block of north 8th street and became the Church of St. John the Baptist. Through the years many changes were made to the appearance of that building, including bricking the exterior. It ceased to be used as a church on August 9, 1968, and since that time has been used for a number of things, including a community hall and a school.

The tower in which the bell was located was destroyed by the tornado, and the bell was cracked, but not enough to affect its clear ringing sounds. It was to be used until such time as chimes might replace it.

#### PRESENT CHURCH BUILT IN 1898

The crowning event in the closing years of Father Laurence Smyth's pastorate in Fort Smith is the monumental and palatial church edifice that towers to the

<sup>5</sup> Susie Neis later became the wife of General Benjamin L. E. Bonneville.



Church of the Immaculate Conception. Circa 1903 - 1904 - note partially completed St. Anne's school at far left of picture — courtesy of Fadjo Cravens, Jr.

skies at the east end of Garrison Avenue. The brick structure with a stone foundation is the first thing seen by people entering Fort Smith from the west.

Two spires point heavenward, one of which is 110 feet in height, while the other is 85 feet. Over the main entrance is a life size figure of the Blessed Virgin, looking down upon the devout visitors to the church. The interior is arched and magnificently frescoed. The main altar is a masterpiece of artistic workmanship, and was donated by the Hon. R. C. Kerens, as a memorial gift to Father Laurence Smyth. The Blessed Virgin Mary Altar is also a memorial to the Very Rev. Laurence Smyth, and St. Joseph's Altar is a memorial to Catherine McBride.

The church contains thirty-seven stained glass windows, nearly all of which are memorial gifts. Two of the windows were donated by the Catholic Knights of America, while the others are individual gifts. Windows in the Apse donated by: Sisters of Mercy; The Catholic Daughters of America; The Ladies Society of the Immaculate Conception Parish; and a memorial to Irene McLoud Foster.

Windows on the Gospel side are: a memorial to James Hoey; memorial to Capt. Hugh L. Rogers, donated by his widow, Eliza Rogers; in memory of Michael McDonnell; in memory of Michael Manning; and memory of Mary Kelly, wife of James N. Kelly.

Windows on the Epistle side donated: by The Congregation in 1901-1902 in memory of Father Laurence Smyth and Father Michael Smyth; Mary McBride, the daughter of James and Margaret McBride, in their memory; by Mat Grey, W. L. Euper, Mrs. Mary O'Keefe; in

memory of Mrs. Honora Lucey; and in memory of Gen. B. L. Bonneville.

Jubilee Gifts given during the Centennial Jubilee of the church in 1949, were: Baptistry furnishing, given by William Reynolds, in memory of the F. T. Reynolds family; Sanctuary Chairs, given by Florence Beckman; Gold Chalice, given by Louis Beland, in memory of his mother, Nannie Beland, and a Public Address System, given by Mr. Leon Williams

The first meeting of the parishioners looking to the building of this magnificent temple, was held in the convent school room, Sunday, February 13, 1898. At that meeting, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved that twenty-five thousand dollars be raised, in addition to a like sum offered by Rt. Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, Bishop of the Diocese, for the purpose of erecting a new church and defraying the expense of moving and repairing the old one for temporary use until the new church is completed."

At this same meeting, the following executive committee was appointed: W. J. Murphy, Henry Kuper, Sr., F. T. Reynolds, J. A. Montgomery, and Milton P. Boyd.

On February 16, 1898, the contract for the removal of the frame structure was awarded to the O'Neil & Berry Company, and later work was commenced. The cornerstone of the new building was laid on June 29, 1898 by Bishop Fitzgerald. Bishop Dunne, of Dallas, delivered the open air sermon on the occasion. A number of visiting clergy were present. The brick work followed under the direction of Mr. Thomas Spencer, while the contract for the wood work was awarded Rudolph Metzger. The building was finally completed and dedicated on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 1, 1899. Bishop Fitzgerald officiated and Bishop Dunne again preached the dedicatory sermon. A solemn high mass followed with Bishop Fitzgerald as celebrant; Father Enright, deacon; Father Ketchum, sub-deacon; Father Anselm, master of ceremonies; Father Laurence Smyth, priest, Father Powers, of St. Louis, Father Gallagher of Mena, and Father O'Conner, S. J., of New Orleans, were also present in the sanctuary. The choir under the direction of Miss Kate Emrich rendered Mercantante's Mass.

Upon the death of Father Laurence Smyth on November 7, 1900, after 38 years as pastor, the Rev. Father James Brady was appointed to succeed him. In 1906 Father Brady was succeeded by Father Patrick F. Horan, D. D., who had been pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Little Rock. Father Horan beautified the interior of the church and added a new roof. In 1929 Father Horan was honored by His Holiness Pope Pius XI when he was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. The Immaculate Conception school, one of the finest and best equipped in the United States, attests to the devotion of Monsignor Horan to the spiritual interests of the children. He engaged the Sisters of Mercy to teach his children.

Monsignor Horan died unexpectedly in New Orleans in March, 1936, only two days after an affectionate farewell from his parishioners, as he left for a visit in his native Birr, Ireland.

The Reverend Paul F. Desmond, already recognized as a priest possessing dynamic character, was appointed

pastor. Father Desmond soon undertook ways and means to reduce the school debt and make extensive improvements in the rectory, and was instrumental in establishing the U. S. O. in the parish school building.

Father Desmond was succeeded by the Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph A. Gallagher, who had been pastor of Christ the King Parish in Fort Smith. It was Monsignor Gallagher's task to clear the debt and make the many necessary improvements in the church.

In caring for his flock of more than 1,300 souls, Monsignor Gallagher was assisted by the Rev. Richard J. McCauley and the Rev. Joseph S. Quinn. In the parish school 360 pupils were registered who were taught by the Sisters of Mercy. Sister M. Jerome was the principal.

The Rev. Monsignor Thomas F. Walsh came as pastor in 1955, and the present pastor, Rev. Monsignor William E. Galvin, a native of Texarkana, assumed the pastorate in 1966. During his administration, the church has again been repaired and redecorated.



Interior of present church

A complete history of this church would record hundreds of names — assistant priests, sisters, promoters of parochial activities and parishioners, without whose cooperation the pastors would not have been able to complete their achievements. There is not room here to record all of these names, but the Church of the Immaculate Conception stands today a tribute to these humble and zealous men and women.

This list of people known to be early members of St. Patrick's Church was compiled by Msgr. Patrick F. Horan, D. D., Pastor (1906-1936):

(Before 1850)

Michael Manning  
Francis McKernan

1850 (Colonists from Ireland)

Mrs. Mary Keating Coulter (600 So. 16),  
sole survivor, at 93.  
Francis Donahoe and family  
James Keating and family

James Donahoe and family  
Michael and Peter McNamee  
James Breen and family  
John Hendrix  
John Harrington and family  
Michael Harrington  
Mrs. Lanagan and family  
Michael Scully and family  
Farrell Daley and family  
James Doyle  
Anthony Gallagher and family  
Granny Carroll and son Pat  
(From Other American Points)  
John Lucey and family  
Francis McCahey and family  
Thomas McCarron  
John Dodson  
Michael Lynch  
Joseph & James Dodson and mother

## CALVARY CEMETERY

Calvary Cemetery, serving all the Catholics of Fort Smith, is located on Lexington Avenue at "G" Street.

The first Catholic Cemetery was at Third and Hickory streets<sup>6</sup>, and was moved to the present location in the early 1840's. At that time the plot was outside the city limits. Its area was 650 square feet, but later it was subdivided into four blocks of the Fitzgerald addition and part was sold to the Hebrew Congregation for a place of burial.

The earliest date on a tombstone is 1844, although many bodies were moved from the 3rd & Hickory site. In glancing at the names on the stones, we find many foreign birthplaces noted, such as Germany, Ireland, France, Switzerland and Cuba. Among the priests buried there are: Father Corcoran, 1854, and Father Hurley, 1861; Monsignor Lucey a native of Fort Smith; Fathers Michael and Lawrence Smyth; Father John Flaherty and the Right Reverend Monsignor Patrick F. Horan.

Also buried in the cemetery, in a plot where once stood a small memorial chapel, is the band of five young women who came to Fort Smith on January 23, 1853 on a side-wheeler that brought them up the Arkansas River from Little Rock to establish the Convent of Mercy. They are Mother Superior Theresa Farrell, Sister Mary DeSalles O'Keefe, Sister Mary Vincent Healy, Sister Mary Xavier Nolan, and Sister Mary Alphonsus Carton.

Two former Catholic Mayors of Fort Smith are buried there, James Brizzalora, 1871-1883; and Mat Grey, 1886-1887.

The new section of the cemetery was donated as a memorial to Monsignor Horan, as an expression of love and esteem for him by the family of Pat O'Shea.

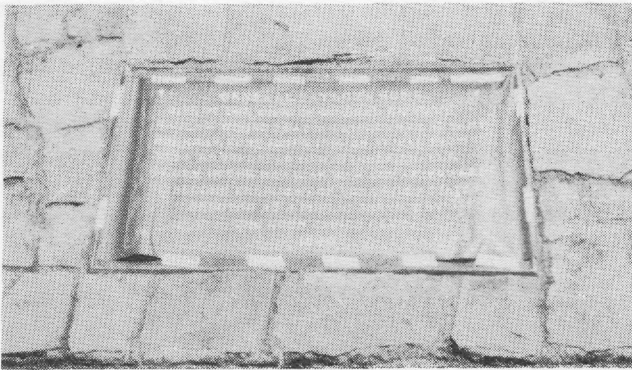
Records of burials in this cemetery, and from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, are kept in the office of the Church.

<sup>6</sup> North 3rd and D Streets

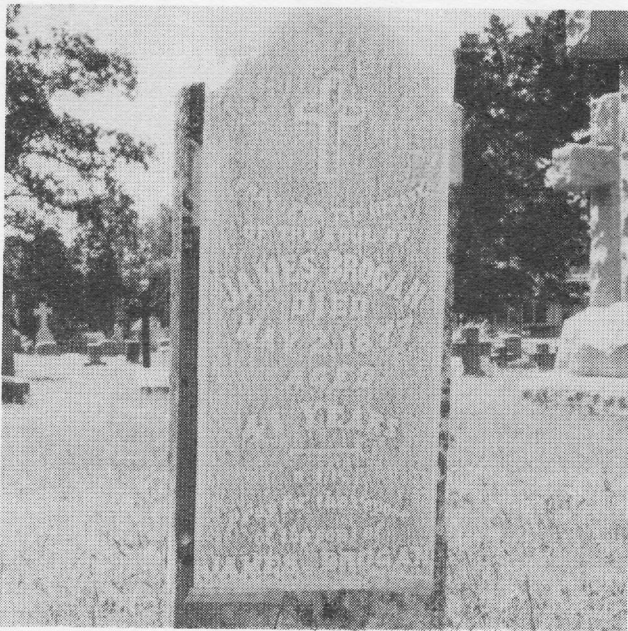


# RUBBINGS

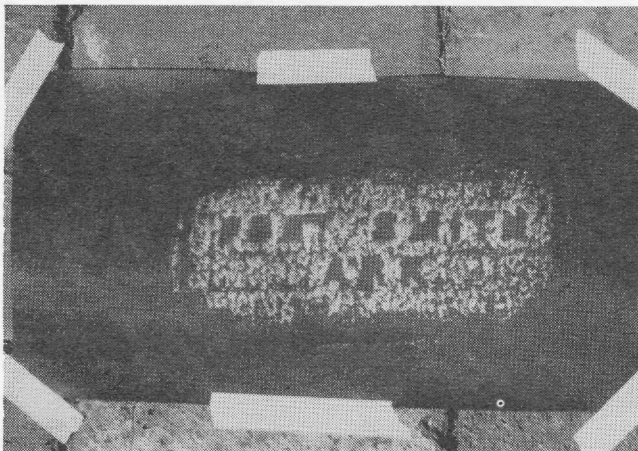
By Claire Flynn



Rubbing of marker commemorating Gen. Taylor's homesite.



Rubbing of gravestone in The Catholic Cemetery.



Rubbing of Fort Smith brick.

I think everyone who is a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society would agree that Fort Smith is a very historical city. There are various ways of preserving this history: books, newspaper articles, photos, maps, films, microfilm. One that has not been tried in this area, to any great extent, is the ancient art of making "rubblings."

Rubbings go back at least 2,000 years, when Chinese scholars learned that important carvings, inscriptions, and decorative bronzes could be reproduced on rice paper.

What is a rubbing? A rubbing works on the same principle as the old trick we used to work in school. We would place a piece of paper over a book cover or a coin and go over it with a pencil. The result was a vivid impression of the book title or the buffalo on the coin. In doing a rubbing, we also place paper over an object, such as a gravestone, and go over it until the carving or outline comes through. A rubbing not only captures what you can see, but oftentimes picks up detail that was not visible before.

Mrs. Carolyn Porter, who is a 5th grade teacher at Spradling school, learned how to do rubbings while living in Belgium. Her husband, retired Col. C. B. Porter, who is an instructor of Social Sciences at Westark Community College, traveled all over Europe while serving with the U. S. Army. Carolyn was fortunate enough to be able to travel with him and was able to reproduce some of the beautiful brass objects in the cathedrals in Belgium. Her supplies were purchased in London.

There are other methods of reproducing relief surfaces, such as dabbing, casting and daubing, but Carolyn and I spent several days together just working on rubbings. "You have to be in good condition to tramp through cemeteries and sit out in the hot sun," Carolyn said, "and rub 'til your arm hurts, but it's worth it when you see the finished piece."

I had to agree when we did the final polishing on the paper rubbing done on James Brogan's headstone in the Catholic Cemetery. Words and symbols came through clearly which were undecipherable before we did the rubbing.

"What other kinds of things can you do a rubbing on?" Carolyn was asked.

"Brass plaques, man hole and gas covers, embossed or engraved flower pots, plates, wood, fabric cutouts," she answered. "The main thing is to have enough relief where it will come through on the paper."

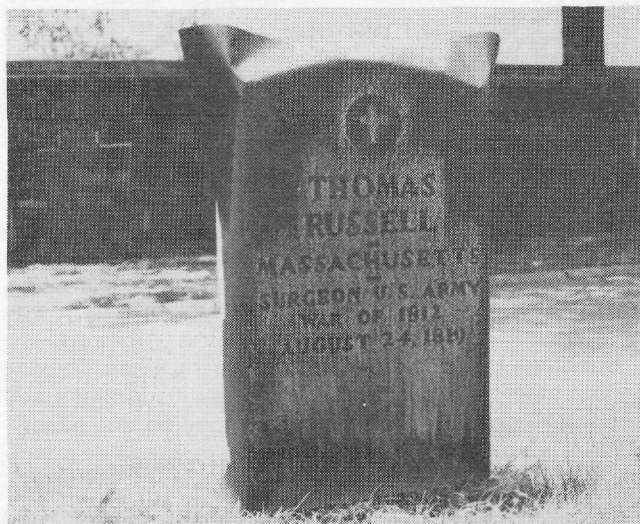
"What kind of paper do you need?" was another question.

"There are various kinds of paper," Carolyn replied. "You can use shelf paper. Any kind of utility paper will work (no wax), but it has to be thin and fairly strong. You can use butcher's paper, either in black or white, which comes on rolls. There are also special rice papers."

"Can you use crayon or chalk to go over the rubbings?"

"No," Carolyn said. "Crayon is too greasy and smeary and might come through on the object you are rubbing. Chalk would rub off. I use a heelball. A heelball is a rub-





Rubbing of gravestone in The National Cemetery

bing stick which has a hard wax formulation and high pigment content. I like white or gold. Either shows up nicely on black paper."

"Where can you find these supplies?" I asked.

"Jim Cooper of Rogers School and Office Supply, 201 N. 23, has paper we can use. He is also ordering a price list and will be stocking the heelballs and other papers."

"Are there any precautions we should observe before you tell us how to do the rubbings?" was the last question.

"Yes," Carolyn replied. "It is always nice to get permission before you do a rubbing on a historical piece. Also, just as a common courtesy, be sure to gather up your scraps of paper or anything else you have used and leave the spot clean for the next person. Otherwise, just have fun."

## HOW TO

Supplies needed: black or white paper, heelball, scissors, masking or drafting tape (narrow size), soft cloth or soft brush, ladies' nylon hosiery.

1. Carefully inspect the object for sharp edges and cracks, then dust with soft cloth or brush to remove grit and dirt.

2. Cut paper slightly larger than the area you will rub. It may be trimmed later to exact dimensions for framing.

3. Carefully tape paper to the object. First tape top, then bottom. Put enough tape on sides so paper will not slip.

4. If you are rubbing a slate or marble gravestone, go over object with a heelball to get the general *outline* of the object. If you are doing a large brass object, do not make an overall outline. The paper may stretch and cause blurring or distortions in the rubbing.

5. Start at the top of your paper, and with the heelball, use short, forceful strokes rubbing backward and forward until you get the desired color. Do only a small section at a time. Work downward to the bottom of the paper. It is best not to go back and rerub as distortions may occur. A large brass piece will take approximately 2 hours; a gravestone 1½ to 2 hours.

6. After you have rubbed your object, polish the paper with a piece of ladies' nylon hose. Do not polish the paper after it has been removed — smudging will occur.

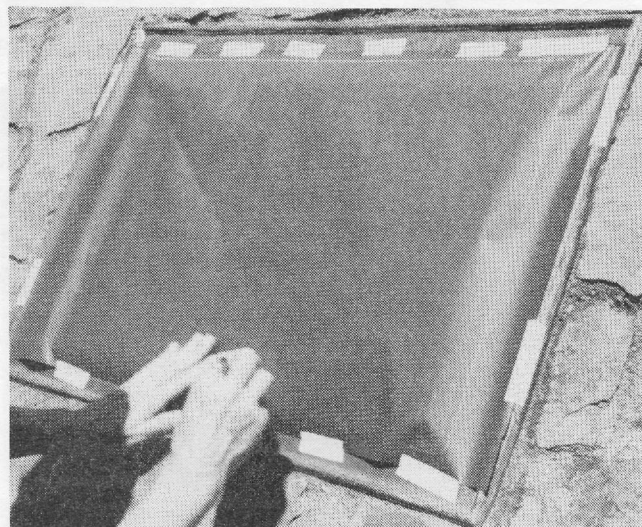
7. Untape paper. Paper may be rolled up and secured with a loose rubber band until ready for framing. A glass frame is not recommended. One method is to glue dowel sticks at the top and bottom and hang with a cord. Very attractive.

Just a final word. Rubbing is a simple but unique method for exploring the cultural history of an area before air pollution or urban development erases these sources. It would also be an idea for fund raising projects by museums and historical societies.

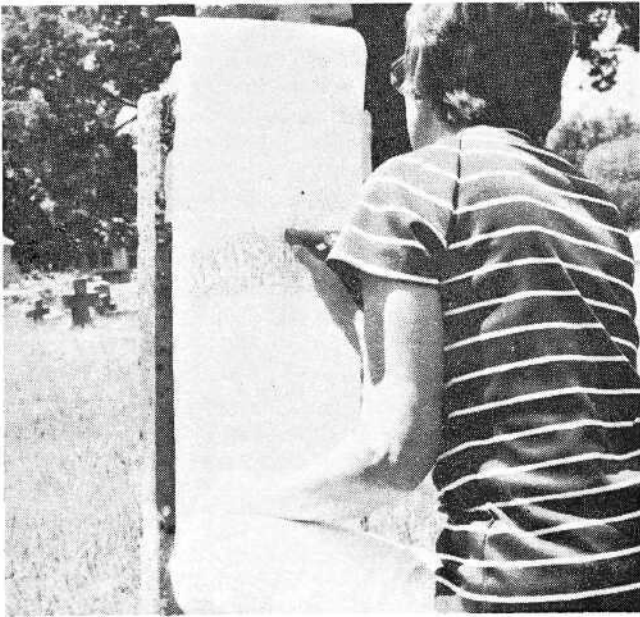
And if you are interested in genealogy, wouldn't it be good to include some family headstone rubbings in the whole genealogy package. Names and dates will be readily accessible and no misspellings or mistakes possible.



Mrs. Porter fits paper to rubbing object. Paper is cut slightly larger than object.



Paper is taped to object



By carefully going over the object, Mrs. Porter will many times bring out bits of information that could not be seen otherwise because of age marks.



Work begins on the rubbing at the Shrine at Gen. Taylor's home site.



