

## VOLUME VII NUMBER 1 APRIL 1983

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#### COVER:

Jim "Cap" Williams' Pony Express and Market, 108-110 North Tenth, Fort Smith, Arkansas. The 1983 annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association, to be hosted by the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Fort Smith Coalition for Development April 21-23, will be headquartered at the Tradewinds Motel which now occupies 108-110 North Tenth Street, as well as the rest of the entire 100 block of North Tenth and Eleventh streets. Photograph from 1911-12 Fort Smith City Directory.

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## **RED LANTERN WELCOME TO FORT SMITH**

#### FOR THE PEOPLE NOBODY LIKED

by Sarah Fitzjarrald

The Gypsies are coming!

Neighborhood dogs barked wildly and children ran excitedly to windows and porches while worried mothers cautioned, "Get back! Get back, I say! The Gypsies will get you!"

People who owned poultry locked their henhouses, and farmers and gardeners kept careful watch on melon patches and corn fields.

When Gypsy women entered a store (there were always more than one) the merchant stayed as near as possible to the cash register while trying at the same time to keep a wary eye on the wares on the shelves.

It was no secret that Gypsies had "taking ways" and it was better to be diligent than have regrets.

The Gypsy story is closely interwoven with that of William Hervey and Mary (Marie) L. Cole who came to Fort Smith sometime before 1891. It was in May of that year when Mr. and Mrs. Cole both applied for registration to practice pharmacy in the State of Arkansas, making Marie Cole the first licensed woman pharmacist in the State.

Fit Sumit

Board of Pharmacy," and for other purposes, approved March 22, 1891.

I certify that I was engaged in the drug business in the town of

(Signature)

(If a clerk, or clerk acting as manager, sign the following also.)

(Signature)

Jane L. Cole

Dute

To the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy:

Fort Sugarth

Carputor

Residence Fork Seur HoArk

guars next preceding the approval of this act

State whether owner, manager or clerk.

189 081

MAYL

Date Received

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Not

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APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

An early newspaper story says that Mr. Cole traveled with Gypsies while he was a youngster, and that at one time he jumped into a river to save a Gypsy "princess" from drowning. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Cole talked much of his early life with the Gypsies but they both related, at different times, to Miss Virginia Gardner that it was when they were newlyweds and on their way to Fort Smith that they came upon a large group of people near a river, or stream, who were shouting frantically. Stopping to investigate, they discovered that a young girl had fallen into the water and was drowning. That was the instance in which Mr. Cole rescued a young girl and it so happened that the people around the river were Gypsies.

From that moment the Gypsies were friends of the Coles. William and Marie Cole were kind and generous people and it was only natural that they would take the Gypsies to their hearts. They were aware, of course, of their faults but they accounted for them in their own generosity.

Gypsies were pariahs, outcasts of society, who

#### APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

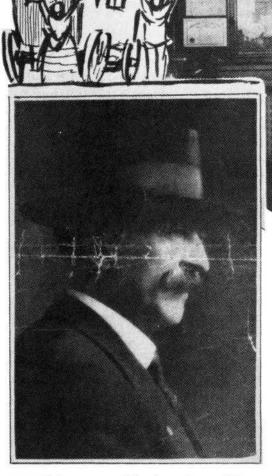
Fort Sunik Al Mayor isor All May 18 Bas To the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy: 081 GENTLEMEN-I hereby make application for registration as a registered GENTLEMEN-T hereby make application for registration as a registered pharmacist, in accordance with an act entitled "An Act to establish a State pharmacist, in accordance with an act entitled "An Act to establish a State R. g Board of Pharmacy," and for other purposes, approved March 22, 1891. N certify plat I was engaged in the drug business in the town of 3 Fort Suith State of Arkansas, on the said date, March 22, 1891, State of Arkansas, on the said date, March 22, 1891. Oroprietor (Signature) Junt Ont Received Entered Residence (If a clerk, or clerk acting as manager, sign the following also.) I further certify that I am over eighteen years of use, and was actively I further certify that I am over eighteen years of age, and was actively Date Date engaged in a drug store where physicians' prescriptions were compounded for three engaged in a drug store where physicians' prescriptions were compaunded for three years next preceding the approval of this act. (Signature) 121 State whether owner, manager or clerk No. SPECIAL NOTICE.

The fee for Certificate of Registration without examination is \$3.00, and all moneys sent at owner's risk. All applications and remittances must be made to D. W. Holman, Secretary, Little Rock, Ark.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The fee for Certificate of Resistration without examination is \$3.00 and all moneys sent at money's risk. All applications and remittances must be made to D. W. Holman, Secretary, Little Rock, Ark.

W.H. and Marie Cole's applications for certification by Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, May 28, 1891.



W.H. Cole, owner of the drug store which served as post office for gypsy tribes all over the world.

> Mrs. W.H. Cole, known as "Mother Cole" to the gypsies.

W.H.COLE

received little welcome anywhere, and unless we take the effort to study at least some of their background we remember them as thieves. They did work, however, and because of their nomadic life and semi-settled existence they supplied goods and services that the general native population in the European countries looked down upon -- such as undertakers, dog catchers, hangmen. In Brazil they were slave traffickers.

They were also known as tinkerers, metalsmiths, artisans and horse traders. The women were noted for their fortune telling, their trickery, and their begging.

For centuries the origin of the Gypsies was clouded in mystery. There were many legends explaining why they became nomads, but one of the most intriguing is the one about the blacksmith who was ordered to forge the spikes which were to be used in the crucifixion of Christ. He made the first three with no problem. But when he took the fourth from the forge and tried to cool it off it remained glowing, red hot.

Not only could he not get it cool, but in some inexplicable way the spike followed him. Everywhere the unfortunate man turned there was the glowing spike. In desperation he gathered his wife, his family and his belongings and left town. They kept traveling and supposedly, that was the beginning of the Gypsies' wandering.

The legend, so some people believe, also explains why there were only three spikes used in Christ's crucifixion.

Nobody actually knows why they became wanderers. But by the year 1000 A.D. they were found all over Europe, and living off the land and sleeping under the stars was their way of life.

Gypsies were great linguists, adopting with ease the language of their host country wherever that might be. It was determined that Gypsies originated in India, probably northern India, because it was found that wherever they were, and whatever language they spoke, there were certain vowel sounds and root words that they kept for themselves and which were common to all Gypsies and to the Hindu language.



The Mitchell family, Rumanian gypsies. Photograph made during a visit with W.H. and Marie Cole.

Later came the comparison of blood types and the study of their cephalic index. The cephalic index is a special measurement of the skull whereby anthropologists, archeologists, or other interested persons might determine whether an individual is, or was, of whatever race. It is like a "race fingerprint."

The Gypsies were usually beautiful people and it is to their credit that they maintained their intelligence by not intermarrying with relatives too close to them.

They made convenient scapegoats, and it was but a short step from being scapegoats to being persecuted. It is seldom noted that when Hitler killed 6,000,000 Jews he also killed 400,000 Gypsies.

In 1898 the Coles introduced Mexican limes into the United States and until the outbreak of the first World War in 1914 they imported and sold some 6,000,000 limes annually, probably through dealers.

Their drug store, which was first located at 602 Garrison Avenue, prospered and became as much an antique and curio shop as it was a dispensary of pharmaceuticals. In it were displayed Indian ware, Gypsy copper work, chinaware, rare books, Oriental goods, and furniture of teak wood from Asia. The store was something to see, and if Fort Smithians tended to take it for granted (which was most natural) the tourists did not.