Beginning at the top of the paper and working down.



# FORT SMITH HUB FROM WHICH THE WESTERN GOLD SEEKERS WENT INTO THE WILDERNESS

By Frank Weaver<sup>1</sup>

Prepared for *Journal* by Amelia Martin

That the excitement which resulted from the discovery of gold in California had its effect in this section is evidenced by the following which appeared in the Fort Smith Herald of September 6, 1848:

"Ho! For California!!! A company is now forming in this place for California, which will start about the 1st of April next. There is already from fifteen to twenty names of heads of families, living in this place and in vicinity, enrolled. Persons wishing to attach themselves to this company will have an opportunity of doing so by applying to either Mr. J. R. Kennedy, Capt. John J. Dillard or John F. Wheeler.

"Every able-bodied male emigrant will be required to furnish himself with a good rifle gun and plenty of ammunition, also to each emigrant rations for the journey, consisting of 180 lbs. of flour, 100 lbs. of bacon, and the transportation of the same in wagons, to be drawn by horses, mules, or oxen, and no wagon to haul more than 2,000 lbs. The whole party to rendezvous at Fort Smith by the 1st of April next, and choose their officers, *and make all necessary arrangements for the tramp.*

"Letters from a distance, post paid, may be addressed to either of the above named gentlemen, who will at all times be ready to furnish all information on the subject that may be required."

The next issue of the Herald announced the discovery, about a mile and a half from the town, of a sulphur spring,<sup>2</sup> soon to become the camping place of one of the largest companies that went west on the new trail. The waters of this spring are still used occasionally by people who have a taste for that kind of beverage.

On the 23rd of September a public meeting was held at the old Presbyterian Church,<sup>3</sup> corner of Washington<sup>4</sup> and Mulberry<sup>5</sup> streets, for the purpose of securing action by the next legislature in reference, to the contemplated road to the west, the government not yet having ordered a survey made. Captain John Rogers presided at the meeting, and John F. Wheeler was secretary. A committee consisting of Solomon F. Clark, W. W. Fleming, Mitchell Sparks, Samuel L. Griffith and Gen. W. L. Jones drafted a resolution calling attention to the practicability of the Arkansas or 35th parallel route to Santa Fe and urging the legislature to bring the subject before our members of congress at the session that was then approaching. The program was actively carried out by both the legislature and the solons at the national capitol.

## They Pitched In

This would indicate that when the men of seventy years ago saw that something was needed to be done they pitched in and did it. It is the fashion nowadays to view our forebearers as a pokey, slow-going, easy sort of folk, who accepted conditions as they existed and made no effort to secure anything better, but evidence is continually bobbling up to show that they were as fully alive to matters of public necessity as their descendants are. People of that day had fully as much initiative as those of the present age, with the limited means at their command, they accomplished more.

No doubt the meeting at the old Presbyterian church building was productive of good results, as were many of the public meetings held there. For years after its erection this building was used as a public hall as well as a place of devine worship. It was demolished about 1917 or 1918. Could its walls have been endowed with the gift of utterance, what tales they might have told!

On the 14th of March, 1849, the emigrants met at "The Church" and perfected an organization. John F. Wheeler was chosen chairman and Dr. Betner was appointed secretary. A committee consisting of Capt. J. J. Dillard, Dr. Betner, T. M. S. Gookin and W. J. Seaman was appointed to draft rules and regulations for the company. At a meeting held on the 28th the rules and regulations were adopted and the following officers elected: Captain, John J. Dillard; first lieutenant, Sid B. Bennett; second lieutenant, F. G. Ake; third lieutenant, H. J. Share; secretary, John Boyer; treasurer, T. M. S. Gookin; quartermaster, Cyrus Hall; wagon master, William Rogers. Twelve councilmen were also chosen, but there is no record of their names. It was the duty of the councilmen to investigate the character of applicants and their physical qualification for the long trip, to inspect equipage, etc. They were also authorized to appoint sappers and miners, one engineer, and one spy company, as well as to change the rules should changes become necessary.

## Name Of Company

"The Fort Smith and California Emigrating Company" was the name adopted for the organization. The rules provided that the captain should command the company, direct the march, select the camping ground, and exercise

<sup>1</sup> This story was written by Frank Weaver, circa 1920. Mr. Weaver, for many years editor of the *Fort Smith Elevator* newspaper, planned to write a history of Fort Smith, and during his years in the newspaper business, he wrote segments of this history — but died before he could put them together into a book. He kept many scrapbooks, and it is from one of these scrapbooks that "Fort Smith Hub From Which the Western Gold Seekers Went Into the Wilderness" is taken. The article is printed exactly as Mr. Weaver wrote it, with illustrations and footnotes added by your editor.

<sup>2</sup> This spring, remembered by many older citizens of Fort Smith, was on the Southwest corner of Spring Street and Texas Road (South "O" Street and Towson Avenue). Mr. Sherman England of Fort Smith, a former owner of this location, says the spring was filled in and covered over in preparation for building buildings on the site. A "Fina" service station stands now where the spring was.

<sup>3</sup> A picture of this church is on page 28, Volume 1, Number 1 of this Journal.

<sup>4</sup> Now North 2nd Street

<sup>5</sup> Now North B Street

such other authority as might be required by his position; the lieutenants to assist in carrying out his orders, and to assume command, according to grade, in event of the commander's death or disability. The duty of the secretary was to keep an account of the business proceedings of the company; the treasurer was charged with care of the company's finances; it was required that each member be equipped with a good gun and butcher-knife, five pounds of powder and ten pounds of lead; guards were to be detailed each evening to watch the camp during the night, and no person should leave the company to hunt game or for any other purpose without the company's consent; it was required that every wagon have an extra mule or horse, and every ox-team an extra yoke of oxen; it was required that every team should be well shod, and that the owner should provide an extra set of shoes for the whole team, "whether of horses, mules or oxen," and that each wagon should be provided with one water-cask, one pick or mattock, one augur, one chisel, and one drawing knife; calls for arising in the morning, for folding and harnessing the teams and for taking up the line of march were to be sounded by a musician appointed by the captain, and alarm to be sounded in case of accident, and attack by Indians or any other reason; every member of the company was required to change his underclothing once a week; the number of wagons in the train was limited to seventy-five, and no wagon should carry more than 2,000 pounds, the council to decide the number of pounds a wagon might carry under that weight; it was required, also, that the ration for each individual should consist of 150 pounds of flour or bread, 100 pounds of bacon, twenty pounds of salt and three pounds of soap.

Such, in brief, were the rules that governed the caravan in its journey across the trackless plains.

### Start March West

The company began its march westward on April 11, 1849, and was six months in reaching its destination. It did not go by way of Santa Fe, but diverged to the south some distance east of that place and struck what was then known as "Cook's Trail" from the Rio Grand to the Pacific. This made the route a little longer, but afforded a much more level road. A number of wagons broke down on the trip and were abandoned, and much useless impedimenta was discarded at different points on the route. Plenty of Indians were met, all of who were peaceably inclined. Instead of being hostile to the emigrants, they were desirous of trading. It is more than likely their pacific conduct was inspired largely by the number of men in the expedition and the abundant supply of arms they carried.

The train was not moving all of the time consumed in the six months' journey. Frequent halts of four or five days were made, and this probably accounts for the fact that the members of the party were in good health when California was reached. The stock, too, was mostly in good condition, and some of the emigrants, at the journey's end, sold their horses and mules at fancy prices.

Harmony prevailed throughout the trip except on one occasion. A majority of the emigrants, some time after starting, conceived the idea that on the north side of the Canadian could be found a better road than the route that had been marked out by the surveying party. Captain

Dillard did not agree with them but the majority prevailed. When the stream was reached, the company crossed to the north side, but after floundering through the mud for several days it turned back and recrossed the stream. After that it remained with the military escort.

### Deaths Recalled

A melancholy incident of the trip was the disappearance of N. B. Gooking.<sup>6</sup> While on the march one day, Mr. Gooking imprudently took a side trail that led into a dense thicket. He was traced for several miles but never again seen. It was supposed that he was waylaid and murdered by Indians. Another sad event was the death, near Choteau's trading post, of J. R. Roberts, of Little Rock.

Upon reaching California, the company disbanded, its members going to the different fields. Several returned home in a short time, becoming convinced, soon after their arrival, of the force of that trite old saying that reads, "All that glitters is not gold." Others tried the different "diggings" with varied success. In the course of time others returned, bringing with them a stock of experience and stories that made them interesting raconteurs for the remainder of their lives. There were not a few who had to borrow money to get back home. There were a few who remained in California and met with success in their undertakings, but they did not secure their wealth by digging for the shining metal.

### Dillard A Leader

Captain John Dillard was well qualified for the leadership of such an expedition. He was a man of courage and determination, and, having commanded a company in the Mexican war, understood well how to combine the exercise of authority with judgement and discretion. During the war between the states he commanded a company in the Confederate army.

It may not be out of place to say that a couple of days before the departure of the company, the soldiers' barracks in the garrison caught fire and burned to the ground. The loss was estimated at from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Many of the emigrants assisted in saving furniture and other articles from the flames, and it is traditional that they were not in the least guarded in the use of sarcastic observations about the absence of fire-fighting facilities in a town so large as Fort Smith. On the site of the building destroyed, another building was subsequently erected which is still standing, and which for many years was occupied by the United States court and marshal's office.

The first arrivals from abroad to start westward on the new route were six young men from New York, who came January 17, 1849. They were a sort of advance guard to the noted Knickerbocker and Havillah companies, which came later. The first to leave was the Pack-Mule company, already noted, composed of young farmers who lived around Greenwood. March 24 witnessed the departure of another Pack-Mule company, consisting of the following persons: M. M. Heath, captain, Illinois; J. W. Wadsworth, W. P. Lime, M. Marshall, New York; S. F. Stanley, Jesse

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Weaver spells this name both "Gookin" and Gooking"



Owen, G. Ballard, H. F. Sellers, A. Scarborough, Arkansas; John W. Weddell, Pennsylvania; M. J. Flynn, Ireland; D. D. Bowman, W. H. Hutchison, St. Louis; F. W. Lanaveister, H. Harris, N. Row, S. Muhlney, Germany; Mr. Funnals, Maine, W. Brokah, R. Gerald.

Other companies that accompanied the Fort Smith and California Emigrating company on its march were the following: Clarksville and California Mining association of Clarksville, Ark.; Little Rock Mining company, of Little Rock, Ark.; Knickerbocker Exploring company of New York city; Tennessee company; Helena and California company of Helena, Arkansas; Memphis Exploring and Mining company of Memphis, Tenn.; Lincoln County Mining association of Tennessee; De Soto company of Mississippi; Ohio Mining company of Cincinnati, Ohio; Maine and New York company; Western Rovers; Mississippi and Alabama Emigrating company; Iowa company of Logansport, Iowa; Havillah Mining company of New York city; New Orleans Mining Company and Trading association. The easternmost emigrants were from Maine. They were: W. H. Barnes, Gilbert Fowlen, Benjamin Ross, Moses C. Jennett, James Wedber, Robert Dyer. A New York company, the Continental, disbanded, a number of its members getting cold feet and returning home, the others joining the Knickerbockers. The Philadelphia delegation joined Captain Dillard's command.

In addition to these organized companies there were smaller companies numbering from five to 15 men each. The train did not travel closely together, the different commands sometimes being several miles apart. This was to ensure and equal supply of grass and water.

There were 100 wagons in Captain Dillard's company. In the entire caravan there were nearly 500 men. The Havillah of New York numbered 35. The Mississippi and Alabama company had 90. The Logansport company had 22. The Western Rovers, organized at a camp near Sulphur Springs, was made up of men from everywhere, and numbered 96.

The Knickerbocker exploring company reached the town 80 strong and before it left, its numbers had increased to 100. It was probably better equipped than any company in the caravan, most of its members being men of ample means. It was organized in New York city and came to Fort Smith on the steamer Hudson, which boat its members chartered at Pittsburgh, Penn. When it reached Fort Smith it was fully equipped with everything needed for the trip except horses and mules, and these were purchased here. Its camp was also at Sulphur Springs. Its captain, John A. M. Ebbets, was an old plainsman, having been for several years in the employ of the American Fur company. James H. Cooley of the Knickerbocker, composed a song which caught the fancy of the adventurers and which, to the air of "Dance, Boatman, Dance," was roared at every campfire. The song follows:

"The New York boys, and Yankees, too,  
With some of the real old Jersey Blues,  
Have thought it would be a very good plan  
To make a draw on Uncle Sam.  
So draw while you can, the gold is free and plenty,  
'Tis very fine, oh! how it smiles - hurrah for  
California!

#### CHORUS

"Hy, ho! Away we go, o'er the Rocky mountains, O!  
Hy, ho! Away we go, o'er the Mountains cap'd with snow.

"Our little ones we leave behind,  
Our better halves we keep in mind,  
And all the good we could impart,  
We kindly did before we started;  
Hail, Yankees, hail, we're now already parted,  
So we must try, and not to cry, but cheer the broken-  
hearted.

#### CHORUS

"And when we cross the prairie lands  
We'll keep in mind those precious sands;  
And if we hear the wild 'Wa-hoo',  
We'll cry out, 'Injun, is that you?'  
So hail, Yankee, hail, 'twill be a pleasant journey;  
We'll cross the hills at Santa Fe in trail of General Karney.

#### CHORUS

"Then, having found the wealthy prize  
And satisfied our longing eyes,  
We'll think of coming home again  
And there contented to remain.  
So good-bye to all our friends and our relations;  
And if we fail to get the gold, we'll see most all creation.  
Hy, ho! Away we go — o'er the mountains cap'd with  
snow."

#### Cherokees Go Too

Several Cherokees went with the Fort Smith boys, among them James S. Vann, editor of the Cherokee Advocate.

It would naturally be inferred that the presence in the little town of such a heterogeneous mass of strangers would be accompanied by more or less disorder, but the interesting old paper already so often referred to bears testimony to the contrary. Under date of March 14, it says: "The peace and harmony that has characterized our city while crowded with California emigrants speaks volumes in favor of those persons who are emigrating to that golden land of the west. Not a single riot or difficulty, so far, has occurred, and we sincerely hope that none may occur."

About the time of this writing, cholera prevailed in many many parts of the United States. The dread disease was particularly virulent at New Orleans — which at that day was the pest hole of the Union — and gradually made its way up the Mississippi river, then coming up the Arkansas.

On the 12th of April, 1849, the steamer Oella No. 2 arrived from Little Rock with several cases aboard, all of which had developed after the boat left Little Rock. Two of the victims, G. N. Campbell of Jefferson county, Mississippi, and H. W. Kemp, of Greenburg, Iowa, succumbed almost immediately after the boat's arrival, but the others recovered. From these cases the disease spread to the town and finally made its way to Fort Coffee, Fort Gibson and the Choctaw agency (Scullaville).<sup>7</sup> At that period many Creek Indians were passing up the river on the way to their new homes in the Indian Territory, and they suffered severely from the pestilence.

The arrival of Asia's dreaded scourge created consternation. The Herald demanded that the city dads do

<sup>7</sup> Scullaville, Mr. Weaver's spelling. Proper spelling "Scullyville." Now called Spiro, Oklahoma.

something to improved sanitary conditions, but not much appears to have been done on that line for a couple of months. After a number of deaths had occurred, the mayor, George S. Birnie, issued a proclamation urging that August 3rd be devoted to prayer to the Almighty to stay the ravages of the pestilence. Then the board of health, consisting of Dr. J. H. T. Maine, Dr. N. Spring and M. Mayer, backed by the town council, and being constituted a little more on the practical order than the mayor, peremptorily ordered everybody to cleanse his premises and disinfect them with lime. This being done, and cooler weather approaching, the disease began to abate, and soon disappeared.

### Suppressed News

Along with the cholera came smallpox, but very little harm appears to have resulted from this disease.

It may not be out of place to hear<sup>a</sup> mention the fact that Fort Smith's only newspaper, during this period, pursued a course not unlike that which prevailed with most of the public prints until within a few years ago, i. e., it refused to recognize the presence of the disease in the town or acknowledge its deadly nature. It mentioned the cases that had arrived on the boat, but made no reference to the cases that subsequently developed in the town, as will be seen from one of its issues at that time: "Several cases of cholera morbus occurred in this place last week, which no doubt were occasioned by the warm damp weather, and imprudence in eating large quantities of fruit. Great quantities of different kinds of fruit have been brought in to sell, and no doubt many have indulged themselves in eating it to excess. Be very careful of your diet. From the prevalence of cholera everywhere it is evident that we are exposed as much as other places. At this time we have the disease in our neighborhood, therefore, be prudent."

Such duplicity was at that time justified by public opinion, because if the real facts were made known, people from the surrounding country would refuse to come to town, and through their absence, trade would suffer; but it would not be tolerated at present.

Fort Smith was visited by cholera on four occasions, viz: 1849, 1851, 1866 and 1867; and in 1826 was visited by yellow fever, the disease reaching her by means of a keelboat that came from New Orleans.

### Come in Caravans

During the months of May, June, July and August, 1849, emigrants continued to flock into the town to follow in the wake of the first caravan, but about the end of the month last named, the rush slackened, owing to the approach of the fall season, when the rains would make traveling difficult. However, there were arrivals during the entire winter of persons who came for the purpose of getting an early start in the spring. Some of the belated ones arrived singly, and organized after they got here, others came already organized. Among these were the Waterford Mutual Mining Association, made up of persons from the Northeastern state. The New York Mutual Protection California company was another substantial organization. New York furnished, also, three other companies of 10

each. Another company was the Missouri Gold Diggers, from Southwest Missouri. Captain Gildersleeve had a strong command. The ranks of the Marion Rangers were recruited principally from the Southwestern states, and named for the rough-rider of Revolutionary fame. Colonel Bonner's company, 32 strong, also came from New York. One Ferdinand Kohn, a German, lost his life in Noche Gras, near Akeville, trying to join this company before it left town in June, 1850. He was traveling on horseback along the military road and tried to cross the stream where backwater from the Arkansas had made it impossible.

The exodus of 1850 did not create as much excitement, locally, as that of 1849, for the reason that the novelty had, to some extent, worn off. The rush continued 'til 1850, when it practically subsided, although several large trains went out that year.

Among those leaving Sebastian County in the spring of 1850, were Jeremiah Hackett, Berry Stephens and Allen McDonald, of the James Fork settlement, who, with several other adventurous young men, organized a pack-mule company and went along with one of the large trains. A letter mailed by Mr. Hackett to his wife reached its destination just six months to a day from the date it started, going from Rio Grand del Norte to Vera Cruz, thence to Havana, thence to New Orleans and then up the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers by boat, to Fort Smith. A man by the name of Hockett, with his son, John, went out with Dillard's company. The father never returned but John Hockett came back in 1853 and started on the return trip with a herd of 937 cattle, of which only 182 survived the long journey. He engaged in farming and stock-raising near Porterfield, dying about fifteen years ago, the owner of 4,000 acres of land.

### Alleged Swindles

An incident that occurred in the spring of 1850, and for a few days supplanted in interest the second exodus, was a rencontre between Judge John F. Wheeler, editor of the Herald, and Rev. Charles E. Pleasants. The latter was a Philadelphian who had been living in the town about a year. He was a correspondent of the New York Sun and had furnished that paper with several communications in relation to events transpiring in this section. A short time before this occurrence, a party of Seminole Indians from Florida had passed through the town on the way to their new homes in the Indian Territory. In one of Pleasant's communications to the Sun, he intimated rather broadly that the local merchants had sold goods to the untutored children of the swamps at exorbitant prices, and that horse traders had also swindled them. For this Wheeler criticised him pretty severely in his paper. Pleasants retorted in kind, and then Wheeler wrote some more. The next time the now thoroughly irate gentlemen met there was an exchange of fiery epithets. Wheeler struck Pleasants with his cane, and the latter in turn shot Wheeler in the breast with a derring. Fortunately for Judge Wheeler, he was carrying in his left arm a bundle of mail that he had just received at the post office, while in the breast pocket of his coat was a large pocketbook. These broke the force of the shot and saved his life. Owing to the prominence of the parties the affair occasioned much comment.

<sup>a</sup> Mr. Weaver's spelling.



## By Northern Route

Several of the largest trains that left Fort Smith went by way of a northern route, even after the superiority of the Marcy trail had been demonstrated.