Judge Isaac Parker had a habit of dropping in daily during those last years of his life. There was William S. Hart who came through Fort Smith and visited the Coles when he was a young actor doing Shakespeare, and another young actor by the name of Richard Mansfield was said to have visited them, as well as a famous New York lawyer by the name of Robert Ingersoll.

Along about 1912, at the suggestion of Steve Costello, a Gypsy "king," Marie Cole became their postmistress.

Whether or not William Cole ever traveled with Gypsies is a matter of conjecture but somewhere along the line he acquired (or perhaps was born with) the Gypsy philosophy. He was content for Marie to be the spark, the one who kept things going and who tended to business. They became citizens of wealth and prominence and acquired for their home a large white house at the corner of May and Rogers Avenue. At that time Rogers Avenue was called Little Rock Road. The house has been added onto and is now red but it is still standing.

Virginia Gardner, who lived with her family many years across the street from the Coles, remembers many incidents involving the Coles.

She tells us that once during the late 1920s on a hot summer day Mr. Cole said to Mrs. Cole, "It is too hot to stay in this store. I'm going home."

A couple of hours later Marie called the house but received no answer. After a little while she called again and still no answer. She became concerned and went home to see about Mr. Cole. She went through



1918 neighbors of the Coles, Virginia Gardner and her older brother, Ronald Gardner. The Cole home is in background. Picture used by permission of Virginia Gardner.

the house, calling his name but the house was silent. When she went upstairs she found the bathroom door locked from the inside. When she could still get no response she panicked and called the fire department. When the firemen arrived they stood a ladder against the house and went into the bathroom through a window. Mr. Cole was sound asleep in a tub of cool water.

Marie Cole has been described as petite, weighing only about ninety pounds, with dark eyes and hair. Her husband probably seemed larger by contrast than he actually was but those who remember say that he was about average height and rather "portly" built. He had blond hair and blue eyes, but with a cast in one eye. He cut a rather dashing figure and when the two of them walked down the avenue together she is remembered as a "little doll."

Although her maiden name was Squires, it was said that Marie was of Spanish origin. She was an excellent cook and occasionally she would call to Virginia Gardner across the street to come over and get a plate of delicious Mexican food.

Virginia relates that once Mrs. Cole went to the bank and got a bag of gems where they were kept for safekeeping and brought them out and offered a nice stone to her. Virginia's mother refused to allow her to accept the jewel but later on she relented and allowed her to accept a ruby. It was made into a lovely brooch and Virginia wore it many years, only recently giving it to a favorite niece.

The Coles had a big green parrot which spent some time out in the large yard behind the house. The neighborhood children would talk to him and everything was fine until they said something the parrot did not like, then the air would turn blue with his profanity. The sound of the cursing would have Mrs. Cole outside in a very short time to take the bird into the house where he belonged. It is remembered by some that the parrot might have learned his big words from Mr. Cole.

They not only owned a parrot but they also sold them in their store. Mrs. Harry Ware remembers that her grandmother, Mrs. Tom (Julia) Bridges, bought a parrot from the Coles and named it "Polly Hopkins." Mrs. Bridges owned the largest rooming house in town and served boarders. One evening her cook, a black lady, was sitting out on the porch peeling potatoes to cook for supper. She enjoyed singing sacred hymns and spirituals and on this particular evening the air was sweetened with the sound of "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." Polly Hopkins was walking on the porch rail and singing along with the cook. Somehow he misinterpreted the phrase, "take it all to God in prayer," and sang instead, "take it all to g--d--prayer," whereupon Grandmother Bridges was out the door in an instant with a small switch. She switched Polly Hopkins on the toes and he would raise one foot and then the other, all the while saying, "She said it! She said it!"

While the Gypsies were generally regarded as outcasts by the rest of the world, they did, however, receive a singular welcome to Fort Smith. The Coles hung a red lantern on the corner of the big white house on Rogers Avenue. The lantern was not on the front of house but was hung on a rear corner so as not to be seen easily by casual passers-by.

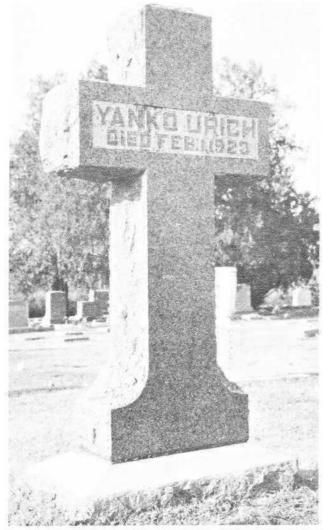
Some people thought that the Gypsies stayed with the Coles in the house and camped in the large back yard but Miss Gardner discounts it. In those days before television most people went to bed at the decent hour of nine o'clock (ten for regular night owls). The red lantern could be seen before bedtime but the next morning it would be gone. The "king" and his family would probably drop in and leave mail for Mrs. Cole to distribute, and pick up mail for his clan. The lantern could have been a guide for Gypsies visiting for the first time. Whatever its purpose, as sure as the lantern burned, the Gypsies would arrive.

When the local youngsters grew old enough to sneak away from their parents they would go out near the Gypsy camp to hide and watch. Because they were terrified of the Gypsies there were always those delicious thrills of danger coursing up and down young spines which were in a cramped position trying to stay out of sight behind the bushes. It was probably their version of what has become "Monsters from Outer Space," or some such movie or television fare.

Virginia Gardner grew up and went off to college. One Christmas when she was home for vacation her mother planned a dinner party for her and some of her friends. When Mrs. Cole heard about the party she insisted that Mrs. Gardner use her china to set the table. The dishes were accepted and used very carefully, lest a piece be broken. They were of the finest quality. On February 1, 1923, Yanko Urich, the Gypsy "king," died in Fort Smith as a result of heart failure during an operation for appendicitis. There were already Gypsies of his own tribe in the area near Forest Park Cemetery and all went to his funeral Mass which was said at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Mr. Roger (Boots) Lynch drove the motor-driven hearse, with sides made of carved wood. He does not remember the walking procession from the Church to the cemetery but several others have spoken of it. Mr. William Mikel remembers that he followed the procession and that it was led by a band under the direction of Mr. Frank Hammer, a brother to Mr. Joe Hammer who owned the iron works. Mr. Mikel says it was the first time he ever heard funeral dirges played by a band.

Mr. Lynch also recalls that the body of Yanko Urich lay in state in a large tent where the Gypsies were camped until the funeral and that a large coiled candle was kept burning near the bier.

When the funeral party arrived at the cemetery the Gypsies started a large bonfire to keep warm and Mr.



Gravestone of Gypsy "king", Yanko Urich, Forest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Photograph by Bradley Martin.

Lynch had to drive the hearse farther away to keep it from catching fire.

The Gypsy ritual had for centuries included the throwing of gold coins into the grave or being put into the casket. It was said that some coins were thrown into Urich's grave, but by that time it had become a token gesture and Mr. Lynch and others have remarked that the coins were copper. The Gypsies usually took up a collection and sent money to any poor relatives of the deceased and that was regarded as more important than throwing very much money into a grave.

We do not know whether or not Mr. or Mrs. Cole attended the funeral and the burial of Yanko Urich. It is a matter of record, however, that Marie Cole was appointed administratrix of his estate, a sizeable estate of some \$200,000, a fortune in those days. By that time Gypsies were no longer carrying money around with them and Urich's fortune was deposited in banks and trust companies throughout the United States and Mexico.

Yanko Urich's wife, Lena, died July 22, 1950 at the age of ninety years.

It was because of the Coles' generosity and kindness of spirit that they are remembered fondly by many people. True, they were "different," but they both came from fine families and when Mr. Cole's sister visited she was quite perplexed at their life and their open acceptance of the Gypsies. She was a lady of gentility and great culture.

It was probably not easy for Fort Smithians to understand, either. Mr. Cole was called by some, "Dr. Cole," because he mixed and sold herbal remedies. At times he had a "peculiar" smell about his person and there were those who wondered if he was taking some kind of drug. In those days many products used in the relief of asthma had distinctive odors. There was stramonium, derived from a plant of the nightshade family, which was used in most medicines used in treatment of asthma. Another medicine used for this was cubebs. Both medicines were either burned in cigarettes (Dr. Blosser's Cigarettes), in a pipe, or set fire in a fireproof receptacle and inhaled in a tightly closed room.

Paregoric, used by practically everybody for every ailment, contains a narcotic and has a very distinctive odor. It would have been unusual if anyone mixing herbs and selling paregoric or asthma potions on a daily basis had not had a lingering smell about him.

While some agree that Mr. Cole was not too highly motivated because he allowed Mrs. Cole to tend to things, he was always spoken of with a smile or a chuckle and the remark, "Well, I am not surprised to hear that."

After the first World War and particularly after the great Depression the Coles' prosperity dwindled rather rapidly. They no longer lived in the large white house and their store was moved to 111 Garrison Avenue, almost under the bridge.

They lived in the second story above the drug store and above that there was a third story which was a cheap rooming house. There was a stairway on the outside of the building leading to the upstairs apartments.

In August of 1932 Marie Cole fell headlong down the stairs, the event which was the beginning of the end. Her health began to fail miserably and she never recuperated. She took to her bed and stayed in the apartment nearly all the time. About the middle of November some alarmed neighbors called a doctor and the sheriff's office.

Mr. Cole was becoming senile even though he was only 77 years old, and the neighbors were worried about Mrs. Cole because he would "lock her in her room" when he went downstairs.

An ambulance was called and Mrs. Cole was taken to St. Edward Hospital where she stayed for a week or longer. Then the doctor sent her home -- later testifying that it was because Mr. Cole wrung his hands and cried for her to be released.

She remained home for a couple of days before she was sent back to the hospital, Sparks that time, where she died December 1, 1932.

William Cole was devasted to the point where he could not cope with his loss. The spark had gone out of his life. Marie Cole's body remained at one of the local funeral homes awaiting his decision about the arrangements. Finally, the deputy sheriff, who was later appointed Mr. Cole's guardian, made the arrangements and Mrs. Cole's funeral was held on the 11th of December. Her body was shipped back to Virden, Illinois (her birthplace) for burial.

There was much speculation that the many Gypsies whom Mrs. Cole had befriended would come to Fort Smith for her funeral, but there was no story in the newspapers of the time that any of them came. There could have been several causes, but ironically, a very small item in the local newspaper, datelined New York, carried the story that Karl Kapossy, a Gypsy "king," had died there on December 8th, one week after Marie Cole died, but three days before her funeral.

Karl Kapossy was quite prominent, winning fame as a violinist. At the age of 12 he played for the Emperor Franz Joseph in Vienna and was given a Stradivarius violin by the Emperor.

The Gypsies would have gone to New York City for the funeral of one of their own people rather than come to Marie Cole's funeral. Even though they loved her, she was a "gorgio," an outsider.

What happened to William Cole after his wife's death could have happened to anyone, anywhere. This is not intended nor should it be construed as any kind of indictment or "judgment call" against anybody. The Coles had no children; there was a will to be probated and an estate to be settled, and it was right and proper that it be done as expeditiously as possible.

The day after Mrs. Cole died he was found sitting in the store with her empty chair beside him. When spoken to by the friends who had come his only remark was, "Yes, they told me she died last night." He was in a dazed condition and when he did not snap out of it in a few days so that he could make funeral arrangements it became necessary to appoint a guardian for him.

In January a sanity hearing was held before a jury of twelve good men and true. The jury was probably empaneled to assure William Cole of his rights. He was found incompetent by reason of insanity and drug addiction. With that, there was nothing for the judge to do except commit him to the State Hospital for Nervous Disorders in Little Rock on January 14th.

While there he wrote a letter to the president of one of the Fort Smith banks. The bank held some of the Coles' jewelry as collateral for a loan, or perhaps a debt. In his appraisal he wrote: "... a watch with my monogram on one side and a ruby on the other, also a diamond stud, both presents from my wife. She was anxious for me to keep these two pieces... if anything is to be sold to pay interest then sell some of the other pieces.

"Three large diamonds of a karat or over, a 'jasper' in a cluster of I think seven stones, it is in the center... the earrings.

"It was through mercinary (sic) matters alone that put me here. The judge says I will be back in a few days. There is enough to pay several times over what I owe. Mr. Cole."

The letter was written in pencil and at the bottom he added, "Excuse this. I am writing on a window sill."

It was not a letter of someone who was insane or "spaced out" on drugs. He had been examined by two local physicians who were neither psychologists nor specialists in the treatment of nervous disorders. About the worst thing that could be said of him at his hearing was that he was not nice to people, that he cursed, and that it was the opinion of the examining physicians that he was addicted to narcotics.

One of the examining physicians was the one who accompanied the deputy sheriff to get an ambulance to take Mrs. Cole to the hospital the first time, and he knew well that Mr. Cole was capable of not being nice.

He was angry at being accused of locking Marie in her room. She spent most of the time in her bed but she was ambulatory and got up when it was necessary. Mr. Cole locked the door from the outside because there were roomers in the apartments above who might wander into her room by accident, especially when they were tipsy. Not only was Mr. Cole concerned about the safety of his wife but also the room contained some valuables. It was brought out later that she could unlock the door from the inside.

It is possible that when she died Mr. Cole might have taken a sedative to help with the pain and anguish. In our time doctors frequently administer tranquilizers to people in that kind of shock and grief, and before tranquilizers the only medication doctors had to offer was a sedative.

A week after Mr. Cole went to Little Rock an appraisal of the wares and personal property belonging to the estate was submitted to the court by request. It was made by three women who inventoried the stock and who were knowledgeable about antiques and the sort of things found in their store. There were no less than ten typewritten pages of items with an evaluation of about \$3,000. Whether the evaluation was based on wholesale or retail prices was not brought out.

In the meantime, Mr. Cole was not without friends. A legislative investigating committee requested that the staff of doctors at the State Hospital give him a complete examination. He was found not to be "either insane, incompetent, or a drug addict." He stated at this examination that when his wife died he had been under a severe mental strain. He was released on February 12 in custody of some of his friends and returned to Fort Smith.

He hired an attorney who immediately went to work to appeal the earlier court's ruling to the circuit court. Two more local physicians were ordered by the court to examine his "sanity," and they found him sane, "eccentric maybe, but sane."

When the case came to court in April he was found sane and his property rights were restored and the guardianship dissolved. However, the former guardian remained administrator of the estate. Sometime later an auction was held to dispose of the stock in the store and his personal property.

The auction was under the supervision of Mr. Coie's attorney so we may safely conclude that all was well and that justice had been done (if, indeed, there had been any injustice intended in the first place).

It is impossible to determine where the items listed on the court appraisal went. However, a few items have surfaced which offer mute testimony that the Coles must have had some very nice things. There was an English card table, some Chinese urns with teak wood stands, an afghan and some small things, a hair-net dish, brass ink wells -- that sort of thing.