In April, 1854, John I. Johnston, accompanied by his son, James Johnston, and a number of emigrants, started out with a herd of 1,200 cattle. About the same time two other trains departed, one of which had been equipped by Johnson and Grimes, the other by Mitchell and Thomas Sparks, both of which were Fort Smith firms, doing a large business. The latter train was under charge of James H. Sparks.<sup>9</sup> These trains went by way of the middle route, which had just been traced. This trail led up the Arkansas river by way of Pike's Peak, crossing Platte river near the north end of the south forks of that stream and then branching off to Salt Lake City, by way of Bridger's fort. Reaching Clear Lake, ten miles from Salt Lake City, about the middle of September, the caravan went into camp for the winter, reaching California the next spring. No one of these three ventures was accompanied by financial success.

# DIARY

Prepared for printing by Amelia Martin

## ACCOUNT OF TRIP TO CALIFORNIA BY J. H. SPARKS — APRIL 1854

*Account of trip to California  
by J. H. Sparks,  
Commenced crossing my cattle  
on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 1854,  
and on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> camped at  
Sam Latimores 3 miles out, Remained  
there Monday & Tuesday, on  
Wednesday started, and the route  
from there to Fort Gibson can bet-  
ter be imagined than described.  
Suffice it to say that it is  
the meanest road in the world  
both for wagons & cattle,  
hind axel of Singletons wagon  
to be 2 1/2 miles out and fore axel of  
same wagon at Salisaw and  
fore axel again 2 1/2 m from Sal  
the weather very broken hard &  
rain,  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> arrived at Gibson*

Photograph of first page of log kept by J. H. Sparks  
(Size reduced)

The arrival of this caravan at what is now the site of Denver, Colo., on July 1, was attended by a tragedy that cost the lives of two young men, who but a short time before had left their home with dreams of easily acquired wealth in the new Eldorado. Theodore Wheeler, a son of the editor of the Fort Smith Herald, and a young man named Brown, whose home was in Cincinnati, Ohio, became involved in a quarrel which resulted in Brown shooting and killing Wheeler and being instantly slain himself by Tuge Rector,<sup>10</sup> another young Fort Smithian. The unfortunate young men were buried side by side in the same grave. Rector never returned to Arkansas, but remained in California where he became active in politics, holding, for a number of years, the office of sheriff in the principle counties of the state. His life also had a tragic ending.

<sup>9</sup>. The daily journal kept by James H. Sparks on this trip, follows this story.

<sup>10</sup>. Thomas Hines "Tuge" Rector, son of Col. Wharton Rector II, Arkansas State Militia, and nephew of Elias Rector. See Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society, Vol. 1, No. 2, and Vol. 2, No. 1 for diary of the daughter and wife of Elias Rector.

The following diary is the log kept by J. H. Sparks who was in charge of the wagon train, equipped by Mitchell and Thomas Sparks (his brothers), which left Fort Smith on April 18th, 1854 for California. If there were families on this wagon train, they were not mentioned in the log. You will see that daily entries ended on May 27. There is nothing to indicate whether Mr. Sparks just quit keeping the diary of his train's movement, or if he entered later entries in another book.

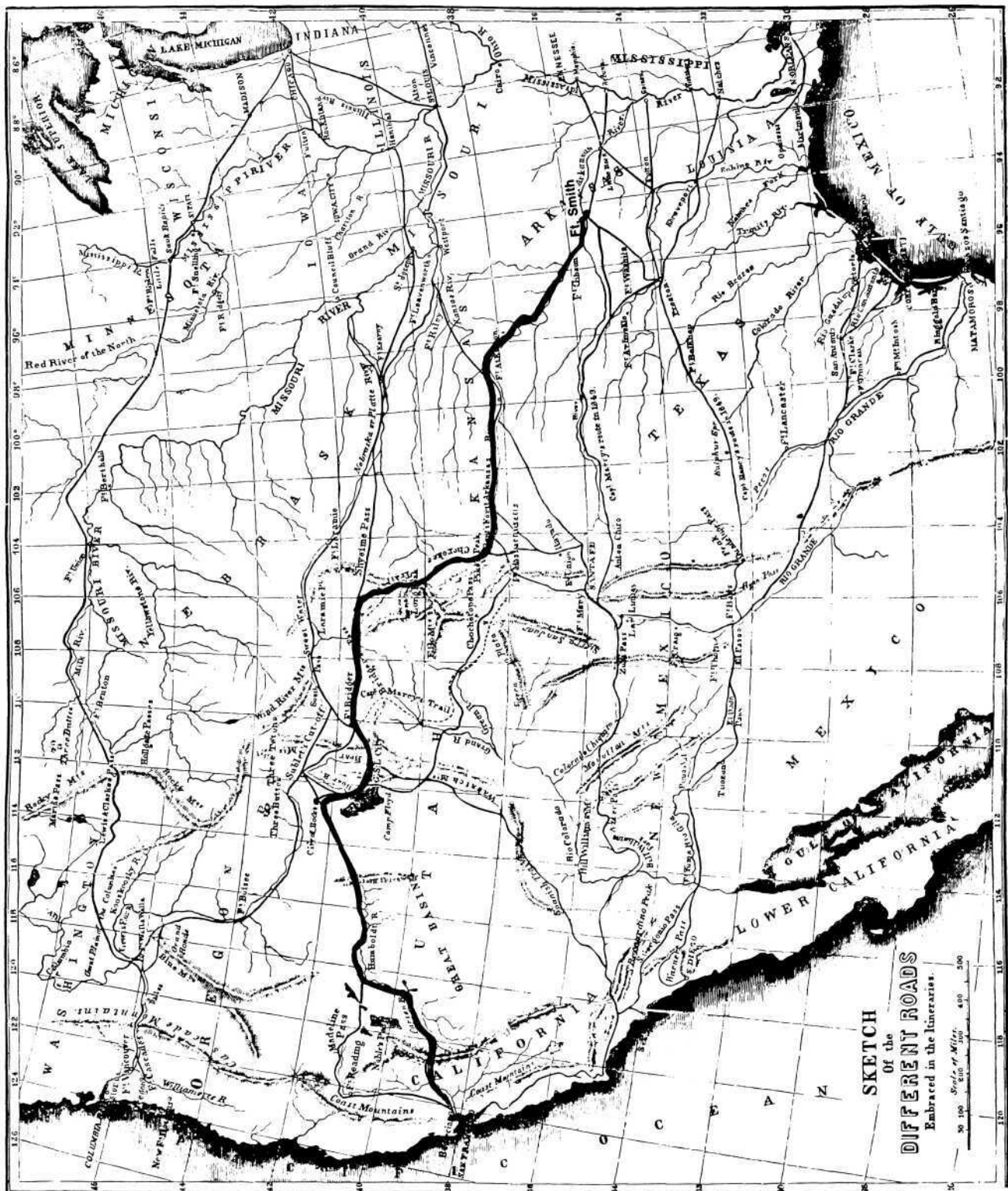
For more information about this train, see article, "Fort Smith, Hub From Which the Western Gold Seekers Went Into the Wilderness," written by Frank Weaver. Information on this Sparks family, which also appears in this issue of the *Journal*, has been prepared by Fadjo Cravens, Jr.

The diary is a small, 7 1/2" by 5", brown leather covered book, with a flap which folds over the open edge of the pages when closed. It is written in ink — clearly written, but a little difficult to read. A part of the first page is shown here in Mr. Sparks' handwriting — then typed to make it easier to read.

## ACCOUNT OF TRIP TO CALIFORNIA BY J. H. SPARKS<sup>1</sup>

Commenced crossing my cattle on Tuesday 18th of April 1854, and on Sunday the 24th camped at Sam Latimores 3 miles out. Remained there Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday started, and the route from there to Fort Gibson can better be imagined than described. Suffice it to say that it is the meanest road in the world, both for wagons and cattle. Hind axel of Singletons wagon

<sup>1</sup> Note that Mr. Sparks numbered his entries, and followed that entry with the day of the month. He also shows the number of miles traveled that day; ie. 3m



The wagon train which left Fort Smith in charge of James H. Sparks on 18 April 1854, crossed the Arkansas River at Fort Smith, then following the Arkansas River, progressed to Fort Gibson and on to Pike's Peak, junctioning with the Cherokee Trail at that point. This trail continued to California via Fort Bridger and Salt Lake City. Map of the different roads to the west, courtesy of Judge Parker's Court Room.



broke 2½ miles out and fore axel of same wagon at Salisaw, and fore axel again 2½ miles from Salisaw — the weather very broken, hail and rain.

Sunday 30th arrived at Gibson. Remained there in camp till Saturday the 6th May, when we crossed Grand River and camped May 6.

- No. 1 At Duncans, fine day. .... 3m  
May 7, Sunday, still fair warm
- No. 2<sup>8</sup> About 1 mile from Sam Brown's old place on bank of large creek, grass good & water very good & Plenty. .... 4m  
Morning wet and very warm
- No. 3.<sup>9</sup> Round mound, grass poor, wood & water plenty, weather broken. .... 7m
- No. 4.<sup>10</sup> On Fish Creek. Timber East of road, water plenty and good, good grass, day very warm, eve and night cold. Passed Bull & 1 small creek... 16m
- No. 5.<sup>11</sup> On large creek, ½ mile from Hicks, left of road; passed Otter and Panther Creek 2 miles back. Day warm, road bad, good w & w, grass good. . 12m
- No. 6.<sup>12</sup> On same creek 1 mile below, broke a wheel, stopped & fixed. .... 1 m  
Heavy thunder and hail storm at 10 oc at night. Cattle broke, got all back.
- No. 7.<sup>13</sup> Sulphur Creek, this bank. Caldwell on other side, grass poor, day very cool, road bad. .... 11m
- No. 8.<sup>14</sup> Limestone ridge. 3 miles out good spring, 1 m Drumgools Creek, very bad on wagons; met Shaw way back. Cows and calves from drove passed Flatrock and camped on Dawson Creek at Wm. Coorzs. .... 12m
- No. 9.<sup>15</sup> On Salt Creek. Turned over in last creek... 2m  
Every camp to Ver.<sup>2</sup> occpied. Ver. up, fine spring up creek ½ mile. Day fine, night wet. Bluff left.
- No. 9.<sup>16</sup> Remained in camp.
- No. 9.<sup>17</sup> Remained in camp.
- No. 10.<sup>18</sup> On Rattlesnake Hill ½ mile from Coorzs, fine spring 300 ft. right of road. .... 3½m  
Thunder storm & heavy hail & rain.
- No. 11.<sup>19</sup> On Verdigris, both banks, fine time, ferried wagons on two canoes lashed. Sent cattle out 1 mile to grass.
- No. 12.<sup>20</sup> Clear spring. Got all our wagons over in the prairies. 1 mile from river, fine wa & grass.. 1m  
Very wet day.
- No. 13.<sup>21</sup> On Hawly Creek, good road, passed water at 6m. Good grass, w & w plenty. .... 15m
- No. 14.<sup>22</sup> At a spring ¾ off road to the right. Several streams during day. Day warm, road bad.. 20m
- No. 15.<sup>23</sup> On a small stream 400 yds to right of road; broke an axel tree, short camp, good grass w & w. 7m
- No. 16.<sup>24</sup> Spring. Passed wood and water 10m from camp & several streams during day, no wood, w & grass plenty. .... 17m
- No. 19.<sup>25</sup> Shaw Creek, road very good. Wind very strong. Several streams today, grass, wood & w plenty. 16m
- No. 20.<sup>26</sup> On Clear Creek, rain & hail storm, road very bad. Water all day. .... 12m
- No. 21.<sup>27</sup> Wolf Creek, rain all day, Good campground here. Rain all night. .... 12m

<sup>2</sup>. Verdigris River

At this point, the daily entries ended, and the rest of the book contained accounts due to J. H. Sparks; a listing of the personnel of the wagon train; the name of horses and their owners; and an inventory of the train. These items follow, in the order they appeared in the diary.

Due to J. H. Sparks<sup>3</sup>

Nov. the 20  
to one Pair of buckskin pants ..... \$5.00  
1 pair of gloves ..... 2.50  
1 plug of tobacco ..... .75  
1 plug of tobacco ..... .75  
1 plug of tobacco ..... .75  
1 pair of boots ..... 10.00  
to cash ..... 1.00  
Jan. 15  
to cash ..... 1.00  
Feb. 2  
to cash ..... 1.00  
Feb. 5  
1 pair pants ..... 4.00  
to cash ..... 1.00  
to bill at Robesons ..... 15.40  
to bill at Greens ..... 38.00  
to (*illegible*) amount ..... \$51.40

Accounts for:

Thomas Costello	Dr.
1 pr. pants .....	8.50
3 shirts .....	4.50
2 pr shoes .....	6.00
3 pr wool socks .....	2.25
2 pr cotton socks .....	1.00
1 buckskin coat .....	12.00
1 hat .....	3.00
2 undershirts .....	2.50
1 pr cot. pants .....	2.50
1 pr cot. pants .....	2.50
2 pr wool drawers .....	5.00
2 shirts .....	2.00
1 pr pants .....	4.00
1 pr leggings .....	5.00
2 combs .....	1.00
2 soap .....	.50
cash .....	1.50
	<u>\$63.75</u>
	<u>90.00</u>
	<u>\$26.25</u>

Credit:

6 mo Herding .....	\$48.00
1 mo .....	22.50
2/3 mo .....	20.00
	<u>\$90.00</u>

Nicholas Williams note, April 25, 1854,

one day Int. 1% from date for .....	\$380.32
1 Pony .....	35.00
Sugar 2\$ Tob 1\$ Violin Str at Gib. ....	3.50
Ferryage at Verdigris .....	2.00
Wagon repairs at Nebraska .....	11.00
Meal .....	6.00
Amt ( <i>illegible</i> ) .....	5.00
Cash in City .....	1.00
Cash in City .....	2.50

<sup>3</sup>. The Diary does not show who this was due from.

Cash in City Tavern Bill .....	2.00
Cash in City for horse .....	1.00
Cash on road .....	.50
Tob. for Tony .....	1.00
Cash .....	5.00
Cash .....	5.00
Cash .....	.50
Cash .....	.50
Cash .....	5.00
100 lb. flour .....	5.00
30 lbs coffee @40¢ .....	12.00
Hay & Horse feed .....	40.00
1 cow .....	30.00
Doctor's Bill .....	65.00

(and other entires which were not legible. There were also a number of other accounts, but it was not clear as to who they were for, or why.)

Personnel of the train were:

Capt. Rogers

Guards:

I. or J. A. Smith  
I. or J. H. Taylor  
W. Heckel  
A. Euper

Cooks, Mess 1:

Wallin (? sp.)

Dick

Mess 2:

H. Chaplin

Herders 1:

M. Jones

I. or J. P. Williams

Bob Plunket

W. Henry

Herders 2

Adam Ross

John Wheeler

C. Azrhandt

L. Ball

Herders 3:

T. Wheeler

P. (Illegible)

H. Bell

T. Costello

Wagon master:

R. Plunket

Signed; J. H. Sparks;

(The following appears to be a listing of men on the train and the names of their horses.)

1. O. F. Rogers, Kib & Ajax
2. B. B. Lowe, Fam., Cross, Nelly
3. F. M. Sawyer, Sam & Cazar
4. N. Williams (Acct to Nicholas Williams later in Journal.)
5. C. A. Birnie
6. W. E. Armoser
7. W. Heckel, Charley
8. Dick Neal, Jack
9. I. or J. A. Smith, Pat
10. P. D. Michil
11. C. Azrhandt, Doctor
12. Adam Ross, Warhorse
13. J. H. Taylor, Charley, Cook
14. Mont Jones, Frank
15. Long Jim
16. This entry is not clear, but appears to be: John Wooten Sprout, Mexico Mountain Sprout
17. H. Chaplin, Blk pony
18. T. Costello, Sally & Bay mare
19. (Illegible) Blucker
20. L. Lane
21. A. Euper, jack
22. A. Czliax
23. G. Niphong
24. T. Wheeler, Red, Puss
25. I. or J. P. Williams, Preacher
26. I. Rhodes

27. P. Norton, L. B. & Packer

28. H. Kanady, Tendie

29. L. Ball, Ike

30. Zork (Sp?)

31. Adam

32. R. Plunkett, Hooper & (Illegible)

33. Bob Plunkett, Dapple

34. Ike Plunkett

35. J. Wheeler, Jimmie Mules

36. W. Wheeler

37. Wm. Wheeler

38. W. Plunket

39. G. Bell

40. H. Bell, Greene

41. W. Smith

42. M. Smith

43. Ab Smith, Kit

J. H. Sparks, Tedcum, Cook, Dutch, and one other name which was illegible.

#### INVENTORY

(More or less cattle than 700)

700 head of cattle ..... \$28,000.00

7 wagons ..... 525.00

1 lot horses:

Big Red ..... 125.00

Sally Smith ..... 60.00

Sorrel Mule ..... 100.00

Cazar ..... 75.00

Button ..... 35.00

Hawkins ..... 90.00

Coodz ..... 75.00

\$29,085.00

P. H. .... 60.00

Alax ..... 175.00

Jimmie ..... 175.00

Bal ..... 90.00

Preacher ..... 90.00

Swendt ..... 85.00

Hoouber ..... 75.00

Hooper ..... 60.00

Doctor ..... 75.00

Bill ..... 50.00

Charley ..... 100.00

Jenney Lynde ..... 90.00

Starer P. M. .... 65.00

1,190.00

Dick Jumper ..... 45.00

Wolf ..... 45.00

Cross ..... 45.00

Blucker ..... 100.00

Boston ..... 65.00

\$300.00

4 wall tents ..... 100.00

Cooking Untensils ..... 75.00

40 spokes, & bows ..... 160.00

30 chairs ..... 45.00

Arms & ammunition ..... 150.00

Saddles, Bridles, & Blankets ..... 75.00

6 Buffalo Robes ..... 30.00

1 Medicine Chest & Medicines ..... 50.00

1 lot tools, horse iron tools, & c ..... 50.00

Improvements, Hay, & Cane ..... 200.00

\$1,135.00<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Apparently Mr. Sparks made an error in his addition.



# THE SPARKS FAMILY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

By Fadjo Cravens, Jr.

Early in the nineteenth century, according to a record made by George T. Sparks in 1903, there was born to Thomas and Elizabeth (McGary) Sparks in Elfin, County Roscommon, Ireland, nine children:

Mitchell Sparks, b. Feb. 4, 1811, d. Nov. 16, 1864  
William Sparks  
George Sparks  
Thomas Sparks, born about 1817  
Paul Sparks  
Robert Sparks  
James Henry Sparks, born 1830  
Susan Sparks  
Jane Sparks

Of these nine children, four are believed to have emigrated to the United States: Mitchell, George and Thomas came in 1836, while James H. came in 1849. According to family legend, George Sparks disappeared without a trace en route from New Orleans to Fort Smith.

A work published in Chicago in 1889 by the Goodspeed Company, known as *The History of Northwest Arkansas*, page 1356, contains a sketch of the life of David B. Sparks, son of Mitchell. The information for this sketch was probably furnished by David B. Sparks himself. According to this sketch, Mitchell Sparks was a native of Dublin, Ireland, and was educated in Trinity College, Dublin Institute. "He graduated in medicine, but never practiced his profession. He emigrated to America when a young man, locating at Fort Smith, where he engaged in merchandising up and down the river, and entered business with a man by the name of Miller, who was one of the leading merchants of Fort Smith for many years."

Fort Smith, in the latter 1830s and all through the 1840s and 1850s, and 1860s was a mercantile center boasting a fort and almost unlimited trade with the five civilized tribes of Indians occupying what was then known as the Indian Territory and now known as the State of Oklahoma. In this setting, Mitchell and Thomas Sparks entered into a lively mercantile business under the firm name of M. & T. Sparks. James H. Sparks, who arrived in 1849, engaged in the same line of business, but went bankrupt about 1852; he subsequently engaged in the newspaper profession, in which he became quite well known, editing and publishing, as well as founding, with John F. Wheeler, the *Fort Smith Herald*.

**MITCHELL SPARKS**, oldest child of Thomas and Elizabeth McGary Sparks, was born Feb. 4, 1811, and died in Fort Smith on Nov. 16, 1864. In 1847, Mitchell Sparks



MITCHELL SPARKS

was married to Miss Hannah Bennett, a native of Massachusetts, who was born Jan. 22, 1822, and died Dec. 12, 1909. According to the sketch in the *History of Northwest Arkansas*, this marriage took place in New York. Children: George Taylor, David Bennett, Elizabeth, Joseph M., James M. and Charlie.