One lady still has in her possession a sugar bowl and cream pitcher which Marie Cole had given her as a bridal gift. She says that the two pieces are not expensive but they are lovely and she kept them because they were given to her by Mrs. Cole.

Virginia Gardner remembers a gorgeous wooden folding screen, one of the old fashioned room dividers. It was rich and beautiful.

Mr. Cole moved his drug store one last time, to 5th Street. A lonely old man, he was often seen sitting among the dusty boxes containing herbs and patent medicine which were only a small percentage of what used to be. At least one newspaper report said that his big green parrot was still with him.

Gone was his sparkling Marie and the affluent times

that used to be. Gone was the fine store with its marble-topped soda fountain and the ice cream parlor where friends and customers whiled away pleasant summer afternoons. Gone was the "only limeade in town," and the fresh limes shared generously with Virginia and her friends.

On Saturday evening, May 19, 1934, William Hervey Cole was crossing Garrison Avenue on his way to his drug store when he was hit by a car. He suffered a broken arm, a head injury thought to be a skull fracture and numerous lacerations about his body. He was taken to the hospital but his injuries were thought to be fatal from the beginning. He regained consciousness sometime Sunday and remained so until a couple of hours before he died on Monday.

His funeral was held on Tuesday, May 22, and as a charter member of the Fort Smith Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, he received the funeral rights of his lodge. His body was shipped to Illinois where he was buried beside his wife, Marie.

The Gypsies continued to come to Fort Smith after the passing of the Coles. They camped in the same places, on sites which seem to us now as very unlikely places -- at the intersection of Waldron Road and Rogers Avenue (southeast corner), out on Euper Lane, on Clayton Expressway where some of the modern factories are, and on Midland Boulevard across from Exposition Park.

They graduated from horse-drawn vehicles to automobiles and pitched sturdier tents or stayed in "tourist camps." They shared the Depression with the rest of the country.

In the present day, however, we hear practically nothing about Gypsies. Like the wares in Coles' Drug Store they seem simply to have faded away. Perhaps they have been incorporated into other nationalities, other cultures.

We should wish the memory of the Coles and their Gypsies, like the aroma of some forgotten sachet clinging to the drawer of an antique dresser, to be not too sweet or cloying, but rather spiced with the same human foibles which plague us all.

They are part of our heritage.

#### SOURCES

#### CONVERSATIONS WITH:

Mrs. Henry Armstrong George Barham Eloise Barksdale Gene Bessent Mrs. Dale Brown Irene Corotto Marie Duncan Virginia Gardner V. O. Giles Arba Landers Roger Boots Lynch

Joe McCutchen William Mikel Mrs. Ira D. Oglesby Sarah Purdom Augusta Rodenbeck Johanna Ruge Emily Rutledge Mrs. Harry Ware Mrs. Frank Youmans Staff, Putman Funeral Home Staff, Edwards Funeral Home

#### RECORDS:

City Clerk's Office (Death Records) City Engineer's Office (Street Layouts) County Clerk's Office (Probate Records) Ark State Board of Pharmacy (Sheila Castin) Arkansas History Commission (Mary Nell Shaw)

#### **NEWSPAPERS:**

Southwest American, Fort Smith, Feb. 3, 1923 Southwest American, Fort Smith, Dec. 3, 1932 Southwest American, Fort Smith, May 23, 1934

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Special thanks to Guy Nichols at the Parker Court House: Tom Blake, Southwest Times Record; and all the capable staff at the Fort Smith Public Library.

# SHE HANDLED the MAIL for GYPSIES ALL OVER the WORLD

The Passing of "Mother Cole" Leaves Vacant the Unique Post Which Made This Arkansas Woman the One Stationary Factor in the Lives of All the Romany Tribes.

EDITORS NOTE: The following story about Mrs. Cole and her gypsy friends, written by Edwin P. Hicks, was published December 25, 1932 in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and is used by permission of Mr. Hicks. Mr. Hicks, writer, editor and publisher, is a lifetime resident of the Fort Smith area. For his biography, see page 19 of Volume IV, Number 2, September, 1980 issue of The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical

Special Correspondent the Post-Dispatch Sunday Magazine by Edwin P. Hicks

Society.

Who will now keep the devious trails of Romany untangled? "Mother Cole," the "gypsy postmistress," is dead. Dusky wanderers all over the world are in mourning. It will be hard to replace her. Many a gypsy communication is likely to go astray before any successor becomes so efficient as was Mother Cole.

For more than 20 years Mother Cole was postmistress to all the gypsies on the globe. Although not a gypsy herself, except by adoption, she was the heart of the race, the one stationary factor in the gypsy scheme of life. She kept in constant touch with every tribe in every land. Thousands of letters from members of various bands to members of various other bands came to her to be forwarded. Telegrams by the score, and even cablegrams, passed through her hands.

Only she knew where to find the persons to whom they were addressed. She made Fort Smith the capital of the gypsy world.

Mother Cole died in a hospital here a short time ago. after a long illness resulting from a fall. She was past 70 years old. To the townspeople she was Mrs. Marie Cole, wife of W.H. Cole, the druggist. She had been a partner in his store since its establishment in 1884, and was the first licensed woman pharmacist in Arkansas. Everybody knew Mrs. Cole. The store was a meeting place for the whole town. Old residents remember her as being very pretty when she came here as a young woman. She was small and had soft, black eves and black hair. People were impressed with her learning, too. Of Spanish origin, she spoke English and Spanish equally well and was well versed in history, especially the history of the Orient. She could even speak a little of the strange gypsy tongue, an accomplishment which her neighbors here regarded with amazement.

It was through her husband that Mrs. Cole was adopted into the gypsy race and became its postmistress. In his boyhood he had traveled with a gypsy band for a time and had been adopted in recognition of his heroism in saving the life of a gypsy princess.

Gypsies remembered him and always came to see him. So it happened that when King Steve Costello of the Spanish gypsies felt that some central point of communication should be established he came to see Mr. and Mrs. Cole about it. Mrs. Cole agreed to take the position. For a time she served as postmistress only to the Spanish gypsies, but as she rose in prestige all gypsies came to depend on her. She became Mother Cole to the whole race.

She entertained gypsy kings and queens. She dictated to them in the management of their affairs. She advised and counseled them and gave many a dusky wanderer finanical aid. Once she served as administratrix of the estate of a gypsy king. She understood gypsies, knew their weaknesses and knew their points of superiority. They were like children to her. Their faults were always excusable. In her contact with members of the race she was never out-guessed by them. She was loyal to them and they never broke faith with her.

In payment for her services rendered to them, gypsies brought curios, priceless antiques and treasures to Mrs. Cole from all corners of the earth. The Cole drug store became a veritable museum, a showplace that was visited by persons who came through the city. Visitors inquired where the store was and paid it a call soon after arriving in town. Many were the notables who came there. Some left their autographs and photographs. Residents of the town came in often to listen to stories told by the Coles and to feed their big green and red parrot a grape.

Mrs. Cole used to say she was getting old and wanted to leave her stories to someone. The gypsies themselves have no historians but handed down their stories by word of mouth. Mrs. Cole delighted in talking about gypsies and their ways. Especially she liked to explode popular myths about them. One day a short time before her death, while discussing gypsies with this writer, she spoke of the myth that gypsies steal children. She jumped on it with both feet.

"Gypsies do nothing of the kind," she declared. "They have too many children of their own. There is no race suicide among gypsies. A family of 15 or 20 is not unusual. Now why should they want to steal other people's children?

"The stories of gypsy child-stealing and other atrocities," she explained, "can be traced back several centuries to the time when stringent laws against them were passed in many lands by people who didn't understand them and who spread fearful tales about them because they practiced palmistry, told fortunes and were supposed to be masters of black magic.

"Another myth is that they came originally from Egypt. Gypsies themselves and historians agree that the race originated in Asia, probably in Northern India. They are a white race and kin to the Hindustanic stock. In the year 1400 thousands of gypsies swarmed over Western Europe from the East. They called themselves Egyptians, of which the word 'gypsy' is a corruption. In their own language they call themselves Rom; hence the term, Romany. They were regarded by Europeans as heathens, sorcerers and even cannibals. Gypsies founded one of the earliest Christian churches, Santa Marias de la Mer, in Spain, which still stands near the border between Spain and France."

"The gypsy population of the world today," Mrs. Cole said, "totals around 750,000, of whom about 100,000 are in the United States. They are most numerous in Rumania, where some 300,000 are to be found. Spain has an estimated total of 50,000; Yugoslavia, 46,000; Turkey, 30,000; Persia, 20,000; and India, 30,000. In Asia there are the Mohammedan gypsies; in Africa and South American the Spanish-Moro gypsies; in Europe the Russian, English and Serbian gypsies, the Spanish Gitanas and the Italian Zingarias. Those in the United States include the Russian, English, Rumanian, Spanish and Turkish."

"No true gypsy stays long in the same place," Mrs. Cole said. "Great numbers of them travel to the remote corners of the world. I have known many who claimed to have traveled in five continents. Nearly all gypsies speak several languages. They are of necessity great linguists and have little trouble in learning within a day or two at least enough of the fundamentals of a new language to make themselves understood. And then they have a language of their own, known and spoken by all gypsies, regardless of the country they come from. This language is not written, but is handed down generation after generation among themselves. While easy to learn, it is never taught to a 'gorgio,' or outsider. Language students say the Romany tongue contains parts Sanskrit, Hindustani, Greek and words picked up through the different centuries from almost every language under the sun. The basic part, however, is very similar to certain Indian-Hindustani dialects spoken by tribes in North India today.

"Gypsies, broadly speaking," Mrs. Cole continued, "are alike the world over. And yet each nationality has its own individuality. Though marriage with a 'gorgio' even today is extremely rare, there undoubtedly has been some intermingling of blood with the 'gorgios' of different nations. The gypsies also have adopted characteristics and even dialects of different nationals.

"The English, Spanish and Russian gypsies are of a high type and are very intelligent. The Russian and Turkish gypsies are frequently disliked by others of the race -- the Russians as a whole being considered somewhat unscrupulous and the Turkish gypsies sometimes looked down upon because of their overzeal for 'glad rags' and bright colors.

"The Spanish gypsies, especially the Moro-Spanish -- the latter rarely seen in North America -- are very beautiful. The men are tall and well proportioned, with black hair, dark eyes, excellent white teeth and very intelligent features. The women are olive-skinned, brunettes, all of them with large, lustrous black eyes, fringed with long eyelashes. They are always smiling. Their eyes dance with laughter. Their teeth are very white. They are beautifully formed."

Among the things which the gypsy borrows from the country in which he lives, Mrs. Cole said, is his religion. There are Mohammedan gypsies, Catholic and Protestant gypsies. Most English gypsies are Episcopalians, while the Spanish and Italian bands are Catholic. They usually attend church in ordinary clothing and are seldom recognized as gypsies. On holidays they make offerings to the church, and usually these are large. Many gypsy couples nowadays are married by the regular clergy, a thing unheard of in former times, according to Mrs. Cole. And members of the clergy read the church rites at many of the gypsy funerals.

"Beneath the surface, however, there is in every gypsy the ancient religion of his forefathers," the gypsy postmistress continued. "It is a strange conglomeration of beliefs and superstitions, hard for a 'gorgio' to fathom, but an actual part of the gypsy himself. Part of this is an ethical code which requires that gypsy help gypsy, and it is seldom violated. The religious beliefs are instilled in every member of the race in early childhood, a duty falling upon the oldest woman in each band.

"In sickness and death the queer, superstitious beliefs of the gypsies become evident, no matter how much they profess the established church. For instance, gypsies never bring flowers into a sickroom. It will cause a calamity, they believe, and is sure to result in either the serious lapse or the death of the sick person. Flowers are not brought to the grave.

"In place of the flowers at death, the gypsies give gold. Into the casket with the dead person go a few of the coins, while the other gifts of money may be contributed to the funeral expense. Money is sent to poor relatives, to insure their presence at the funeral service.

"In the casket with the dead person also are placed any of the personal possessions which have been highly prized by the departed one -- such as a diamond ring, in the case of a dead woman, together with cosmetics, a mirror, a needle and thread -- anything which her friends or family believes she may miss or need, wherever she is.

"Candles of beeswax, never of tallow, are burned about her bier. On her eyes and lips are placed powdered frankincense -- that on her eyes to shut out sights and scenes that might 'weary' her, that on her lips 'to prevent her from talking too much,' for gypsy women, like the women of all races, have the reputation of talking a good deal. After the burial three feasts are given at stated intervals.

"The gypsy marriage custom also is very interesting. Although many gypsies are now married like other people, the majority still cling to the old customs of their race. These require that the girl be sold by her parents to the parents of the boy who is to be her husband. She may be sold any time between infancy and womanhood. When the marriage takes place, usually several years after the sale, the girl goes to live with the parents of the bridegroom.

"During the period of her betrothal, which is the greater part of her girlhood, it may appear strange that she doesn't fall in love with somebody else, or that the boy doesn't. This, however, rarely happens."

Mrs. Cole continued further, stating that the amount paid for a bride was from one hundred to seven hundred dollars. And if a girl did not remain with the boy's parents (rare but not impossible) and returned home, the money paid for her was returned to the boy's parents. And sometimes girls were sold more than once. "I know one girl who was sold six times," Mrs. Cole said.

"After marriage the young wife is supposed to do two things -- she must bear children and make money. The first money must go to the parents of her husband, for she must pay them back what they spent for her. Then she must set aside a sum for the purchase of a bride for her son -- for by this time, usually, she will have a son.

"Gypsy men are shrewd traders and pick up money in various ways, but they do not like work, and it is usually the woman who has to make the money for the family. She controls the purse strings, too. Usually she makes her money through fortune telling, or 'dukering,' as it is called by the gypsies themselves.

"Inside the gypsy tent, the first thing placed upon the ground is a rug. It covers the entire interior of the tent. Sometimes this may be an expensive rug. They sleep upon feather beds, placed upon this rug. The beds are of the best feathers obtainable and are inclosed, of course, in very brightly colored cloth. In cold weather they lie between two of these feather beds They are never cold at night.

"No gypsy, following the trail, ever washed his face in a basin of water -- nor in the water of a stream. Instead, he opens his hands while another pours water upon the palms, and this he rubs upon his face, clear back over the hair. The women do likewise.

"And because the gypsy woman handles the money, it is sometimes hidden in her clothing. Today, traveling in cars, their treasure hiding places have been changed. In the old days two of the choice places were so unusual that they are worth mentioning. The wooden axle, behind the wagon wheel, would be hollowed out and the money placed in it, far behind the pin. Also, they would put gold and silver coins in one of the dark vessels, or pots, used in cooking, which they carried dangling from the rear of the wagons. Down in the bottom of one of these pots, caked over with tallow, was the family's treasure. While families and bands carry money around with them today, they now are depositing much of their riches in family deposit vaults in the biggest city banks."