- I. George Taylor Sparks, son of Mitchell and Hannah (Bennett) Sparks, was born June 22, 1848, and died July 12, 1907. As was his younger brother, David Bennett Sparks, George Taylor Sparks was educated in Massachusetts. Upon his return to Fort Smith, he immediately assumed a prominent place in the social and business activities of that town. He was elected a director of the First National Bank in 1875, and became the bank's president in 1886, serving in this capacity until his death in 1907. He married at Fort Smith on March 11, 1879, Ann Eliza Dibrell<sup>1</sup>, born Jan. 1, 1852, daughter of Dr. James Anthony Dibrell<sup>2</sup> and Ann Elizabeth (Pryor) Dibrell.
 

Children:

  1. Mitchell Bennett Sparks, born Feb. 16, 1881. He died about 1914. Married, but had no children.
  2. James Dibrell Sparks, born June 1, 1883; died 1954; married Mabel Clark Neal and had the following children:
    - A. James Dibrell Sparks, Jr., born July 13, 1928. Vice president of First National Bank, Fort Smith. He married Wilma Karnes on March 25, 1951, divorced August 31, 1975. Children:
      - a. Carolyn Sue Sparks, b. March 26, 1952, married Dennis O. Pugh, 1972. Lives in Fort Smith.
      - b. Virginia Lee Sparks, b. Sept. 6, 1953, married Michael Stewart, Jan. 6, 1974. Now of Fort Worth Texas.
      - c. James Dibrell Sparks, III, b. Sept. 20, 1959. Student at University of Arkansas. James Dibrell Sparks, Jr. M/2 in December, 1975, Judith Marie (Lynn) Billings.
    - B. Ann Eliza Sparks, born Feb. 27, 1931, m. Richard Neeley. Lives in Ft. Worth, Texas. Children:
      - a. Elizabeth, born 1956, now in Ft. Worth. b. - Jeffrey, b. 1957, now in Ft. Worth.
    - C. Mabel Medora "Cookie" Sparks, b. July 28, 1934, m. Jerry Carpenter. Two children:
      - a. Torre Carpenter, of Little Rock, Ark.
      - b. Kerri "Biddie" Carpenter, Little Rock.
 Mabel Medora sparks was divorced from Jerry Carpenter and m/2 Robert Wainwright. There are no children to this union.
  3. George Thomas (Jake) Sparks, b. Dec. 27, 1886; died when he was 19 years old, unmarried.
  4. Medora Duval Sparks, born Sept. 20, 1889. She married Henry Morrison of St. Louis, her first cousin. No children.
- II. David Bennett Sparks, son of Mitchell and Hannah (Bennett) Sparks, was born June 8, 1850, and died Dec. 22, 1932. In 1877, he was married to Lily Pryor, daughter of Cornelius David and Sarah Ann "Kate" (Barling) Pryor. He was educated in Massachusetts and afterward returned to Fort Smith where he was connected for some time with the Elporaso Stage Co. He engaged in the saddler's business for two years, then took up the wholesale shoe business. He was later City Clerk. Children:
  1. George Pryor Sparks, born 1878, died 1952. He never married. He was a very successful interior decorator.
  2. Jere Kannady Sparks, born about 1880, married Ada Edwards, no children.
  3. Kate Pryor Sparks, born Dec. 23, 1881, died Nov. 5, 1956. She was married in Dec. 1902 to Charles F. Pittman.
    - A. Lily Carr Pittman, born Nov. 13, 1903, Prescott, Ark. She was married to Thomas McRae Bemis, Jan. 11, 1926. Children:
      - a. Kate Sparks Bemis, b. Feb. 19, 1930, married William Fajdo Cravens, Jr., Dec. 22, 1950. Children:
        - (aa) Charles Fajdo Cravens, b. Dec. 21, 1951.
        - (ab) Thomas Rutherford Cravens, b. Apr. 14, 1953.
        - (ac) William Bennett Cravens, b. Nov. 5, 1956.
        - (ad) David Anthony Cravens, Oct. 31, 1959.
        - (ae) John Bemis Cravens, b. Sept. 19, 1960.
        - (af) Wharton Sparks Sandels cravens, b. Jan. 8, 1964.
      - b. Ethel McRae Bemis, b. Jan. 23, 1932. She was married to John Hale, Sept., 1957. Children:
        - (bb) Katherine McRae Hale, born March 26, 1959.
        - (bb) Peter Morrell Hale, born 1960.
    - B. John Marshall Pittman, b. Oct. 25, 1909, Prescott, Ark., married to Pauline Nutt in 1930; died May 30, 1955. No children.
  4. David Bennett Sparks, Jr., born 188-; never married.
  5. Neil Sparks, born in the late 1880s or early 1890s; married twice, but no children. Living in 1961 in Mena, Arkansas; sign painter.
  6. Hynes Sparks, b. 1894. He married but his wife is no longer living, and he had no children; died in 1969 and is buried in Forest Park Cemetery.
  7. Martha Barling Sparks, born Aug. 21, 1902, married William Allen Johnston II, about 1929 or 1930. Children:
    - A. William Allan Johnston III, b. 1930, married Betty Britton, June, 1957. Children:
      - a. William Allan Johnston IV, b. March 1949.
    - B. David Sparks Johnston, b. May 1931, died May 1958, unmarried.
- III. Elizabeth Sparks, daughter of Mitchell and Hannah (Bennett) Sparks, married Henry Morrison, St. Louis, Mo., March 6, 1878. Children:
  1. Henry Morrison, Jr., married Medora Sparks, daughter of George Taylor Sparks. No children.
  2. Elizabeth Morrison. Never married.
- IV. Joseph M. Sparks, son of Mitchell and Hannah Bennett Sparks, b. June 16, 1852. He died at the age of six weeks.
- V. James Mitchell Sparks, son of Mitchell and Hannah Bennett Sparks, b. Jan. 1, 1857, died Dec. 14, 1921. He was married to Nina Johnston in 1885.

<sup>1</sup> Sparks Memorial Hospital (now Sparks Regional Medical Center, Fort Smith) was named as a memorial to Ann Eliza (Dibrell) Sparks.

<sup>2</sup> For sketch of Dr. James Anthony Dibrell see *History of Crawford County* by Miss Clara B. Eno, p. 492; and *Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, 1817-1976*, by Amelia Whitaker Martin, pgs. 304-306.



1. James Mitchell Sparks, Jr., married Myra Payne of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He died in 1921. No children.

VI. Charlie Sparks, son of Mitchell and Hannah Bennett Sparks, b. June 19, 1860; died at the age of one year, five months and 20 days.

**THOMAS SPARKS**, the fourth son of Thomas and Elizabeth McGary Sparks, was born about 1817. As stated earlier, he came to Fort Smith, Arkansas, with his brother, Mitchell Sparks, in 1836. In 1852 Thomas Sparks joined the California Gold Rush and died on the journey. He was unmarried.



THOMAS SPARKS

There are different traditions regarding the circumstances of his death. One story tells of his driving a herd of cattle across the plains and his dying near Salt Lake City where he was buried in an unmarked grave. According to another account, he took the sea route and died in Nicaragua. On the back of a daguerrotype of Thomas Sparks is inscribed: "Daugerrototype of Thomas Sparks, age 32. Died at sea, Acapulco, Mexico. Presented to D. Sparks by W. J. Weaver."

**JAMES HENRY SPARKS**, who was born in 1830, was the youngest son of Thomas and Elizabeth McGary Sparks. He came to Fort Smith, Arkansas from Ireland in 1849. In 1854 he was in charge of a wagon train to California<sup>3</sup>. On Sept. 27, 1857, he married in Van Buren, Arkansas, Miss Abbie Butler, daughter of Elizur Butler, the famous missionary to the Cherokees in Georgia and in the Indian Territory. James H. Sparks enlisted in the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the Civil War of the First Company of Fort Smith Rifles. He was wounded at the Battle of Oak Hill. Subsequently, he and his family moved to Texas where he was placed in command of the post at Waco and given the rank of Mayor. He was editor of a newspaper in Memphis, Tenn., for a while before returning to Fort Smith. He died in Fort Smith Jan., 29, 1879.

James Henry and Abbie (Butler) Sparks were the



JAMES HENRY SPARKS

parents of three children: Thomas Butler, Sydney Austin, and Lucy Ames.

I. Thomas Butler, born in 1849, died in 1866.

II. Sydney Austin born in 1862, died in 1864.

III. Lucky Sparks, born February 13, 1865, died November 22, 1945. She was married to James Aull Yantis on June 23, 1885. Children:

1 Sydney Yantis (daughter), born Aug. 25, 1887. She married Harry P. Warner on June 25, 1913. Children:

A. Lucy Yantis Warner, born March 20, 1915. She married David Smith Waddy on Dec. 28, 1938 (later divorced). No children.

B. Charles Edwin Warner, born Nov. 11, 1917. He married Elizabeth Hester Porter on Nov. 12, 1943. They have four children.

a William Preston Warner, born Feb. 7, 1945.

Married to Julie Rose Nance

b Charles Edwin Warner, Jr., born May 20, 1947. Married to Karen Hardgrave

c Robert Drew Warner, born Sept. 10, 1949.

d Lucy Yantis Warner, born April 28, 1954.

2. Edward Montgomery Yantis, born June 5, 1890. He married, first, Ivy Hadkinson in April, 1920. They had one child:

A. James Aull Yantis, II. He married Lydia-----in April, 1920. No Children.

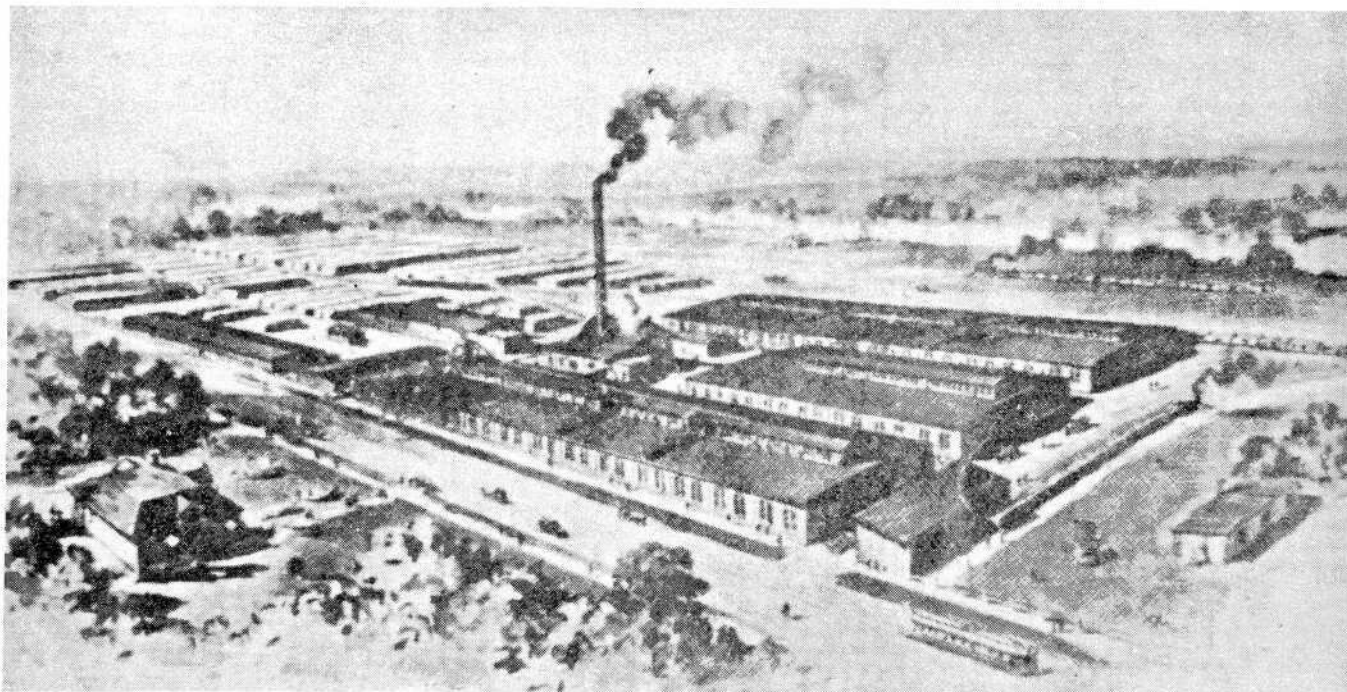
Edward Montgomery Yantis married second, Evelyn Whittal in 1926. They had the following child:

B. Evelyn yantis, born in 1927. She married Franz Pederson (now divorced).

(a) Dirk Pederson, born Aug. 22, 1949.

(b) Kristine Pederson, born March 10, 1952.

<sup>3</sup> See Diary of this trip in preceding story.



Picture courtesy of Lillian Hissom

## **FORT SMITH WAGON COMPANY**

### **1903 — 1924**

Chris Allen and Amelia Martin

About 1900, business was booming in Fort Smith. The "Hub of the West" was also an agricultural area as well as a manufacturing center — all facts that created a need for wagons.

A group of Fort Smith men, alert to the opportunity, organized the Fort Smith Wagon Company in March 1903, for the purpose of manufacturing wagons. The stock was subscribed principally by Fort Smith businessmen.

A modern plant, with a capacity of 10,000 wagons, was completed in 1904. The location of the plant was given in the 1919-1920 Fort Smith Directory as "Wheeler Avenue, ¼ mile south of Spring Street." This location is now occupied by the John Morrell and Company (meat packers), whose address is 1820 Wheeler Avenue.

Mr. Louis Lorenz, who came to Fort Smith in 1904 to work at the wagon factory, tells us the factory was made up of three large buildings; one where the wagons were built, one a paint room, and the third a shipping department and warehouse.<sup>1</sup>

An office building was located across Wheeler from the factory (the present site of the Flander's Manufacturing Company), and a small building stood at the northeast corner of the building fronting on Wheeler. This small building was removed in January, 1978, to make room for street improvements.

Mr. Lorenz also tells us the employees of the plant were

paid in gold. Because of complaints by the workers that they were short-changed, and that they were robbed on their way home on pay-day, this practice was changed and wages were paid by check.

Machinery in the factory was belt-driven and powered by a steam generator. The blacksmith forges were fired by coal, but later converted to natural gas, which produced a hotter fire and speeded up production. Louis Lorenz, foreman of the blacksmith division, directed the change-over from coal to gas.

Shortly after the completion of this factory, the capital stock was increased to \$300,000 the additional stock being taken by local people.

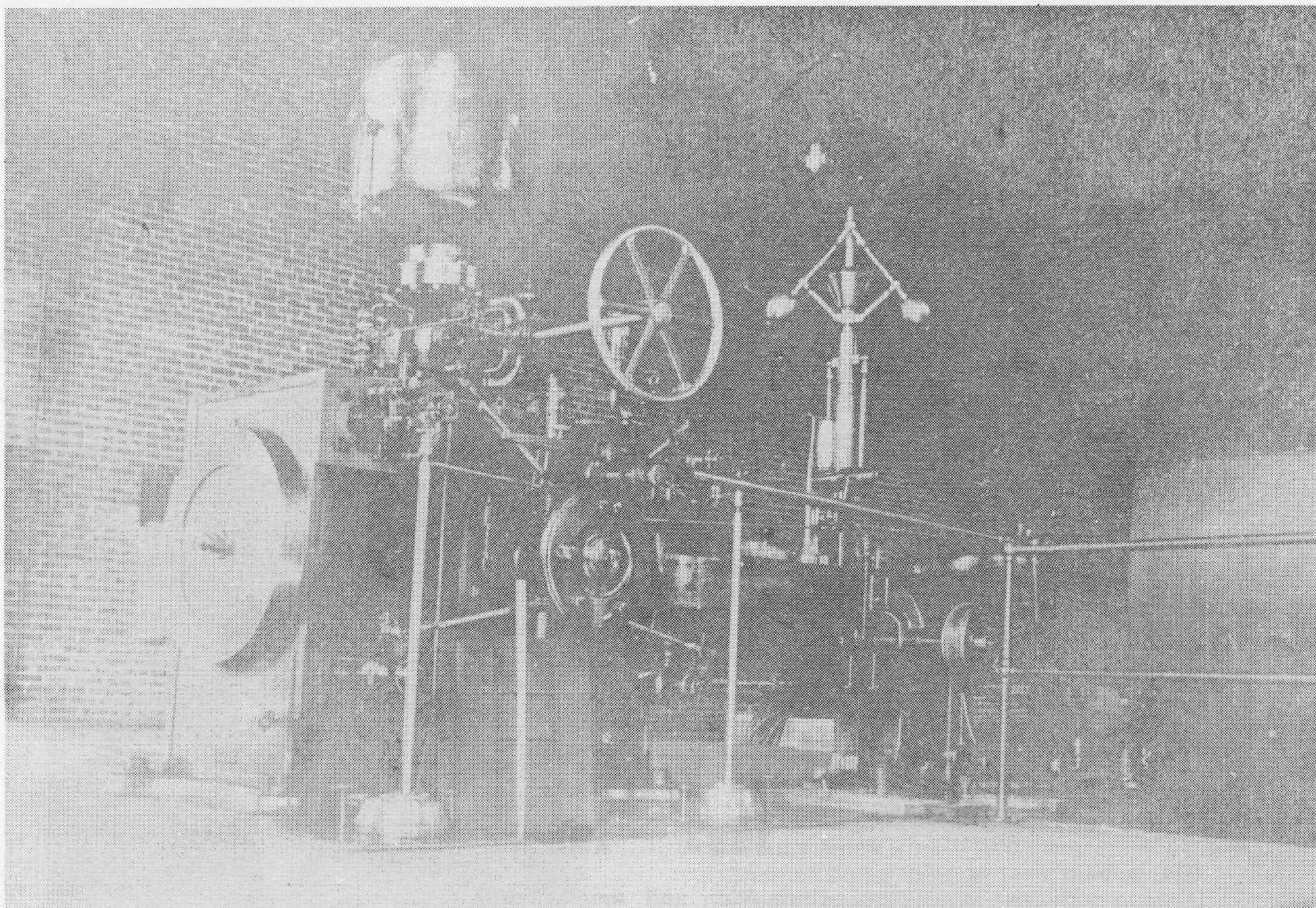
In 1905 selling contracts were made with several of the Southern branches of Deere & Co., of Moline, Illinois, and a large percent of the output was marketed through these branches.

When rapid sales necessitated an increase to \$550,000, the additional stock issue was taken by Deere & Co., which also purchased sufficient holdings of local stock to give them a controlling interest in the company.

In 1916, when Deere & Co. decided to manufacture John Deere Wagons in the Fort Smith plant, capacity was increased to 18,000 per year and capital surplus invested was over \$750,000.

<sup>1</sup> Large orders were shipped by railroad, but many customers bought a wagon at the factory, hitched their team to it, and drove the wagon away.





Steam Generator which furnished power to run wagon factory machinery.

Picture courtesy of Mr. Louis Lorenz, former Blacksmith Foreman for the company  
Copied for printing by Jim and Pat Knight, Knight Photographic Arts

In addition to the well known Fort Smith, John Deere and Mitchell Farm Wagons, this factory built a large quantity of both wood and steel wheeled wagons, log wagons, city teaming gears and oil pipe gears.

The wagons were distributed in every southern and southwestern state, and the company controlled a large volume of wagon business in Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado.

The last listing in the Fort Smith City Directory for the Fort Smith Wagon Company was 1923-1924. Mr. Earl Emery of the Fort Smith Rim and Bow Company says he understands that at the sale of the Fort Smith Wagon Co., the Fort Smith Rim and Bow Co. bought some of the machinery, as they made wagon parts.

The 1904 Fort Smith City Directory carried this information:

*"Important improvements of the past year are the Fort Smith Wagon Co., with a capacity of 10,000 wagons per year; Ward Furniture Co.; Fort Smith Rim and Bow Co.; Fort Smith Cracker and Biscuits Co.; Acme Wire Spring Bed Co.; Fort Smith Hardwood Mfg. Co., making boxes, handles, etc.; Arkansas Granite Brick Co.; and the Patterson Sash, Door and Lumber Co."*

Officers of the company in 1904 were: F. A. Baker, president; G. W. Cleveland, V. P. (also V. P. of Rim & Bow Co.); W. H. Johnson, secretary-treasurer; C. A. Darland, cashier; and F. F. Wilcox, superintendent.