# **NEITHER SNOW NOR RAIN**

by

#### Sarah Fitzjarrald

Fort Smith enjoys a singular place in the history of mail delivery. Mrs. Cole handled the mail for the Gypsies, we had our own Pony Express, and we had the second authorized airmail service in the United States.

The United States Post Office Department disclaims that it has a slogan but the following words sound most apt in describing the intrepid letter carriers through the years: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Herodotus penned those words in 445 B.C. and was writing about the mounted couriers of Xerxes, king of Persia. The sentence was inscribed on the New York City post office building and for that reason it has become to the collective popular mind of America the slogan of the post office.

The post office department was set up by Congress in 1789 as an executive branch of the federal government and has remained ever after as the butt of everybody's favorite post office story. We can all remember how a letter was delivered fifty years after it was mailed to a town only fifty miles away. And we all know the one that goes, "I would have mailed you a check but I didn't receive your statement," or better yet, "I mailed you a check yesterday."

Twenty-eight years after the United States postal service was inaugurated Major William A. Bradford built the Fort at Belle Point. Since nobody waved a magic wand and said, "Let the mail be carried!" the mail delivery could have been classified as slow, irregular, or non-existant. Major Bradford was compelled to send messengers on horseback to Cadron, Arkansas, with packets of mail to be sent on their way from there.

In a personal letter from him to General Jessup, Quartermaster General in Washington, D.C., on March 4, 1820, he described one unfortunate incident. One of his messengers had to spend several nights in the woods on his way to Cadron. It was cold and he built a campfire to keep warm. The fire ignited the leaves around it and the mail packet was burned, destroying vouchers that Major Bradford was sending for collection. In his letter he explained what had happened and sent copies of the original vouchers since he had paid the money out of his own pocket and needed reimbursement.

Cadron was about 125 miles east of Fort Smith as the Arkansas River flows and we assume the messengers followed the river. It is no longer in existence except the former Cadron was in the immediate vicinity of Toad Suck Ferry, and there is a small museum there marking the spot. On April 3, 1860, the Pony Express was started under the direction of the Overland California and Pike's Peak Express. Mail was carried on horseback between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California, thence by boat to San Fancisco. Eight days were allotted for the trip. Eventually there were 80 riders and some 400 to 500 horses used in the service. Riders were expected to cover 75 miles per day.

The service was discontinued in October, 1861, when the Pacific Telegraph Company was completed. The Pony Express remains in our memories as one of the most dangerous, exciting, and romantic times of our history.

On May 16th, 1886, the United States Legislature passed an act to provide for a building for the use of the Federal Court, Post Office, and Internal Revenue and other Civil Offices; and a United States Jail in Fort Smith. A hundred thousand dollars was apropriated for the Federal building and fifty thousand dollars for the jail.

The jail was used to house prisoners convicted in federal court and who had relatively short sentences to serve. It was also used to hold prisoners as a stopover on their way to federal penitentaries.

The federal building, architecturally sound and eyepleasing, was finished in 1888 or 1889 and remained in use until 1936 when it was torn down and replaced with the present building as a project of the Public Works Administration.



The Federal Building, Fort Smith, built circa 1888-89. Courtesy National Park Service



Interior of Fort Smith Post Office circa 1898, Postmaster James Brizzolara standing at right. Note electric light hanging from gas light fixture. Courtesy National Park Service

The jail was an addition to the Parker Court House (the south wing) and is still in use.

At the turn of the century, about 1900, Jim "Cap" Williams came from Kansas to Fort Smith with his family. He set up a delivery business which he called the "Pony Express," named after the defunct earlier postal delivery system. While he and his two sons, John B. and Leon, did not carry the U.S. Mail except for delivering special delivery letters for the local post office it is significant that we had our own Pony Express.



Pony Express, 108-110 North Tenth Street, Fort Smith. Photograph from 1907 Fort Smith City Directory.

The Williams had their business on Towson Avenue for several years and then built a new barn on Tenth Street. Opal Brinley Rodgers, cousin of John B. and Leon, remembers much about those days. There were the little spring wagons and the small mules and horses. She says that the little mules could lay back their ears and really get up and go, especially if they were touched with a whip. It broke Opal's heart to see the men use a whip because she was always fond of animals, especially horses.

They also owned Shetland ponies and Opal and many of the town's youngsters enjoyed riding them. The Shetlands were never hitched to a wagon. The Williams, especially John B., were noted for their kindness and charity to children.

Whenever there was a parade or circus or special entertainment John B. Williams would take the "talleyho," a large wagon, to the Rosalie Tilles Orphans' Home and load up all the youngsters for the fun. Opal Brinley Rodgers remembers going on many of those trips with the orphan children.

The Williams also had a "miniature" zoo at their Pony Express Barn where children and grown-ups alike spent many happy hours watching the monkeys in their cages.

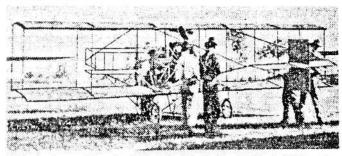
The Pony Express was a credit to the town because the Williams made it so. They were accommodating to everybody and served in any way they could. If there was something from the store someone needed they would deliver it. And if there was an emergency when someone needed to get to the hospital and no ambulance available they would take a "hack" and get the person to the hospital.

In the meantime, the railroads had been built and

were crisscrossing the whole country. The U. S. Mail was going through and it might not have been any more regular but it was no doubt speedier. It, too, had its excitement. Who can forget the wild west days and the train robberies with the mail car as the prime target?

On December 17, 1903, an event occurred at Kitty Hawk, N. C., which was to change the complexion of mail delivery in the United States. Wilbur and Orville Wright built an airplane and kept it airborne for 12 seconds and it flew 120 feet.

Only eight short years later in the fall of 1911 an aviation meet was held in Fort Smith at which time the second authorized airmail service in the country was inaugurated.



This photo was taken in 1912 at Fort Smith Electric Park. While not positively identified as the plane which made the first mail flight in Fort Smith, it has been identified as one used in experimental mail flights. It is a Curtiss Pusher with the propeller mounted at the rear cockpit. Men in picture not identified. Southwest Times Record, May 12, 1968, from collection of Henry Hink of Van Buren.

Fort Smith was very "air" conscious and the city boasted an active Aero Club. Members of the organization arranged the memorable and gala event which took place on the first weekend of November.

Frank B. Bumgardner, local postmaster, wired Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock for permission to set up a temporary post office on the gounds of League Park for the purpose of arranging the delivery of postal cards by "aeroplane" from there to the post



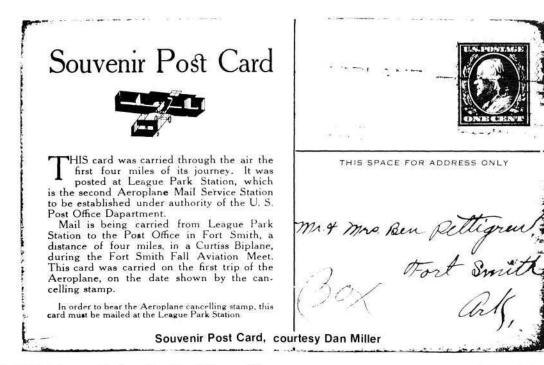
Souvenir Post Card, distributed by First National Bank. courtesy Dan Miller

office on South Sixth Street, a distance of four miles. The mailing was limited to postcards and the *South-west American* reported arrangements were made to carry at least 1,000,000 postcards from the field to the post office.

League Park, as one might suspect, was used as a ball park, complete with grandstands. The post office was to be set up under the grandstands. Townspeople who wished to send postal cards on this historic occasion were urged to buy their cards and have them

This card was can rigds tthrough the air the firstThfourmantelesor offespondence Epr address only its journey by an Aero-Mrs. R. J. Moore Jr. Net! Cem. HSmith and plane. It was posted at League Park Station, which is the second Aeroplane Mail Service Station to be established under authority of the U.S.Post Office Department. Compliments Of FIRST NATIONAL BANK. FT. SMITH. ARK.

Back of First National Bank, Souvenir Post Card, courtesy Dan Miller



stamped and addressed before "mailing" them at the Park. The temporary post office was under the management of Assistant Postmaster Mapes and Clerk Emmett Morris. They and their staff assembled the cards and loaded them on the "aeroplane" to be taken to the Federal Building and dropped on the lawn.

The Fort Smith Commercial League had more than a dozen views of Fort Smith on picture post cards and many businesses sold or gave postal cards as advertisements.

League Park was on the south side of the intersection where Plum Street joins Midland Boulevard near Kay Rodgers Park and Harper Stadium. There is presently a motel on the site. Preparations for the air meet were as complete as was humanly possible to make them.

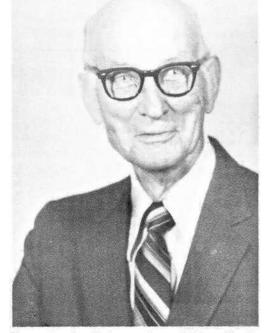
The frame fences were removed except for those paralleling Midland Boulevard. A temporary hospital was set up on the grounds, with two trained nurses in attendance. A group of six physicians, under direction of Dr. H.C. King, chief of the aviation medical corps, were in automobiles stationed at various places along the field. An ambulance was there, and the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company had an electric emergency street car on the tracks just outside in case there should be a hurry-up trip to the hospital.

The men of Company K, of the Arkansas National Guards, commanded by Captain W. W. Baker of Fort Smith, were to be on duty to keep visitors out of harm's way.

Cicero Lewis, who was a child of eleven at the time, was there and remembers the event very well. He recalls that the plane was brought in by flat car on the Missouri Pacific and Frisco railroad tracks. The flat car crossed on the interchange track to the street car tracks and took the plane to the place adjacent to the field. There was some assembling of the plane necessary, probably the wings or some part of the fuselage.

There were other planes present as well. Lincoln Beachey, a pilot of some renown, emerges as the principal figure in the two days' event but he was joined by two more "birdmen," at least. They were pilots named Havens and Hugh A. Robinson.

Beachey, a commissioned mail carrier, had carried the first airmail only a couple of months previously. It happened in New York when he carried a bag of mail a half-mile and dropped it onto the deck of a liner in New York harbor which was bound for Liverpool, England.



Cicero Lewis, photo courtesy of Riggs Studio

The newspaper story of the time reported that Beachey would perhaps try to break the world's altitude record which he had set only two months previously at Chicago, an altitude of 11,000 feet. (This writer tends to believe that was a printing error and should have read 1100 feet.)

Hugh Robinson, also a commissioned mail carrier had carried the first mail in a hydro-aeroplane at St. Louis only a few weeks prior to the November meet.

Beachey carried the sack, or sacks, of mail in his aeroplane and dropped it over the side on the lawn near the post office. He was guided in his flight by an automobile which carried the officials of the Fort Smith Aero Club.

William Mikel, who was not fortunate enough to be at the exciting air meet remembers it well, however, by hearing and reading about it. He recalls that one man, on his own initiative, raced his automobile against the aeroplane. He lost the race.

Newspaper reports also said that Randolph Churchill was here at the time and would post 250 cards which would be sent all over the world. In checking the biographies of the Churchills, we believe this was also an error. The only Churchill which fits into the time slot is our own native American Winston Churchill who was a noted writer (1871-1947) not to be confused with the English Winston Churchill of World War II fame.

Cards were mailed to President W. H. Taft, former president Theodore Roosevelt, and to a future president, Woodrow Wilson. They were also mailed to Arkansas Governor George W. Donaghey and to all state governors in the United States, and to many other notables.

It was one of the biggest events in the history of Fort Smith and was technically the second authorized airmail service in the country, even though the regular airmail service was not begun until about 1918. Fort Smith had many memorable men in aviation, among whom was Ollie Blan (deceased) and Buell Phillips, retired.

All of us can understand snow and rain and heat and gloom of night but never in their wildest dreams could our grandparents and our great-grandparents have foreseen a "letter from home" going from here to there overnight -- at 1100 feet in the air, yet!

And to all letter carriers through the years let us say, "We salute you, and your horses, your boats, your railway cars, your aeroplanes, and your Gypsy carts!"

#### SOURCES

CONVERSATIONS WITH:

Antoinette Beland Mrs. Ollie Blan Lewis Brocker Opal Brinley Rogers Gordon Kelley Kathy Spicer Cicero Lewis William Mikel Norman Giles Dan Miller

#### **NEWSPAPERS:**

Southwest American, 3 November 1911 Southwest American, 4 November 1911

#### BOOKS:

Funk & Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopedia, 1959

#### ARCHIVES:

Judge Parker Court House Arkansas Room, Fort Smith Public Library

## FORT SMITH POST MASTERS

John Rogers March 9, 1829
Samuel H. Montgomery June 7, 1855
William A. Porter March 19, 1857
Abram G. Mayers January 25, 1859
Francis E. Adams February 11, 1864
Francis M. Johnson March 16, 1867
S. Wrigley Murphy September 27, 1867
James E. Bennett April 9, 1869
Thomas G. Scott July 24, 1872
Belle C. Shumard February 6, 1873
Valentine Dell December 18, 1873
J.H. Clendening March 23, 1875
James K. Barnes February 12, 1883
William J. Fleming July 22, 1885
James K. Barnes August 2, 1889

Thomas B. Garrett June 19, 1893
James K. Barnes May 17, 1897
James Brizzolara May 18, 1898
Frank B. Bumgardner February 16, 1910
William J. Johnston June 29, 1914
Alfred L. Peacher June 18, 1918
William B. Pape June 30, 1922
(successor appointed after 1929)
William B. Pape January 22, 1931
Lewis Friedman December 26, 1933
Joseph A. Schnitzer October 10, 1944
Cooper Hudspeth September 1, 1954
Joseph A. Schnitzer February 29, 1964
Ralph W. Blair February 5, 1965
Jim D. Zaner March 8, 1980