A complete list of employees of the factory is impossible to compile, but due to the lack of a census record for this time period, the following list, taken from Fort Smith City Directories, is of significant importance to genealogists, to include here.

#### 1904 city directory :

Adams, J. E., laborer  
Berry, Charles, laborer, bds s10th, cor. spring  
Berry, Dub, laborer, bds s10th, cor. spring  
Berry, H. P., laborer, bds s 10th, cor. spring  
Berry, Otis, laborer, bds s 10th, cor. spring  
Bourland, Grover, bds 1201 s H  
Carson, John, bds 1220 Gar. Ave.  
Cleveland, Geo. W., Jr., bds 310 n15th  
Crowell, J. W., foreman, bds 302 n B  
Fleming, E. F., mach, h 1101 Factory Row  
Futral, Richard, trav. slsm, bds 1304 n 12  
Geren, A. J., foreman h 1018 s 16  
Gilichrist, Claude, painter, bds 823 s 16  
Goodwin, Edw., foreman, h 115 n 11  
Harding, A. B., blksmith, h s 11 nr. Bryant  
Hiding, E. C. mach  
Ivey, Benjamin F., teamster, h 511 Bryant  
Jenkins, P. M., watchman, h 609 s 18  
Johnston, John, blksmith, h 1220 n 4  
Kavanaugh, Wm., foreman

Kelley, J. H., bds 1500 s Towson  
 Kelly, J. H., h Towson Ave.  
 Key, M. T., foreman, h 512 Lexington  
 Konopinski, Edward, lab., h 1010 s 12  
 Lively, John, bds 1120 s 10  
 Mills, J. N., mgr., bds 507 n 6  
 Pinkston, J. H. lab., bds Towson Ave. beyond limits  
 Rankin, W. D., fireman, h 1300 s 9  
 Roberson, Samuel F., mach., h 1319 1st  
 Ross, Frank, lab., bds Texas Rd., beyond limits  
 Ross J. J., lab., bds Texas Rd. beyond limits  
 Ross, Wm., Lab., bds Texas Rd. beyond limits  
 Sartain, S. W., h 11 near Martin Ave.  
 Taylor, Wm., bds 1120 s 10  
 Wallace, James, lab., h 207 s 6  
 Wendell, Jack, bds s 11 nr Bryant  
 Williamson, H. A., painter, bds 823 s 6  
 Wright, Jerry, bds 219 n E

The 1907 City Directory lists officers and employees as:

Pres., Charles H. Deere, resident of Moline, Illinois  
 S. H. Velie, 1st V. P.  
 G. N. Reek, 2nd V. P.  
 W. H. Johnson, Sec'y & Manager  
 C. E. Speer, Treasurer  
 Adair, Shelton, B., mach., b 518 s 8  
 Amos, Ceborn, woodworker, r Van Buren, Ark.  
 Amos, Earl E., painter, bd 416 s 20  
 Baker, Alton, helper  
 Barker, Charles F., eng., r 905 Lexington  
 Barron, James P., painter, r 1104 Towson  
 Bennett, Dee (c), lab., bd 913 n F  
 Bennett, Orley C., blksmith, r 422 Towson  
 Benson, Wm., woodwkr, r 511 s 5  
 Bercher, Roman P., painter, bd ft Towson Ave.  
 Bernard, Robert, blksmith, r 1001 s 12  
 Bingham, Robert B., blksmith, r ft Wheeler Ave.  
 Boles, Albert M., painter, r 1900 s 11  
 Boles, Floyd, painter, bd 1900 s 11  
 Boulware, Rufus (c), lab., r Midland Hts.  
 Brice, Wm., blksmith  
 Brinkman, George, blksmith, r 815 s 12  
 Brown, Edgar L., woodwkr, r 1219 n 6  
 Brown, Richard (c), lab., r 1107 s 6  
 Bryant, John L., filer, bd 1633 n 7  
 Carter, David C., painter, bd 1201 Catholic Ave.  
 Cullpepper, Wm. H., blksmith, r 922 Wheeler  
 Cummins, David, woodwkr, bd 116 n 11  
 Dansby, Ernest (c), lab, r 420 n 25  
 Davis, John W., carpenter, bd 1909 s 11  
 DeSoto, Joseph, carpenter, r 1816 n 10  
 Donahoe, George W., woodwkr, r 1218 Dodson Ave.  
 Dooly, Earl, blksmith, bd 801 s 21  
 Dooly, Jesse J., blksmith, r 801 s 21  
 Dudley, Nicholas J., woodwkr, r 1300 s 10  
 Edwards, Lee, woodwkr., r ft Wheeler Ave.  
 Erke, August H., blksmith, 815 s 12  
 Evans, Arch (c), lab., r Midland Heights  
 Felsch, Fred, pkr, bd 819 Rogers  
 Fitzgerald, Robert D., blksmith, r 1009 s 18  
 Fitzgerald, Thomas E., mach. r Bluff Ave 2 s of Palmetto  
 Forbis, Nathan O., woodwkr, r 1101 Towson  
 Frazier, Wm. A., woodwkr, bd 1231 s 12

Gifford, John W., woodwkr, r s 13 nw cor spring  
 Gifford, Walter N., woodwkr, r s 13 nw cor spring  
 Golden, Charles, woodwkr  
 Gorum, George W. (c) lab, r 601 n 25  
 Graves, Burrell P., blksmith, bd 221 s 8  
 Green, Jesse (c) lab, bd 1107 s 6  
 Grothe, Henry, woodwkr, bd 420 Towson  
 Hammock, Edgar D., woodwkr, r 302 n B  
 Hansberger, Wesley, painter, bd 1122 s 10  
 Hare, John E., foreman, r 801 s 21  
 Harper, George T., woodwkr, bd 617 s 12  
 Harris, Clark C., timekpr, bd 1412 s 11  
 Harris, Wm. E., painter, bd 1909 s 11  
 Hartso, Marion, blksmith, bd 1616 Towson  
 Haskett, Ernest, painter, bd 1108 Towson  
 Highfill, Ernest, ydman, bd 422 Towson  
 Hill, Wm., woodwkr  
 Hinson, Guilford E., bkpr., r 1809 n 13  
 Holloway, Arthur, J., painter, bd 812 Towson  
 Huber, Edward H., woodwkr, r 520 s 12  
 Hurst, James N., woodwkr, r 617 s 18  
 Jackson, Willis (c), lab, r 2 e of Pumping Sta.  
 Jefferson, Wellington P., helper, r Sulphur Springs Add.  
 Jefferies, Dudley W., carpenter, r 1904 n 11  
 Jennings, Edward A., woodwkr, b 1909 s 11  
 Kelley, John G., painter, bd Pettet Rd.  
 Key, Emmett M., foreman, r 722 s 17  
 Lewis, John (c), lab., bd 1105 s 6  
 Linsenmeir, Christian D., r 1108 Towson  
 Lorenz, Louis, blksmith, bd 420 Towson  
 Lunsford, Charles W., r 917 s 17  
 McCoy, John M., r 818 s 11  
 McCuiston, Trenton B., ydman, r 1132 s C  
 McGill (c), lab.  
 McWhirter, John H., woodjoiner, r 1908 s 11  
 McWhirter, Matthew, painter bd 1909 s 11  
 McWhirter, Whitfield, woodwkr, bd 1909 s 11  
 Mankin, John E., blksmith, r 1800 s 11  
 Mankin, Thomas, blksmith, r 1800 s 11  
 Mason, David P., bkpr. r 1415 s 11  
 Skaggs, Fredrick, woodwkr  
 Smith, Jesse, painter, bd 1120 Dodson  
 Stallings, Lorenzo, bd 1819 s 11  
 Streeter, Edward, r 423 s 18  
 Thackery, Harry, blksmith, r 801 s 5  
 Thackery, Harry M., blksmith, bd 801 s 5  
 Tisdale, Fred, blksmith, bd 722 s 12  
 Travis, Oliver L., r 1216 n D  
 Van Brocklin, John, r Sulphur Spring Rd.  
 Waddell, Claude, helper, bd 1005 s 13  
 Waddell, Jessie E., blksmith, bd 1005 s 13  
 Waddell, J. Fred, painter, bd 1005 s 13  
 Wallace, John (c), laborer  
 Watson, David J., bd 1819 s 11  
 Wells, Francis M., blksmith, r 1222 Dodson  
 Whitmer, Clem, woodwkr, bd 1909 s 11  
 Wilcox, Frank F., supt., r 307 n 6  
 Wilcox, Franklin L., woodwkr, bd 307 n 6  
 Wilkerson, Woods B., foreman, r 1810 n 6  
 Williamson, Harry, foreman r 817 s 6  
 Williamson, Leo A., painter, bd 817 s 6  
 Wilson, Thomas A., r 1814 n 6  
 Winn, Frederick, inspector, r 905 s 13

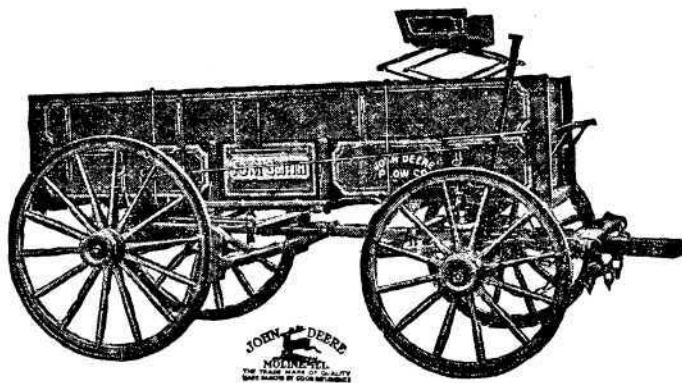


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 Dooly, Earl, blksmith, bd 801 s 21  
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 Skaggs, Fredrick, woodwkr  
 Smith, Jesse, painter, bd 1120 Dodson  
 Stallings, Lorenzo, bd 1819 s 11  
 Streeter, Edward, r 423 s 18  
 Thackery, Harry, blksmith, r 801 s 5  
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 Wallace, John (c), laborer  
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 Wells, Francis M., blksmith, r 1222 Dodson  
 Whitmer, Clem, woodwkr, bd 1909 s 11  
 Wilcox, Frank F., supt., r 307 n 6  
 Wilcox, Franklin L., woodwkr, bd 307 n 6  
 Wilkerson, Woods B., foreman, r 1810 n 6  
 Williamson, Harry, foreman r 817 s 6  
 Williamson, Leo A., painter, bd 817 s 6  
 Wilson, Thomas A., r 1814 n 6  
 Winn, Frederick, inspector, r 905 s 13



FORT SMITH FARM AND ROAD WAGON  
with Regular Bed—26" Deep, 10'-6" Long

Fort Smith Wagon Beds are made of clear, select, straight grained stock. Bottoms are re-inforced over both front and rear Bolsters. Lower sides are re-inforced with Hardwood Cleats. Top sides with wide center cleats. All Fort Smith Gears are heavily ironed and well braced. They are light running and are guaranteed for one year from date of sale to user.

WRITE THE  
**FORT SMITH WAGON CO.**  
**Fort Smith, Arkansas**  
FOR DESCRIPTIVE FOLDER A-10

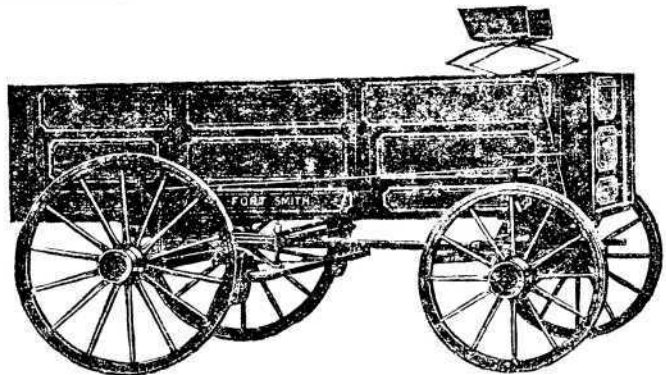
## ALL FORT SMITH WAGONS HAVE

Hickory Axle,  
Oak Bolsters and Tongues,  
Oak Hounds and Reaches,

Hickory Doubletrees,  
Hickory Singletrees and Yokes

Skeins are absolutely sand and dust  
proof.

Sand Boards and Front Bolsters are  
equipped with 10" Malleable Fifth  
wheels. No strain on King Bolts.



FORT SMITH FARM AND ROAD WAGON  
with Special Cotton Bed—30" Deep, 12' Long

Courtesy of Fort Smith Public Library

### Woodworkers:

Albert Kouri, 923 ½ Rogers  
Glen M. Loum, 1701 So. W  
Albert Schenk, 1505 So. S  
Joseph R. Schenk, bds. 1505 So. S  
Frank B. Schoeppie, 1710 So. Z  
Loyd Sumpter, 1615 So. S  
Wm. T. Vaughn, 1722 So. T  
Oscar Williams, 418 So. 12  
Edgar Williamson, 1144 So. M  
J. R. Wilson, 1505 So. S  
Wm. Woodruff, 1708 So. T  
Thomas Badrick, 715 So. 19  
Wm. Dozier, 901 So. 18  
B. A. Hagen, R. F. D. #2  
John M. Caudle, 170 4 So. U  
Edgar L. Brown, 922 So. 16

### Laborers:

Floyd Hill, Arkoma Okla.  
G. M. Hill, Arkoma, Okla.  
J. W. Hodges, Van Buren  
Geo. Jackson (colored) 1609 Midland  
Maultie E. Jackson, 1718 So. P

Wm. Michael, 902 So. J  
G. W. Moore, R. F. D. #3  
E. H. Napire, R. F. D. #3  
Roy Newman, 1704 So. T  
W. L. Newman, R. F. D. #3  
Jesse Higgins, 1705 So. U  
Albert Davis, 1802 No. G  
Leslie Davis, Jenny Lind Rd.  
Earnest O'Neal, 1718 So. W  
Julius Peagues, 1616 No. 12  
Jacob Pemberton, 223 So. 12  
Walter Pope, 1022 So. 12  
Gottfried J. Quoss, 1823 South N  
Newton J. Ray, bds. A.M. Ray  
Geo. Robinson, 1632 No. 8  
Edwin Schenk, bds. 1505 So. S  
John Shoop, near Wagon Factory  
C. M. Short, R. F. D. #3  
Claude F. Sisemore, 1815 So. L  
Jack A. Tash, 812 Towson  
Robt. B. Vaughn, 1729 So. P  
Frank M. Walcott, 1117 So. E  
O. L. Weaver, 1100 So. 21

A. L. Barnes, rms 420 ½ Towson  
Orley C. Bennett, 801 So. 17  
B. Bunch, Arkoma, Okla.  
Ze Bunch, 1800 So. 11  
Thos C. Clark, 2412 No. J  
Wm. H. Conner, 1022 So. 13  
Chas. B. Daniel, 1609 So. Q  
Joseph Danner, 804 No. 12  
James Yeagan (c) bds, Mary Yeagan  
Burl Johnson, R. F. D. #1  
C. L. Johnson, R. F. D. #1  
Joseph W. P. Johnson (c) 1318 N. 9  
Elmer McAlister, 916 So. 7  
Albert McGovern, 1023 Greenwood R.  
Alexander Massey (colored) 110 So. H  
Joseph A. Duckworth, 2221 So. L  
James G. Flowers, 1816 So. T  
Nathan O. Forbes, 419 So. 12  
Mo. O. Guthrie (colored), 2221 So. L  
Waddie H. Harrison, 1722 No. 6  
Lum Gibson, 933½ Rogers.  
Wesley J. Donaghe, Wheeler Ave.  
near Wagon Co.



# FORT SMITH ARCHITECTURE

## EAST GARRISON AVENUE

Text and Photographs  
by John Vincent Robinson

Sixth Street is and has been for many years, the natural boundary between east and west on Fort Smith's historic Garrison Avenue. In Vol. 1 #2 of THE JOURNAL, we looked at architecture along the western half of the Avenue. Now we shall look at the eastern half of the Avenue on a block by block basis.

Located on the south side, the six-hundred block is dominated at 602 Garrison by First National Bank's 1912 building of white glazed brick in Classic Baroque Revival style.



Westend South Side 600 Block Garrison

Next door, with a parking lot and Court Street in between, is the Donoho Building, 612 Garrison, built in the 1930's elegantly fashionable style we now call Art Deco. Though painted plain white with black window frames and doors, it is a very handsome small building. It would be exceptional, if repainted in colors that were popular at the time. The four buildings between Donoho's and Tilles were demolished, beginning in June of this year, for a State office building to be erected.



South Side 600 Block Garrison

On the northside of the 600 Block, four more buildings have been demolished this summer.



Westend North Side 600 Block Garrison

Adjacent to the alleyway, in the middle of the 600 block northside, is the present Chamber of Commerce, 613 Garrison, located in what was originally one of the most fanciful small brick buildings on the Avenue. Now hidden by an aluminum "slipover" it was the original American National Bank building, 3 stories tall and it looked like a miniature castle. Built with red brick and trimmed with rusticated limestone, it sported a circular tower on its corner capped by a conical-shaped roof with an ornate finial.



Eastend North Side 600 Block Garrison

Merchant's National Bank Building, built in 1914 on the northside at the corner of 7th and Garrison, is imposing. However, during the late 1950's, it received remodeling on the ground and second floor and thereby lost some of its most grandiose architectural detailing. Of Classic Revival style, in light brown brick, it is now called the Stephens Building.

The 700 block of Garrison contains only three buildings of architectural note as they now exist and all are on the southside. They are the Friedman-Wegman Building, 706-708 Garrison and the two buildings, 720-722 Garrison that housed the Boston Store and more recently the Fort Smith city office. That building is presently hidden behind an aluminum "slipcover".



South Side 700 Block Garrison

The Friedman-Wegman Building is one of the best Victorian storefronts on the Avenue, with its very elaborate galvanized iron cornice and finials at the roof line. The third floor facade is intact. The second floor is partially covered with a blue tile facade, and ground floor is drastically remodeled.



South Side 700 Block Garrison

The two buildings hidden behind the old Boston Store aluminum slipcover, are the original Sparks Drug Store and the Anhauser-Busch Beer Depot.



Anhauser-Bush Beer Depot, Date Unknown.

Picture Courtesy Fadjo Cravens

The original brick facades are basically intact behind this slipcover and the Anhauser-Busch Beer Depot is especially note-worthy. It has one of the most ornate corbeled red-pressed brick facades of any building on the Avenue. In fact, of all the buildings surviving on the east end of the Avenue, the Friedman-Wegman building and the Anheuser-Busch Building have the most ornate faces and therefore both are especially worthy of restoration.



North Side 700 Block Garrison

The north side of the 700 block, unfortunately, has no surviving Victorian facades, although 707, 709 and 711 Garrison are original Victorian buildings that have been remodeled with all ornamental trim removed completely from them. Starting with the 800 block, we can again see Garrison Avenue resembling its turn-of-the-century appearance, even though it has been altered with paint, stucco and other minor disfigurements.



Western North Side 800 Block Garrison

The north side of the 800 block has some buildings built before 1900, particularly Paul's Pawn Shop, 801 Garrison and the next store front, King's Clothiers, 803 Garrison. Both have surviving Victorian galvanized iron cornices and cast iron window architraves and lintels. Gaddis Furniture Store, 809 Garrison, on the corner of the alley in the middle of the block, is a turn-of-the-century facade with brick corbeling at the roof line. All of these buildings have had their ground floor show windows remodeled in later years, but the upper portions are original, except for painting.





**Eastend North Side 800 Block Garrison**

From the alley on the corner of 9th Street, the first three storefronts, 813-817 Garrison have had the Victorian detailing removed, but are original buildings. 819 Garrison, Davis Furniture Annex, is a charming two story building complete with its Victorian detailing and on the corner of 9th is a three storied Victorian building which is also Davis Furniture, 821-823 Garrison. All of these buildings are painted white presently, but they were not originally.



**South Side 800 Block Garrison**

On the south side of the 800 block, at 812 Garrison, is the old Kress Building, now Fort Smith Office Supply, built in the late 20's or 30's and an excellent example of Art Deco. Adjacent to that is the Vogue Dress Shop, 814 Garrison, and beyond at 816-818 are two buildings, each having their original storefronts. The dress shop, fortunately, has not been painted but the lower floors were remodeled in later years. The Arcade Men's Store's two buildings, 820-822 Garrison, are early 1900's buildings with windows on the second floor covered over, but otherwise original except for paint. The ground floors have of course been remodeled.



**Westend North Side 900 Block Garrison**

The 900 block is close to its turn-of-the-century structural appearance except for 911 Garrison. On the north side, on the corner at 901 Garrison, is one very significant orange-brown brick two storied building with cut stone window lintels and sills.



**Westend North Side 900 Block Garrison**

Starting at the alleyway in the middle of that block, we have one of the most attractive half-blocks on the eastern end of the Avenue. From 913 to 925 Garrison are four buildings housing six store fronts that are significant. The middle building still has an unpainted brick second story with cut-stone detailing. The Malco Theatre Building 921-925 Garrison, originally The New Theatre, has a handsome white brick facade which originally did not include the present theatre marquee.

Turning the corner off Garrison along 10th Street north and facing the Texas Triangle Park, we see an entire block-long facade comprising several buildings with the 1911 Sparks facade in the center.

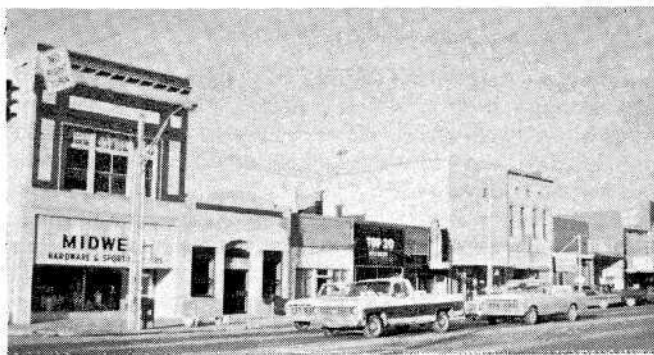


**West Side North 10th Garrison to North A**

Adjacent to it are Victorian storefronts with cast iron lintels and sills. One of these, Jack's Shoe Repair Shop, 13 N. 10th, still has its original wood storefront, probably the oldest first floor commercial storefront in downtown Fort Smith. This block-long facade is being considered for restoration and rehabilitation.



**Close Up View - West Side North 10th**



South Side 900 Block Garrison

On the south side of the 900 block are a group of buildings that include several original turn-of-the-century store fronts. Narisi's, now Geno's Buffeteria, 912 Garrison, is a surviving example. The adjacent building at 914 Garrison is probably still sporting part of its original Victorian windows, although it is covered over with an aluminum "slip-cover". At 922 Garrison is a single story building with a most attractive facade in the Art Deco style. It has recently been restored by the Harward Barry Agency. The two storied building at 924 Garrison, Midwest Hardware and Sporting Goods is also an attractive turn-of-the-century building. The upper story has never been painted and the natural brick and cut-stone trim is still evident.

The 1000 block on the south side of Garrison Avenue, is again a whole block facade, except for the building torn down at 1016 Garrison.



South Side 1000 Block Garrison

This pre-turn-of-the-century facade turns the corner at an angle when it reaches the intersection of Towson and continues back to the alleyway behind. With rehabilitation and particularly color restoration to show off original brick detailing, this could be one of the most attractive block-long commercial facades on the Avenue.



South Side 1100 Block Garrison

The 1100 Block of Garrison boasts the Friedman-Mincer Building at the south corner of Garrison and Towson and is the third building on the Avenue with an original white glazed brick facade. If you look carefully, you will see just adjacent to Electro Antiques a handsome ground floor entrance that is original. The remainder of the ground floor areas have been remodeled, but the second and third stories are original in appearance. Some windows are original, others have aluminum sash, but none of these disfigures the original appearance. The remainder of the 1100 block on the south side is comprised of brick buildings with small amounts of detailing. Because of the Friedman-Mincer Building, the entire block-long facade is significant. With minor rehabilitation and historical colors returned to the buildings, incorrectly painted white, the original white glazed brick facade of the Friedman Mincer Building, would be emphasized.

On the north side of the 1100 block are buildings built after the turn-of-the-century and plain by comparison to neighbors across the street and up the Avenue.

The 1200 block on the south side of the Avenue is comprised of simple brick buildings of post 1900 vintage. All of these buildings have been drastically remodeled.

On the north side of the 1200 block from the corner of 12th to the alleyway is a group of single story buildings of simple design. But beginning at the alley to the corner of 13th is the grand and elegant Goldman Hotel.



Eastend North Side 1200 Block Garrison, Goldman Hotel

Its ground floor shops and commercial spaces have been remodeled and painted with an aluminum canopy "tacked-on". Many people do not realize that the original entrance facade faces 13th street and that the Garrison Avenue "front" is in fact the side of the building. This handsome facade is divided regularly by groups of large and small windows with cut-stone trim and a handsome cornice above. It was built in the early part of this century and was THE hotel in this part of the state for many years. During the Goldman's hey day it was the place for high school proms and debutante balls.

Directly across the street from the Goldman is a vacant lot on which the City National Bank will be constructing a new facility probably in the 18th century Colonial Style of their main building at 1222 Rogers Avenue.





The grand finale of Garrison Avenue is of course, the Immaculate Conception Church that stands at the head of the Avenue. This magnificent building was begun in 1898. It is red brick Gothic Revival style having twin towers with cut-stone detailing and magnificent stained glass windows. It is an appropriate building to head a grand thoroughfare. And Garrison Avenue is the only historic grand thoroughfare in the State of Arkansas.

## THE H. C. HOFFMAN SADDLERY

by N. J. Kelly

**THE H. C. HOFFMAN SADDLERY, 1888**, was located at 620 Garrison Avenue, which is part of the site for the new State building which is under construction. A model horse is in left window and was used for displaying handmade saddles or bridles. In the right doorway window is a sign promoting Apex Axel Grease. Bills featuring coming attractions at the Opera House almost fill the window on the right. These bills were posted by a Mr. Boas, a nephew of H. C. Hoffman, and a pianist at the Opera House.

Top bows for covered wagons are leaning against window on left. A replacement wagon wheel is in front of the window on the right. The individuals in the picture are, left to right, Oswald Ellig, Mike Finnegan, H. C. Hoffman and a leather salesman.

**LOCATIONS OF HOFFMAN SADDLERY**, taken from Fort Smith City Directories:

1894-95 - Henry C. Hoffman Harness and Saddlery, 620 Garrison Ave., res. 503 No. 9

1897, H. C. Hoffman Saddlery and Harness, 804 Garrison Ave., res. 503 No. 9

1898, Henry C. Hoffman Harness, 804 Garrison, res. 503 No. 9

1900, Henry C. Hoffman Saddler, 804 Garrison, res. 503 No. 9

1907, Henry C. Hoffman Harness Mfr., 1008 Garrison Ave., res. 503 No. 9

1910 through 1914 same as 1907.

1918, Henry C. Hoffman Harness, 15 No. 16, res. 723 No. 14

1919-1920, Henry C. Hoffman, treas. Peoples Bldg. & Loan Co., res. 723 No. 14



Picture courtesy of N. J. Kelly

# ORAL HISTORY

Missy Cole Carroll

## HENRY CHARLES AND COLENE WILLIS GODT

Two interviews were conducted with Henry Charles Godt and his wife, Colene Willis Godt, of 709 South 23rd Street, Fort Smith, Ark. Henry Godt is a retired pharmacist who practiced his profession for fifty-six years, and Colene worked along with her husband for a period of thirty years. These interviews covered genealogical, autobiographical, and topical information. The topical format includes points of interest in Fort Smith as well as the progress of pharmacy and how drugs were made. The interview on drugs was done with the aid of Roy Thomas.

Henry Godt was born November 9, 1888, at 2101 No. J, in Fort Smith. He was the second son of August Godt and Minnie (Hoffman) Godt. Their children were: Minnie (half-sister and cousin), Florenz, Henry, Bill, Lena, and Connie.

Minnie Hoffman was the daughter of C. H. A. Hoffman. He was born in Germany about 1816 and died at the age of 75 in 1891. (No information regarding his wife.) His children were: Minnie, Sophie, William, Henry, August, and Charles.

Mr. Godt: "I believe that C. H. A. Hoffman came to America first with Sophie and one of his sons. Minnie followed later with her three remaining brothers. They came by sailboat and out of fifteen passengers, she was the only female on the boat. She was quite a beautiful girl and the captain of the boat fell in love with her. The Hoffmans settled in the 500 block on Texas Road." (Towson Avenue)

Minnie Hoffman was born in 1851 and died at the age of 87 in 1938. Minnie married Casper Henry Godt, who was born in 1844 and was killed in a hunting accident at the age of 29 in 1873. They had one daughter, Minnie Godt.

Casper Godt and his brother, August Godt, were born in Germany. When August came to America, he went out west and lived, more or less as backwoodsman. Several years after his brother's death, August came to Fort Smith to visit his widowed sister-in-law and remained to marry her.

August Godt set up business with a Mr. Koenke as sand contractors. Mr. Godt: "They had four barges. They used wheelbarrows and shovels and they shoveled the sand from the sand bank and put it on one of those barges and then they would bring it over here and load the sand from the barge into wagons. The sand was mixed with lime to make cement to hold bricks together. He helped to construct some of the old time stores on Garrison Avenue, as well as the Opera House, Court House, and the Post Office."

Mrs. Carroll: "How did he get his contracts?"

Mr. Godt: "They didn't have any phones in those days. His wife's brother, Henry Hoffman, was in the saddle and harness business. It was between Eighth and Ninth Streets on Garrison where the old Hunt's Store is. When August would get an order for sand, Henry would hang out a horse collar and then August would stop by and get the order from Henry." Mr. Godt: "I used to walk every morning to Kelly's Meat Market. It was on Garrison by Texas

Road. It's now a vacant lot beside Johnson-Sayers Photo Supply. I used to cut through a cemetery between north 16th and north 18th as far back as north I. They took up the graves to make residential lots. There were a lot of sassafras trees in there so I took the roots and washed them and put them in little packages and sold them for ten cents."

Mr. Godt: "I remember the Wagon Yard and how they would come here in covered wagons and stay all night. When I was a boy, Towson Avenue was a tough street. My mother's youngest brother said, 'Towson Avenue is going to be one of the head streets one day', and sure enough it was."



Henry and Colene Godt

Picture taken during first year of marriage, in 1919 on the porch steps at 101 n. 15th, across the street from the old St. Edwards Hospital. There is now a parking lot there.



Colene Willis Godt was born August 25, 1893 in Carrollton, Missouri, the second daughter of William Abbingtion Willis and Elizabeth Sullivan McWhorter Willis.

William Abbingtion Willis was in the furniture business in Carrollton, Mo. and moved to Shawnee, Oklahoma where he was County Coroner. Due to ill health of his wife, he moved his family to Fort Smith around 1900 and worked with Eads Furniture Company until he put in his own business, W. A. Willis Furniture Store, between 10th and 11th streets on Garrison Avenue.

Colene studied piano for several years and graduated from the Bollinger Conservatory in Fort Smith. She then taught piano for ten years.

Henry and Colene were married October 2, 1919 and have one son, Henry Charles Godt, Jr.

Henry Godt was in the pharmacy business with his two brothers Florenz and Bill at 723 Garrison from 1919 until 1965. It was called Godt Brothers Drugstore and their motto was "Three Brothers with One Thought, Service." The store was merged with Palace Drug in 1965 and moved to 611 Garrison.

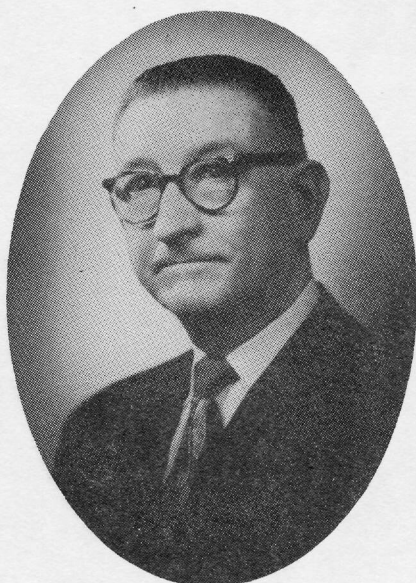
Henry Godt also tells about the hotels, drugstores, the 1898 tornado, the parks, and his growing up in Fort Smith. A copy of the transcript is available at the Fort Smith Public Library, Genealogy Room.



Henry Charles Godt  
age 29



Colene Willis Godt  
age 17



Henry Charles Godt  
circa 1940



Colene Willis Godt  
circa 1940

# NEW THEATRE

N. J. Kelly — Personal Recollections



10th & Garrison 1920's

Picture courtesy of Cap Lick



10th & Garrison 1978

Picture courtesy of John V. Robinson

The NEW THEATRE, located on the east half of the north side of the 900 block on Garrison Avenue, was completed in 1911. The theatre was erected by the Sparks Estate. It had a 50' x 150' parkway entrance at 923 Garrison Avenue, and a carriage entrance at #9 North 10th Street. (Presently MALCO). The building of the theatre was possibly prompted by a need for a center of entertainment, because, between 1900 and 1910 the population of Fort Smith doubled, from 11,587 to 23,975.

The NEW THEATRE was the showplace of Fort Smith, with road show, stock company shows, vaudeville, concerts and silent film motion pictures. Music from the orchestra pit, with local musicians performing, often provided the musical accompaniment as required for the show. Music during the silent film showings was really something to remember. It was provided by a combination piano, organ, and band instrument console which was skillfully and masterfully played by the lady musician.

Several years after the completion of the NEW THEATRE a building was erected at 923 Garrison Avenue. The construction of this building was of glazed white brick. The arched entrance way from Garrison Avenue to the lobby of the theatre was named Peacock Alley. The floor of this entrance was of beautifully patterned tile. The arched ceiling and side columns of Peacock Alley were beautifully decorated.

The southeast corner of this new building was occupied by an ice cream parlor named CRYSTAL CORNER. A large crystal ball set on an ornamental pedestal occupied the southeast corner of the window.

CRYSTAL CORNER was the mecca for theatre goers during intermissions and after the show. Tickets for reserved seats and logues were also purchased at the CRYSTAL CORNER. Burt Stewart's Hair Cutting Parlour, with manicurists, was in the area north of Crystal Corner. McCann Photo occupied the area west of Peacock Alley.



**Special Attraction.....New Theatre**  
(FAIR WEEK)

**Belcher & Wright**  
**Stock Company**

Presenting a Repertoire of  
**High Class Comedies and Dramas**

A Clever Cast of Popular Favorites supporting  
**THE CLEVER EMOTIONAL ACTRESS**

**Cecille Elliott**

**Ladies Free** One Lady Admitted Free with each paid reserved seat ticket on the Opening Night





# FORT SMITH 1878

Prepared for printing by Carolyn Pollan

Articles Taken From The  
Fort Smith Weekly New Era-July Through Dec. 1878

*We are continuing the articles from Valentine Dell's Fort Smith Weekly New Era of 1878. Fort Smith was booming with much new construction on Garrison Avenue. Judge Parker's Court was a focal point of the community with much goings and comings of marshals and prisoners into the Indian Territory. It is quite evident, though, that Mr. Dell and evidently many subscribers had good senses of humor.*



July 3, 1878

Very interesting were the closing exercises at St. Anne's Academy on Monday night. The spacious schoolroom was literally crowded with spectators, and the manner in which the pupils acquitted themselves in their various parts did great credit to themselves as well as to their instructors. Between 10 and 11 o'clock the exercises closed and the audience dispersed, all expressing themselves as highly pleased with the evenings entertainment.

— • —

We'll bet a nicker that every female reader of this paper turns it upside down to see that this paragraph contains.

— • —

The factory, which is being put in operation by Mr. Fred Meier, in company with some parties from St. Louis, will ere long be in running order in the old Sparks store house near the river. Three car loads of machinery have already arrived and two of the firm accompanied by four of their employees with their families, reached here last week. We wish the company every success in this enterprise.

— • —

Mr. W. J. Johnston, after an absence of some months in Colorado and other distant points, arrived again at Old Fort Smith on Saturday. He reports the health of ex-Mayor Sandels much improved, and says Mont will return to Fort Smith next month. John Sutton, Chunk Weaver, and Scaboldt are also coming home. We are glad that Willie did not find sufficient attraction to induce him to give up the home of his early youth.

— • —

Any person knowing the whereabouts of the children of Gen. Earl Van Dorn will do an act of kindness by communicating with Gen. Joseph Wheeler, at Courtland, Lawrence County, Ala. It may be the means of greatly benefitting the children.

— • —

## TROUBLE IN THE TERRITORY

A news special from Ft. Sill, Indian Territory, says: Deputy U. S. Marshal Mershon of Fort Smith came here after two Indians who were confined, with a number of others, on an Indian farm three miles from here. The Indians, learning of his object, sang a war song and attacked the Marshal and posse with pistols and bowie knives. Quite a lively fight ensued, during which two of the Indians were killed. It is feared the affair may cause the Comanches to go on the war-path.

— • —

July 10, 1878

Dr. Dunlap has moved his office to the room next to Gardner's stables.

— • —

Capt. Charles Morton, the boss cowman of the Choctaw Nation, is spending a day or two in the city.

— • —

Saturday was certainly a lively day — large numbers of U. S. Court attendants, crowds of country people, wagons loaded with fruit, hay, wood, chickens, butter, eggs, vegetables, etc., being mixed indiscriminately through the streets tended to make things look lively and business brisk.

— • —

J. G. Nance, with his Great Western Well Augur, has successfully completed his contract for boring a well in front of P. R. Davis' store in Commercial Row. The well is 32 feet in depth, 3½ feet in diameter, and is walled with brick. It was constructed by the merchants of Commercial Row for the benefit of the public generally, and will certainly be of great convenience to our country friends visiting the city during the summer season.

— • —

The Anniversary of our National Independence was but partially observed in this city, and appeared to affect but few of our businessmen. U. S. Court adjourned, business was suspended at the bank, and the postoffice corps observed it as a holiday. Aside from this there was little to indicate the presence of Independence Day.

Many of our citizens availed themselves of the general invitation and "took in" the grand barbecue at Van Buren, where they enjoyed the hospitality of our neighbors, and spent a pleasant day, while others repaired to the Schuetzen park and put in the day at target-shooting and other sports. A dance was in order at the park after night, which was kept up until near twelve o'clock, and was enjoyed by all who attended. The rain during the day somewhat interfered with the barbecue of our Crawford county friends, and compelled them to adjourn to the court house, where the

refreshments had to be served at considerable inconvenience, there being about 3,000 people present. Outside of this the affair is said to have been a splendid success. Plenty to eat, good music, speeches, etc., being the order of the day.

July 17, 1878

U. S. Deputy Marshal C. C. Ayers came in on Friday last with three prisoners. Their names appear upon the prison rolls as Patrick Nail, E.T.A.C. Young and Henry Roberts, all charged with larceny in the Indian Territory. Nail is an old acquaintance of Jailor Burns, this being the eighteenth time he has registered at his hotel.

Work to be Resumed on the Jetties. — Capt. W. D. Wellman, U. S. Engineers, arrived from St. Louis on Thursday last, and is preparing to resume work on the jetties in the Arkansas river near this city, an appropriation having been made by Congress for the improvement of Arkansas river. It is to be hoped the appropriation will be sufficient to accomplish the desired object this time.

#### CUT WITH A POCKET KNIFE

On last Thursday evening, near Bradbury's saloon, Capt. Thos. H. Scott and Mr. — Mardt indulged in an altercation, originating from a game of "Pedro," which terminated by Scott stabbing Mardt in the abdomen with a pocket knife, inflicting a very severe though not dangerous wound. Mardt was immediately conveyed to his residence and attended by Dr. Bailey, while Scott made himself scarce for a time, to await the result of Mardt's wounds, but came in on Sunday and gave himself up, after learning, we suppose, that they were not serious. He was released on his own recognisance, and his examination set for Tuesday. As we go to press the trial is progressing before Judge Grey.

Too much whisky, we learn, was the cause of the trouble.

July 24, 1878

The Methodist Church has been newly roofed and otherwise repaired.

Keep cool — by going to Sam Bollinger's and buying a stock of those palm leaf fans - 50 cts. per dozen.

Mr. D. Botto has opened a neat little provision store on the corner of Hancock and Hickory streets, near Hammett's Foundry, which is very convenient to families living in that neighborhood.

Jac. Papperheimer's new brick on the Avenue is now complete and presents a very neat appearance. The signs on the front, painted by Williams, does much toward beautifying that portion of the building.

Messrs. Truschel & Hoffman have opened a first class family grocery store in the little frame on the Avenue lately put up by M. Picci near Joe. Sherman's wagon shop. Encourage the boys by giving them a share of your patronage.

#### NOTICE

There will be regular services at the First Baptist Church in this place, on next Sabbath, also at the same time and place there will be a regular business meeting of the church, for the transaction of all business that may come before it. Hence all Baptists are respectfully invited to attend and give their aid and encouragement to the good work, also a general invitation is extended to all.

Elder, Henry Harvey, Pastor

August 14, 1878

Coal is being brought into the city in considerable quantities. There is no better time to lay in a supply of coal than when roads are good.

Our citizens should see to it that their premises are thoroughly cleansed and disinfectants copiously used. The near approach of yellow fever and other dangerous diseases demands this.

Mr. W. J. Patrick has rented the new stone store building of Gen. Czarnkiow, opposite Commercial Row, and opened a first-class boot and shoe store. Mr. Patrick is a stranger in our midst but has the appearance of a thorough business man. Success to him.

Mr. D. A. McKibben has been ordered by the City Counsel to remove the frame store building erected some time ago, by him, on the corner of the alley north of the Commercial Row. Mr. McKibben has applied for an injunction to restrain the city from removing his building.

Hay, on our streets, is selling at \$6 per ton. The demand for hay is good and therefore a ready sale for this staple is generally found without trouble.

August 21, 1878

The election held last Saturday for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not an additional five mills tax for school purposes should be levied in this district resulted as follows: 79 for school tax — 3 against.

There is now no longer a necessity for our citizens to send to foreign cities for their furniture, as we have a factory in our midst, conducted by citizens of Fort Smith, which can supply every want. The Arkansas Furniture Factory is now under full headway, and furniture is being manufactured at St. Louis prices. Every variety and quality can be had, and home interest requires us to encourage home-enterprise.

We learn from Postmaster Clendening that service on the mail route between Greenwood and Waldron will be restored to six trips per week, commencing Sept. 1st, instead of only three as it has been running since July 1st. This change gives a daily mail (Sundays excepted) between Fort Smith and Waldron, leaving Fort Smith at 5 a.m. and arriving at Waldron at 8 p.m. same day, the time being now fifteen hours instead of 26, as it was prior to July 1st.



August 28, 1878

Coal is being brought in and sold at from 15 to 18 cents per bushel, according to quality. Considerable of it is being housed, which reminds us that cold weather is being looked for.

Capt. Phil McKusker, general Indian Interpreter, of Fort Sill, is in the city. He is here looking to the interests of some of his Comanche friends.

"Jimmy" in Luck. — "Jimmy" Greenough, clerk on the steamer Helena, at Bismarck, Dakota, and a great grandson of Sir James Greenough, of England, has received a letter from his mother, in Pittsburg, Pa., saying that she had come into the possession, for him, of \$2,500,000.00 from Sir James estate. "Jimmy" says he will serve out his season on the Upper Missouri.

Jimmy is well known here too, as the clever clerk on some Kountz steamers that often ran up the Arkansas as far as this city.

Mayor Brizzolara has established a quarantine at the ferry landing opposite Van Buren. Bos Topping is the officer in charge.

The rain of Sunday was indeed a Godsend. The dust had accumulated to such a depth that there was imminent danger of small animals being lost in its fathomless depths and the anxious owners put to considerable expense, not to say inconvenience, to hunt them out; and that too when all the yellow fever reports are to be read about and predictions made. But that danger is now past.

Sept. 4, 1878

#### MARRIED

At Christ Church, Little Rock, Ark., on Thursday, Aug. 29th 1878, by the Right Rev. W. H. Pierce, D. D., L. L. D., assisted by the Rev. T. C. Tupper, Rector, Rev. Frank Gilbert, D. D., Rector of St. John's Church, Fort Smith, Ark., and Miss Lizzie C. Darden of Little Rock. Rev. Mr. Gilbert and wife arrived from Little Rock on Friday. We wish them a long and happy life.

Wm. Breen's new store is now finished and he is removing his largely increased stock of goods into it.

Mr. J. D. Sutton and Mr. Seeboldt arrived on Sunday evening from Colorado, having made the trip in a skiff down the Arkansas river. Both are in excellent trim.

On Sunday afternoon quite a large crowd was entertained on the reserve by the horsemanship of a son of the Lone Star State, who proposed to ride a vicious, unbroken horse. The horse objected to the proceedings and did some "tall bucking," but all to no purpose. Texas "froze" to him and his horsemanship soon gave up.

Deputy U. S. Marshal J. H. Mershon came in on Wednesday last from Fort Sill with five prisoners — four charged with larceny and one for violation of Int. Rev. Law.

One of the prisoners, Frank Taylor, is well known

here, having served as deputy marshal, posse, etc., several years since. He is charged with playing U. S. Marshal, and robbing a man after first arresting him.

#### "Irrepressible Jim."

The notorious Jim Hodges, who never fails to respond to a call for a speech, whether in a Republican or Democratic meeting, but who has "flopped" so often that he has no influence whatever with men of his own color, made an exhibition of himself on Saturday night last, which was undoubtedly amusing to those who witnessed Jim's antics for the first time.

As a large number of our citizens were congregated in front of the Post Office waiting for the mail to be distributed, Jim mounted a wagon and commenced a political harangue, advocating the claims of certain candidates, denouncing others — mixing a little Democracy with the Greenback question and making himself generally ridiculous, when a number of colored men and boys surrounded the wagon and started with it up the avenue. Jim succeeded in stopping it several times, but the yelling of the crowd prevented him finishing his talk, and he finally decamped, undoubtedly disgusted with the crowd, but not more than the crowd with him.

Although suppressed for the time being, Jim, will come to the front whenever an opportunity offers.

Sept. 11, 1878

#### SCHOOL CENSUS

Mr. Frank Eberle, who have been engaged in taking the school census for the Fort Smith district, kindly furnished us with a list of the children who are of the age fitting them for attendance at the public schools, i.e., between the ages of 5 and 21 years:

##### WHITE

Male ..... 279  
Female ..... 272

##### COLORED

Male ..... 141  
Female ..... 118

Total ..... 810

Deaf and dumb, two white and one colored.

#### RAILROAD MEETINGS

Quite a large number of our most solid citizens assembled at Adelaide Hall on Saturday evening last, the object of the meeting being to consider the propriety of taking active measures to induce the L. R. & F. S. R. Co. to establish a transfer at or near Van Buren and build a depot at this place. W. M. Fishback was called to the chair and Julius Deiser was appointed secretary. Several addresses were delivered, and a committee appointed to solicit subscriptions, composed of F. W. Boas, W. M. Fishback, J. R. Kannady, Frank Parke, and John Dodson. The meeting then adjourned until Saturday.

At the meeting on Saturday the subscription committee made their report, showing about \$5000 in cash and a large quantity of land, lots and labor subscribed. The names of J. H. Reed, Dr. R. D. Seals, Julius Deiser, John Maledon, Lewis Rowlin and John Hare were added to the committee, and the meeting adjourned.

Sept. 18, 1878

Col. Spangler, of Roseville, bought 12 lots on the Fishback place to start a wagon factory.

— • — — —  
**LET'S HAVE THE CARS IN TOWN**  
**HIGHLY IMPORTANT RAILROAD MOVEMENT**  
**Let Fort Smith Wake Up!**

It is well known, that the western end of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad runs about a mile through the Indian Territory to a point on the Arkansas river opposite this city.

The Cherokee authorities have succeeded at last in obtaining an order from the Department of the Interior, compelling the railroad company to cease running into the Territory and take up the track. This the Government was bound to do at the request of the Cherokee authorities.....

The advantages occurring to this town by making the terminus of the road within the city limits instead of, as now, on the north bank of the Arkansas river outside the State limits are threefold, viz:

1. A vast saving of money and time compared with the present tedious mode of transferring freight and passengers across the river.

2. It will hasten the building of a bridge somewhere near town, between Van Buren and this place.

3. It will insure other roads to cross the river and come into town, and make it a railroad centre, whereas, if the road is continued on the north bank of the Arkansas river, Fort Smith would be left out in the cold and another town some distance further west be built up to take its place.....

The R. R. company, after being notified to take up the track west of the State line, prepared to establish a transfer boat near the point where the State line on the northern bank strikes the Arkansas River. This makeshift could at best be only temporary from the very unfavorable location of the points on both sides of the river and a big sandbar between. Our citizens, therefore, propose to induce the R. R. company to make a permanent crossing at Van Buren, four miles distant, and lay down a permanent track between the two places.

— • — — —  
**CAUGHT AT LAST**

**A Long Chase After a Murderer**

Over six years ago, in May, 1872, a colored citizen of the Indian Territory, living near Perryville, Choctaw country, was murdered, the perpetrator of the foul deed being suspected to be one George W. McKenney, who fled the country. But the sleepless eye of justice detected him at last after many years.

Williard and C. C. Ayres, two of the best of the U. S. Deputy Marshals, recently got on the track of the accused and followed it up for an immense distance into the wilderness of southwestern Texas, till they came up with their man near Fort Concho, some 700 miles from here, and after a most tedious and dangerous journey safely lodged the accused in the U. S. Jail here. They also brought two other prisoners charged with larceny.

Sept. 25, 1878

Cotton is now selling at 8½ - 8¾ cts. and is coming in quite freely.

The matrimonial fever seems to be largely on the increase of late, marriage licenses having been issued by County Clerk to ten parties during last week. Cold weather is approaching.

— • — — —  
Mr. John Ayers, son of W. N. Ayers, of hardware fame, left on Monday for Ann Arbor University, Michigan, for the purpose of resuming his studies on mining and engineering, having previously spent two years there.

— • — — —  
Messrs. Bloch & Bloch are opening a crockery and queenware establishment in Gen. C. Czarnikow's new building on the Avenue, opposite Commercial Row, and propose to deal exclusively in that line. This is the first enterprise of the kind ever attempted here, and we trust that the boys will meet with abundant success.

**A GOOD SHOWING**

The City Council, through the Finance Committee, recently purchased Lot No. 10 in Block 23, and the improvements thereon, from Mr. Sam Bollinger. The property is situated on Knox Street, near the corner of Walnut,<sup>1</sup> the price paid for the same being \$800. The building is to be occupied immediately by the city authorities for offices, etc., and enclosed shed is to be built to accommodate the Fire Department apparatus. This will effect a saving to the city of over \$200 annually, now paid for rents.

— • — — —  
**ASSESSMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN UPPER TOWNSHIP**

The following is a statement of the value of personal property in Upper Township according to the late assessment:

	Value
Number Polls .....	805
Horses .....	459 \$15,015
Mules .....	150 6,900
Cattle .....	1322 10,618
Sheep .....	47 47
Hogs .....	1639 2,129
Carriages .....	161 7,381
Watches .....	198 5,178
Pianos .....	56 7,145
Goods and Merchandise .....	123,735
Total amt. of all personal property assessed .	309,556

The following is a statement of the State taxes to be levied the present year, according to a notification received by county clerk McClure from State Auditor Crawford:

General State Tax, 1 mill on the dollar; sinking fund tax, 3½ mills; State school tax, 2 mills.

The County Court, composed of the Judge and Justices of the Peace, will convene at Greenwood and Fort Smith on the first and second Mondays, respectively, of October, for the purpose of levying taxes and making appropriations.

— • — — —  
**A Great Convenience.** — The Bank officials have established telephonic communication between the Bank and the business office of its president, Mr. B. Baer, a distance of about 700 feet. The instrument is one of Holcomb's acoustic telephones, works admirably, and proves a great convenience to all concerned.

<sup>1</sup>. Near 6th and "A"



Oct. 2, 1878

### A BIG THING FOR OUR CITY

There is no doubt now but what we are to have a railroad running through our city, as work has been commenced between this place and Van Buren. The city council have granted a right of way to the railroad company through the center of Ozark street and across Garrison Avenue to the military reservation, provided permission is obtained from the reserve for that purpose. It is understood, we believe that the terminus of the road will remain at Judge Milor's until the matter of location for the depot is permanently decided upon.

A transfer boat has been purchased by Supt. Hartman for the crossing at Van Buren, and is at present under-going thorough repairs on Mound City docks, and will be ready for service in less than two months.

If everything works as is expected the snort of the iron horse will be heard in our midst in less than three months. Let all come up with their subscriptions of money, work, etc. on time, so as not to delay the good work.

— • —

Our city officials took possession of their new hall on Knox street yesterday, and are having the same neatly fixed up. An addition is to be made to the hall for the accommodation of the fire department machinery.

Oct. 16, 1878

Jordan E. Cravens, the Democratic nominee for Congress will deliver an address at this place on Friday evening next. He will address the people of Alma tonight.

— • —

Still Coming In. — Deputy U. S. Marshal J. C. Wilkerson, one of the most energetic officers on the force came in on Friday last bringing ten prisoners, charged with various misdemeanors and crimes committed in the Indian Territory. Wilkerson always keeps his end of the row.

— • —

### The New Paper

By reference to another column it will be seen that we are to have another newspaper in our city, making four in all. It is to make its appearance about the 1st of next month and will be edited and published by John Carnall and C. H. Wheeler, both well known throughout the country.....

— • —

### Capsized

During the prevalence of a high wind on Monday last Capt. Sam. McLoud's ferryboat, while crossing the Cherokee schute, was blown somewhat out of her course, and coming in contact with a snag was capsized in about seven or eight feet of water. She had on board, two four-mule teams and one two-horse team, the wagons being loaded with miscellaneous freight, all of which was saved from any serious damage. Through the energy of Capt. Moore, the boat was raised and ready to make her regular trip at train time in the evening. Damage very slight.

Oct. 23, 1878

The large stone store building of Mr. John Dodson, on the Avenue, is fast approaching completion, and when finished will be a very handsome addition to our flourishing little city.

— • —

One of the most handsome structures which graces the principal thoroughfare of this city will be the Deiser-Theurer block when completed.

— • —

Oct. 30, 1878

Bob French, of Fort Gibson, C. N., well known in this place, is devoting his time, almost exclusively, to the cause of temperance — traveling about the nation lecturing and endeavoring to induce his friends to sign the pledge. That he may meet with abundant success is the wish of his friends hereabouts.

— • —

General Albert Pike, of Washington, D. C., who is spending a short time with his old friends in this section, delivered a very entertaining and instructive lecture, on Saturday evening last, to the members of Belle Point Lodge No. 20, A. F. & A. M. The Lodge room was full and all were well repaid for attending.

Nov. 6, 1878

Mr. Ed. Hunt, city treasurer, has nearly finished a fine two-story brick building as an addition to his present place of business at the 'Last Chance.' He contemplates replacing at an early day the entire front of his store — now frame — by a solid brick block.

— • —

*The New Paper.* — As per previous notice, Vol. 1, No. 1 of Carnall and Wheeler's new paper, the Fort Smith "Elevator," made its appearance on Friday morning last. The "Elevator" is an eight column paper, and 'shows up' well, mechanically and otherwise, and will no doubt become a permanent institution in our city.

— • —

Ex-Governor H. M. Rector, candidate for U. S. Senator, delivered an address at Adelaide Hall on last Saturday evening to a very respectable audience.

Hon. Jesse Turner, one of the best legal minds in the state, and a staunch gentleman withall, has just completed his term on the Supreme Bench of the State as special judge, and has returned to his home at Van Buren. Judge Turner was U. S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas under Fillmore, is an old line Whig, and original Union man.

Our sedate neighbor across the river, Van Buren, has just finished a neat substantial brick fire-proof courthouse, with tower and clock, that strikes and tells the time of day to the country round about. In this, Crawford County is ahead of every other county in the State, and her example deserves imitation.

Nov. 13, 1878

The remains of Maj. Francis M. Page, who was buried in March, 1860 in the Rector family burying ground, were taken up and re-interred in the U. S. Military Cemetery, on Thursday last.

Cotton has reached the lowest figure ever known in this country. All the farmers can get is from 7 - 7¼ cts. for the best. This will not only not pay for the labor of cultivating and picking, to say nothing of the interest on the capital employed, but it actually leaves a cash

deficit. This won't do. Cotton is a snare and delusion. Our farmers must give it the go-by and raise more small grains, grasses, fruit, etc., for which the region is so admirably adapted.

The city council have let the contract for building an addition to the town hall for the use of the fire department, in which to keep their engine and hook and ladder truck. We understand the council will soon take steps to have all flues and fire-places examined, and repaired where it is necessary.

Nov. 27, 1878

Tomorrow has been designated by Chief Thompson, of the Cherokee Nation, as thanksgiving day in that country and is to be generally observed.

#### DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN

On Friday last this community was startled by the announcement of the death of Major Elias Rector, which occurred at 12 o'clock on that day at his home near this city. The Major had been indisposed for several days, but his illness was not thought to be serious. The deceased was one of the oldest citizens of Sebastian County, having been a resident here for nearly sixty years. Many years ago, when Fort Smith was an extreme frontier post, Major Rector held the responsible position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and was widely known throughout the country, especially at the seat of government. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss — three of whom — Mrs. Gen. Cabell, Mrs. Major Thibaut, and Mrs. Wm. Glass — are absent. The funeral took place from his residence on Sunday afternoon and was largely attended.

According to previous notice, at an early hour on Saturday morning, the circus caravan made its appearance in the city, much to the delight of numerous urchins, both white and colored, all ready to lend a helping hand to the circus men, in anticipation of a ticket to the show. The tent was pitched on the reserve, in the rear of the Fishback block, and the first performance began at 2 P.M., and was largely attended, as was also the second one in the evening.\*

December 18, 1878

An Old Land Mark Gone. — Last week the old log cabin on the Avenue, for more than 25 years occupied by Uncle Jere Kannady and his estimable wife, Aunt Sophia, was torn down, the worthy couple having evacuated it to make room for business houses, which are in demand here. The removal of this old structure and its occupants from the Avenue imparts an air or loneliness to that part of town and renders the locality almost unrecognizable.

The extension of the porches on both sides of the Avenue to the width of ten feet makes a vast improvement to the appearance of that thoroughfare.

December 25, 1878

The little folks belonging to the various Sunday Schools of our city enjoyed the pleasure of gathering their Santa Claus presents from the Christmas trees which had been prepared for them in the different churches.

Rev. Lawrence W. Scott has just taken charge of the

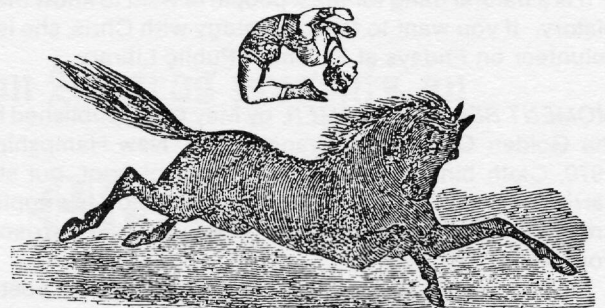
Christian Church in this City. Services in the chapel on Knox Street every Sunday.

At the election for school directors on Saturday last the total number of votes cast was 54. H. Stone and B. F. Atkinson were re-elected. Scarcely any one knew there was to be an election and no interest whatsoever was manifested.

## THE NATION'S BOAST AND PRIDE! GRAND FAMILY FIELD SHOW!

### GENERAL JUBILEE AT FORT SMITH! SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 1878.

## ED. T. BASYE'S



## COSMOPOLITAN CIRCUS

### —AND— EQUESTRIAN EXPOSITION!

### 40 FORTY 40 BRILLIANT STARS!

THE ARENIC HEROES AND HEROINES of Europe and America

6 SIX 6		RENOWNED
CELEBRATED		VOLTIGEURS,
BAREBACK		CONTORTIONISTS,
RIDERS!		Flying Men of the
—O—		Air. &c., &c.
4 FOUR 4		A QUARTETTE OF
		CLOWNS!
Lady Gymnasts!		The whole forming the
		most unique Circus or-
		ganization extant.

Grand free Rope Ascension by MLE. CORA! To the top of the Pole, daily, just before opening the doors.

### TWO EXHIBITIONS DAILY.

Doors open at 1 and 7 P. M. Grand Arenic Entrees at 2 and 8 P. M.

ADMISSION, 50 Cts. - Children under 9 years, 25 Cts.

\* Edmond Thomas Basye is a distant relative of Co-editor Carolyn Pollan. Mrs. Pollan's mother's maiden name was Basye. In the family genealogy, entitled THE BASYE FAMILY IN AMERICA, published in 1950, after 70 years of research, the story of Edmond T. Basye is an interesting one.

Besides being a Marshall in Dallas Co. Texas, he made and lost several fortunes in circuses.



# BOOK TALK

by Amelia Martin

**McKELVEY FAMILY** by Christine Allen, 100 pages, soft bound \$17.50. Only 25 copies available from Chris Allen, 2700 So. Dalla, Ft., Smith Ark. 72901.

Christine Elmore Allen is a native of Sebastian County, and is related to more people than straws on a broom, as four of her direct lines have been in Sebastian County for 106 years. Therefore her interest in genealogy has grown. She is a CGRS (Certified Genealogical Record Searcher), from the National Board of Certification, Washington, D. C. an appointed genealogist for Sebastian County for the DAR in Washington D. C., and for the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City.

Besides the McKelvey book she has published the Nichols Family, and compiled four indexed volumes of Sebastin Co. Cemtery Records, and one volume of Sebastian Co. Families.

Chris and Violet Burton teach Genealogy at Westark Community College, a community service class.

It is a natural thing for most people to want to know their history. If you want to talk genealogy with Chris, she is a volunteer on Fridays at Ft. Smith Public Library.

**MOMENT BEFORE SUMMER**, by May Gray, published by the Golden Quill Press, Frankestown, New Hampshire, 1970, Cloth binding, Price \$4.00. Out of print, but still carried in the Golden Quill Press Catalog, and a few copies are available at China and Glass Company, 406 Garrison, Fort Smith, AR 72901

This book is a 96 page collection of the delightful poetry of May Gray, Arkansas Poet of the Year in 1966 — (for more about the author, see poetry page in this issue of the Journal). The lyric quality, beauty, and style of Mrs. Gray's poetry make it excellent reading. Whether one is a fastidious poetry critic, or reading merely for pleasure and relaxation, all will be charmed by the uplift of her poetry.

## INQUIRIES

**RAMSEY:** Need parents and siblings of Elizabeth Ann Ramsey, b. 8 July 1849, d. 31 January 1929, m. Scott STROUD. Her half-sister, Martha Jane Ramsey, who d. 30 May 1935 m. J. W. Hicks, 8 Oct. 1874. Ramsey family lived Witcherville area. A. B. Martin, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR. 72901.

**WILLIAMSON:** Want parents of William Williamson, b. 1793, N. C. Married Violet——(need maiden name) b. 1802, N. C. Came to Pope Co., Ark. — had son, Wm. W. Williamson. Mrs. L. B. Thomas, 3218 So. Carthage, Ft. Smith, AR. 72901

**McCOY:** Want info on Capt. John McCoy, Fayetteville Reg. CSA; died Ozark, Mo.; senator from Washington Co. before 1863; father's name; brother Joel's family — married who in Tennessee? Forrest Wasson, c/o Ft. Smith Historical Society Journal, 61 So. 8th St., Ft. Smith, AR. 72901

**WILLIAMSON:** Want to correspond with any WILLIAMSON relatives; desc. of John Williamson and wife

**BY JOLLY SON**, by Nona Lou Hailey. Soft cover, price \$3.50 per copy. Available at Hailey's Store, Natural Dam, Arkansas, and at Bob Burns' Home in Van Buren, Arkansas (Crawford County Historical Society).

*By Jolly Son* is a short history of the community customs and traditions of Natural Dam, Arkansas, exactly one hundred years after the first known white man settled at Natural Dam. The book, which takes its name from a favorite expression of J. A. Graham, father of the author, and owner of the only store in Natural Dam in 1919, is 97 pages of memories of the author — memories of homespun humor, practical jokes, superstitions, sayings, etc., that will bring back memories to many readers of the book.

The author, Mrs. Nona Lou (Graham) Hailey, a school teacher, retired after 30 years in the teaching profession, and a certified pilot for many years, now operates a farm and general store at Natural Dam, Arkansas.

Born at Natural Dam, the daughter of James Alexander and Mary Susannah Graham, she is descended from a long line of early settlers in the Natural Dam area. Her paternal great great grandparents, W. T. and Ann Larrimore, came from Illinois, and Mr. Larrimore, an explorer, found the beautiful falls at Natural Dam in 1817. He owned and operated the first grist-mill at Natural Dam. Her paternal great grandparents, Andrew and Elizabeth Morton arrived at Natural Dam in 1828 — Mr. Norton served as representative from Crawford County in the Arkansas legislature in 1835, 1836, 1852, 1854, and 1860. Maternal great grandparents, Robert and Elizabeth Kennedy, came from Nebraska in 1855 to make their home at Natural Dam.

Mrs. Hailey's husband, Rowland Hailey, was a flight instructor for the U. S. Navy during World War II. He came to Natural Dam in 1949, where he operated a general store until his death in 1972.

Sarah Tate Williamson of Shiloh Presby. Church at Russellville, Ark. Have info back to Belfast, Ireland. Mrs. Carl Burton, P. O. Box 3035, Fort Smith, AR 72913

**ELLIS-WATT:** Wish to contact descendants of George Washington ELLIS, b. 16 May 1858, married to Martha Paralee WATT, b. 29 Oct. 1859. Children: Ada, Ellen, Grace, Prudie, Beatrice, Benjamin Harrison, and William Richard. Last known residence, Amarillo, Texas. Mrs. Roy Colvett, 815 E. Academy, Paris, AR 72855.

**REED-LLOYD:** Need parents of Jesse Reed, b. ca 1814, Hardin Co., TN. Died 4 Oct. 1866, Ft. Smith. Came to Ft. Smith with elder brothers, Hamilton and Stephen in 1839. Need parents of his wife, Sarah Elizabeth LLOYD, b. ca 1818, probably in Missouri. Died 2 Jan. 1894, Ft. Smith. Her parents possibly b. in Kentucky. Any other info? Danny Westphal, 531 North 35th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901.

# CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Readers; The editors invite your letters. We appreciate your suggestions and comments. Letters like the following note from Bill P. Morgan of Walnut Ridge, really make our day:

Ms. Pollan:

I have just received my first copy of *THE JOURNAL*, and it is indeed impressive. The format and appearance of the magazine is unequalled by any, I have read, of this nature. The photographs and articles were very interesting and well done.

Again, I am very happy to be a member, and to be receiving your magazine.

Very Sincerely,

Bill P. Morgan  
Asst. Vice President  
First National Bank  
Walnut Ridge, Ark. 72476

## The Arkansas Historical Association

by a vote of the Committee on Awards presents an

## Award of Merit


to

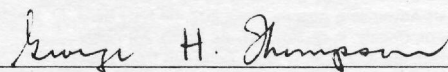
## The Journal

Published by the Fort Smith Historical Society, Incorporated

For an outstanding contribution to local history in the year 1977

Awarded this twenty-eighth day of April, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Eight

  
President

  
Chairman, Awards Committee



# 1978 MEMBERSHIP

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

For membership, send dues with your name and mailing address to:

The Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.

61 South 8th Street

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

## Types of memberships:

Annual .....	\$ 5.00
Annual Contributing .....	10.00
Annual Sustaining .....	25.00 up
Life (Individual) .....	100.00

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 Tennant, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence S., 1523 Hendricks Blvd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Coleman, Billy G., P. O. Box 479, Spiro, OK 74959  
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 Cotton, Ray, 1425 North 52nd St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Crump, Mr. & Mrs. Robert G., 37 Vista Blvd., Ft. Smith, AR 72901

Davidson, James B., 1807 Hendricks, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Devito, Inez, 1114 South Greenwood, Ft. Smith AR 72901  
 Dew, James D., 2714 Kelley Hwy., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Dollar, Clyde D., 705 West 15th St., Fayetteville, AR 72701  
 Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B., 801 North Albert Pike, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Ferguson, Jackson, P. O. Box 613, Blacksburg, VA 24060  
 Foster, Mr. & Mrs. Robert I., 8205 Mark Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Geren, Mr. & Mrs. Dick, 4601 Grand Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Gilstrap, Vernon, 3306 North S St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Gray, Dr., C. K., 400 South 16th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Griggs, Dr. & Mrs. W. L. III, 2701 S. Dallas Ct., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Heathcock, Mrs. Leota, Rt. 1, Box 141A, Ft. Smith, AR 72915  
 Hoge, Dr. & Mrs. Marlin, 5501 S. Cliff Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Hughes, Dr. & Mrs. R. P. Jr., 6717 Free Ferry, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Irvin, Jessie R., 2309 So "O" St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Irwin, Dr. & Mrs. Peter J., 2819 Enid, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. S. W., Jr., 6111 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Johnson, Robert E., 3222 south 39th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Johnston, Mr. & Mrs. Ben B., 3000 Blackburn, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Kelley, Mr. & Mrs. N. J. Sr., 2029 South M St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Kelsey, Dr. & Mrs. J. F., 3220 South Cliff Drive, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Kistler, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne, 322 South 14th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Klopfenstein, Keith (Dr.), 6923 Hestand Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Krone, Gladys L., 2014 South M St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Lakin, Sid, 2016 Warwick Place, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Langdon, P. Allan, P. O. Box 1255, Ft. Smith, AR 72902  
 Lee, Robin B. DDS, 613 Lexington, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Luce, JOHN B., 504 North 39th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 McCartney, Sam, 500 So. 19th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 McGraw, Charles K., 4000 Park Ave. #2, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Meek, Mrs. Robert S., 3009 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Metheny, Arlie, 3816 North 43rd #49, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Mickel, Mrs. Patrick J., 1125 N. 56th Terrace, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Miller, Phil & Amy, 4411 South R Circle, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Morrison, Susan, Rt. 2, Siloam Springs, AR 72761  
 Nash, Mrs. William L., 2105 South N St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 O'Neal, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn A., 4420 Wynnewood Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Patton, Mr. & Mrs. J. Fred, 1217 South 37th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Peer, Mr. & Mrs. Donald C., 4600 South S St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Platt, Mr. Hugh T., sr., 4602, South V St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Riddle, Mr. & Mrs. Joe, 820 South 25th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Robbins, Carle, Jr., 2609 S. Houston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Rutledge, Mr. & Mrs. James N., 321 May Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Schirmer, Roy E. MD, 54 Haven Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Schriver & Son Gen. Contractors, 1317 Dodson Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Shoulders, Mr. & Mrs. Warren, 1510 Hendricks, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Sipe, Mrs. Paul, 1409 South 36th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Sisk, Mrs. E. Charles, 1710 N. 45th Terrace Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
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 L. B. Thomas Pharmacy, 324 N. Greenwood, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Vandermillion, Mrs. Zeda, Rt. 2, Box 224, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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 Warren, Elizabeth M., 4604 Windor Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
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 Wilder, Franklin, #3 Riverlyn Terrace, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

Williams, Dr. John C., 415 South 16th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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 Wray, Thelma, 819 North 41st St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Yary, Mrs. Clearice E., 13026E Hart Place, Cerritos, CA 90701

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 Ammons, Mrs. Mabel, Rt. 1, Box 7, Roland, OK 74948  
 Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen, 3825 High St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Andrews, Mr. & Mrs. John, Jr., 915 South 25th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Appleyard, Mrs. H. M., 5115 North T St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Arkansas History Commission, 300 West Marham, Little Rock, AR 72201  
 Arkansas Library Commission, 506½ Center St., Little Rock, AR 72201  
 Ark. River Valley Regional Library, 501 North Front, Dardanelle, AR 72834  
 Armstrong, Mrs. Henry C., 3306 Free Ferry, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Arnold, Mrs. W. D., 202 May Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Avery, Patsy J., Rt. 1, Box 123, Cartersville, OK 74934  
 Baird, Mrs. Silas J., 4420 Park Ave, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Baldwin, Roger, 522 North 17th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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 Barber, Mr. & Mrs. J. M., 6318 Free Ferry, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Barger, Eugene, E. 4715 Mussett Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Barker, Dr. & Mrs. Robert, 2124 Warwick Place, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Barksdale, Mrs. W. D., 2515 South N St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Barnett, Herbert G., 1008 South 25th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Barr, Mrs. Harry G., 1415 N. Waldron Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Barron, Mrs. Wm. P., Meadow Place, Harrison, AR 72601  
 Barry, Mrs. Birnie, 1117 South 22nd St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Barry, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie, P. O. Box 1298, Ft. Smith, AR 72902  
 Barton Library, E. 5th & N. Jefferson, El Dorado, AR 71730  
 Beard School Media Center, 1600 Cavanaugh Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Bell, Maxine, 3806 Victory Circle, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Berry, Mrs. A. Y., Jr., 4 Berry Hill, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Billingsley, D. C., 3100 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Black, Ms. Thelma, 2801 S. Houston, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Blanpied, Mrs. Lottie, 645 McCormick, Shreveport, LA 71104  
 Bledsoe, Wayne, 3624 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Blythe, Gary F., P. O. Box 554, Waldron, AR 72958  
 Blythe, Hazel, 8422 Hwy. 271 S. #1, Ft. Smith, AR  
 Bohnenkamper, Lee C., 1900 South 72nd St., Ft. Smith, AR  
 Boozman, Thelma P., 4215 Park Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Bounds, Mrs. Mary Leila, 3726 Hendricks Circle, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Bower, Mrs. William, 1609 South H St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Bowers, Don S., P. O. Box 3524, Ft. Smith, AR 72913  
 Bradford, W. H., P. O. Box 864, Ft. Smith, AR 72902  
 Bradney, June 2300 South Q St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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 Brocchus, Laurabel Brooks, 4001 Rogers, Apt. 15, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Bromley, H. J., 2811 S. Independence, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Brown, Mrs. Byron L., 2315 Hendricks, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Brown Frank, 1524 North 39th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Brown, Dale, 823 Cavanaugh Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Brown, Dale G., 3104 Oliver, Bossier City, LA 71010  
 Brown, Foy W., 501 North 47th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Brown, Mrs. Stacy L., 1511 Boston Ave., Muskogee, OK 74401  
 Broyles, Mrs. Richard M., 3515 Wilma Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Bruce, Mrs. Forrest O., 4600 Victoria Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Brun, Lucile T., 1453 North 36th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Byran, Horace, P. O. Box 725, Greenwood, AR 72936  
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 Buzbee, Mrs. Reedy, 1305 N. 58th Terrace, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Cagle, Bob G., P. O. Box 306, Ft. Smith, AR 72902  
 Caldwell, Jimmie Delle, 5116 Poplar, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Calicott, Mrs. C. B., 6000 South Y St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Callan, Capt. & Mrs. A. W. Jr., 326 Green St., Auburn, AL 36830  
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 Calvert, Carla M., 10 Riverlyn Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Canham, Elizabeth M., 53 Chafford Woods, St., Louis, MO. 63144  
 Cantwell, Mrs. Archie, Rt. 1, Box 247½, Ft. Smith, AR 72915  
 Cantwell, Larry, 2621 High St., Denver Co 80205  
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 Carroll, Mrs. John, 811 North 46th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Chilino, Mrs. Frank J., 519 Melrose, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Rex, 1812 Taylor, Springdale, AR 72764  
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 Clevenger, Judy Beth, 4908 South 27th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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 Coffman, Dr. Troy, 4800 South U, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Coker, Mrs. Joe E., 1516 South 66th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Cole, Mrs. R. M., 2202 South S. St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Collier, Bess L., 1424 North 38th St. #2, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Collins, Mr. & Mrs. J. R., Jr., 501 Jenny Wren, Van Buren, AR 72956  
 Colvett, Mrs. Roy W., 815 E. Academy St., Paris AR 72855  
 Conger, Del, 4324 North O St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Cook, Mildred A., 1112 South 21st St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Cooley, Mrs. Wade H., 2504 South N., St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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 Core, Ben P. O. Box 1446, Ft. Smith, AR 72902  
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 Curry, Mrs. & Mrs. Hubert L., P. O. Box 311, Greenwood, AR 72936  
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 Crandell, Rubye L., 4604 South 21st St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Cretnik, Leo, 323 South 17th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Crews, Polly, Ft., Smith Art Center, 423 No. 6, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Crow, Dr. & Mrs. Neil E., 19 Berry Hill, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Crutchfield, Mrs. Beulah, 4716 South U St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Czichos, Erwin F., 3006 Reeder St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Danner, Mrs. John M., 1615 South 22nd - Apt. 1, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Darby Junior High School, 616 North 14th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Dean B. Ellis Library  
 Arkansas State University, Periodical Dept., State University, AR 72467  
 Dawson, Mrs. C. C., Rt. 4, Box 199C, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Dawson, Mr. , Mrs. R. T., 4605 South 96th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72915  
 Dean, Mrs. Robert H., 3708 Ridgeway, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 De Long, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert B. Jr., 10 Ferndale Hillcrest, Ft. Smith, AR 7298  
 Delt, Mary, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Dewitt, Mr. & Mrs. David L., 8706 Royal Ridge, Ft. Smith, AR 72915  
 Dibrell, Launa H., 204 North 57th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Dobbs, Mrs. G. Byron, 4902 South U St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Dollar, Mrs. Clyde, 1400 North 52nd St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Donald Richard, 714 Belle Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Dora Moss Library, Dyer, AR 72935  
 DuBois, Bill and Susan, 623 North 6th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Duerr, Joseph H., 4714 South T Circle, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 Etter, Elijah C., 1906 North 8th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Euper, Mary Nell, 1415 North Waldron, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
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 Falk, Mrs. Geo. R., 1219 Elizabeth Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
 Faucette, Shirley, 301 Jefferson, Clinton, MISS. 39056  
 Faulkner, Mrs. J. P., 522 Belle Ave, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Fayetteville Public Library, 217 East Dickson, Fayetteville, AR 72701  
 Felkins, Helen, 1318 North 34th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
 Fent. H. Don., 2304 South 65th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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 First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Fishback, Bernice Krone, 4221 Grand Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
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 Flynn, Mrs. Claire, Rt. 2, Box 15, Mountainburg, AR 72946  
 Fort Smith Bus Depot, 118 North 6th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South 8th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Foster, Miss Virginia L., 120 North 17th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
 Franklin, Mrs. Earl B., Rt., 3, Box 213, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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Humphries, Mr. & Mrs. N. D., 2016 Wolfe Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Independence County Library, 3368 E. Main St., Batesville, AR 72501  
Inman, Mr. & Mrs. Donald, 2822 Wesleyan, Irving, TX 75062  
Inman, Eugene B., 3421 So. Cliff Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
James, Mrs. Don, 4010 Ridgeway, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
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Jasper, Mr. & Mrs. Allen, 3909 South Q St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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Karr, Suzanne & Charles, 4412 North 50th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
Kayser, Mrs. Charles, 4412 North 50th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
Kendall, Meredith, 727 Belle Ave., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Kidder, Brad, 1801 Rogers, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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Kopp, Mrs. John, 5116 Lovett Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
Kramer, Mr. & Mrs. Donald E., 5906 South Boston, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
Krock, Dr., F. H., 3700 Free Ferry, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Krone, Mrs. Tim M., Sr., 1420 55th Terrace, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
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Lairmore, Harvey & Marilea, 3215 Greenwood Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
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Laners, Mrs. Will, Rt. 4, Box 186, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Langford, J. T., 8200 Holly, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
Larson, Mr. & Mrs. Durwood, Rt. 1, Kempton, Ill. 60946  
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Link, Jerry, 723 North 45th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
Linneman, Mrs. Lowell, 811 North 13th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Lockwood, Dr. & Mrs. F. M., 70 Haven Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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Lorenz, Louis F., 2805 Ionia, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
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Loun, Alice, 1520 South P St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Loun, Michael R., Markin Mesa Apts. #11, 11221 Mara Lynn Rd., Little Rock, AR 72204  
Lovett, Ray & Dolores, 55 Hiland-Hillcrest, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Ludington, Don, 1803 South V St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Luyet, Sister Vivian, 122 North 18th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
Lynch, Ruby C., 518 Lecta, Ft. Smith, AR 72901  
McCain, Mrs. Kenneth, 4506 N. 46th Circle, Ft. Smith, AR 72904  
McCain, R. E., Jr., 4620 Free Ferry, Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
McCauley, Mrs. H. E., 2206 South 64th St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903  
McClure, Linda, Route 1, Muldrow, OK 74948  
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#### \*NOTES:

II - some sort of graphic used, other than a portrait.  
 por - a portrait accompanies the item.  
 (...) - for such things as spouse, title, marital status, etc.  
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