# Some early settlers of fort smith area

#### INFORMATION: ATLAS OF SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS 1887

#### RESEARCHED BY CHRIS ALLEN

#### DIRECTORY TOWNSHIP 7 NORTH RANGE 32 WEST

NAME	RESIDENC	E POST OFFICE	OCCUPATION	NATIVITY	Settled in Co.
Booth, John T., M.D.	Sect. 29	Enterprise	Doctor	Arkansas	1847
Brown, Geo. H.	Sect. 9	Cavanaugh.	Farmer.	Arkansas.	1832
Caldwell, R.G.	Sect. 14	Fort Smith	Farmer and Trader	Arkansas	1843
Carnall, T.B.	Sect. 1	Fort Smith	Farming	Arkansas	1857
Cromwell, S.M.	Sect. 15	Fort Smith	Farmer	East Tennessee	1854
Degen, Harmon	Sect. 3	Fort Smith	Farmer and Nurseryman	Germany	1858
Geren, T.M.	Sect. 29	Enterprise	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Middle Tennessee	1866
Griffith, N.B.	Sect. 23	Enterprise	Farmer	Arkansas	1875
Grober, T.F.	Sect. 26	Fort Smith	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Arkansas	1860
McFarlane, R.S.	Sect. 33	Enterprise	Doctor	Middle Tennessee	1843
McConnell, S.C.	Sect. 32	Enterprise	Farmer	East Tennessee	1858
McNabb, N.B.	Sect. 32	Enterprise	Farmer and Preacher	East Tennessee	1869
McKinney, C.D.	Sect. 5	Fort Smith	Farmer	Middle Tennessee	1872
Muse, A.A.	Sect. 13	Rye	Merchant and Trader	Arkansas	1878
Peck, B.A.	Sect. 9	Fort Smith	Farmer	East Tennessee	1875
Redwine, G.D.	Sect. 17	Fort Smith	General Farming	North Carolina	1867
Rye, W.T.	Sect. 25	Fort Smith	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Middle Tennessee	1836
Shaw, John H.	Sect. 15	Rye P.O.	Farmer	Georgia	1870
Stalcup, J.C.	Sect. 5	Fort Smith	Farmer and Clerk of Circuit Court	East Tennessee	1873
Tancred, James	Sect. 9	Fort Smith	Farmer	Ireland	1854
Warren, Henry	Sect. 33	Enterprise	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Middle Tennessee	1873

#### FORT SMITH AND UPPER TOWNSHIP

Ault, Mathias	Fort Smith	Proprietor "Little Mill"	Pennsylvania	1858
Carnall, John	Fort Smith	Real Estate Operator and Loans	Virginia	1840
Collins, J.M.	Fort Smith	Farmer	Virginia	1866
Coleman, G.H.	Fort Smith	Farmer and Fruit Grower	Illinois	1883
Dodson, John	Fort Smith	Real Estate	Ireland	1852
Euper, W.L.	Fort Smith	Sebastian County Assessor	Arkansas	1852
Fishback, Wm. M.	Fort Smith	Amateur Farmer	Virginia	1858
Grey, Mat.	Fort Smith	Mayor	Ireland	1851
Hare, Mrs. Mary	Fort Smith	Hotel Keeper	Ireland	1867
Harrison, E.M.	Fort Smith	Homeopathic Physician	Illinois	1884
Hoffman, J.A.	Fort Smith	Contractor and Builder	Illinois	1866
Hunt, Edward	Fort Smith	Merchant	Germany	1865
Johnson, Dr. G.W.	Fort Smith	Physician	Arkansas	1875
Johnson, T.H.R.	Fort Smith	County Surveyor	Arkansas	1858
Lyman, Geo. H.	Fort Smith	Civil Engineer and Real Estate	Illinois	1883
Main, Dr. J.H.T	Fort Smith	Physician and Landholder	Maryland	1830
McClure, John H.	Fort Smith	County Clerk	E. Tennessee	1870
McKenzie, J.K.	Fort Smith	Farmer	Pennsylvania	1849
Miller, J.G.	Fort Smith	Lumber Dealer	Indiana	1870
Nedry, J.B.	Fort Smith	Real Estate and Loan Agent	Leren	1869
Parke, Frank	Fort Smith	Operator in Real Estate and Coal Lands	Ireland	1854
Rutherford, S.M.	Fort Smith	Deputy Sheriff	Arkansas	
Rogers, Thos.	Fort Smith	Saloon	E. Tennessee	1870
Stone, Henry	Fort Smith	Dealer in General Merchandise	Ohio	1865
Tyler, C.W.	Warren, Ohio	Operator in Real Estate		
Vivion, L.W.	Fort Smith	Real Estate	Kentucky	1886
Williams, John F.	Fort Smith	Farmer and Sheriff	Missouri	1852

# INDEX TO FIRST SEBASTIAN COUNTY WILL BOOKS

Copied By Dollie B. (Mrs. Ralph) Mott FORT SMITH CHAPTER DAR

UPPER TOWNSHIP, SEBASTIAN COUNTY FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS WILL BOOK 'B'1

Will Book A non-existant Administration or Probate Books not available

5747787617971227			5.2007520120 U	SEVANNY ELL	1000	MUL D	100000
NAME	YEAR	RECORD	PAGE	DEVANY, E.H.	1889	Will B	174
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PAPE, Elizabeth	1903	Will B	423	9135495991111455913913913913913913959	20 <b>70.07</b> 0	~~~~~~~~~~	
PARKE, Frank	1902	Will B	404		1007	A	055
				BAKER, S.H.	1887	Admn A	255
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CLARK, Aaron				그는 것 같은 것 같은 것은 것 같은 것을 가지 않는 것을 가지 않는 것을 가지 않는 것을 하는 것이다.		Admn A	94
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				YARBOROUGH, S.E.	1887	Admn A	258

# **NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

By: Mary Lou Jacobsen

#### ANNUAL MEETING ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

April 21, 22, 23, 1983, Fort Smith, Arkansas Tradewinds Motel

Hosted by Fort Smith Historical Society and Fort Smith Coalition for Development.

General Convention Chairman, Jerry Russell of Little Rock.

Local Arrangements Chairman, Amelia Martin of Fort Smith.

The outstanding program for this meeting is on history of Western Arkansas and the Fort Smith area. All members of the Fort Smith Historical Society are urged to participate in all activities. Your presence and support will make this a memorable meeting.

Complete program and meeting information is included in *Journal* insert.

ANNUAL MEETING FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, April 28, 1983, 7:00 p.m. Community Room, Fort Smith Public Library 61 South 8th Street

Annual business meeting only. No special program is planned and all members are urged to attend the Annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association listed above and described in *Journal* insert.

## FSHS STAFF NEWS

Sarah (Mrs. Warren) McCullough, better known to our readers as Sarah Fitzjarrald, her pen name, has joined the staff of *The Journal* as associate editor. A free lance writer, her poetry and prose has been included in a number of regional and national publications. Her biography is in *Who's Who* of *American Women* and she is a member of the National League of American Pen Women, Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas and the Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith.

Carolyn Pollan, co-editor of *The Journal* and a fourth term state representative, has been elected minority leader of the House and Republican leader in the Arkansas General Assembly. Carolyn also was chosen by the Human Services Providers Association as the Legislator of the Year for 1982.

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Frank Jedlicka III, faithful member of our mailing staff, and Rosemary Ida Hammer plan to be married on April 29 in the St. Paul Methodist Church. Frank, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, is employed by the special commodities division of Arkansas Best Corporation. Rosemary is a graduate of Oklahoma State Tech at Okmulgee and is office manager and treasurer for Coldwell Banker Fleming Realty.

## BELLE FORT SMITH TOUR

May 7 - May 8, 1983 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The 1982 Christmas tour was a success. The spring tour arrangements are not complete. Full information will be in the local paper. Anyone interested in assisting with the tour should notify Wayne Bledsoe, P. O. Box 1412, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902.

## SECOND ANNUAL ARKANSAS HERITAGE WEEK

May 7-15, 1983

Watch newspapers for notice of celebration events.

1983 MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARKANSAS STATE PARKS

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## OLD FORT RIVER FESTIVAL

May 13, 14, 15 Fort Smith City Park

There will be something to interest and/or entertain everyone at this special event. The Fort Smith Junior League is sponsor of the festival.

FRONTIER RESEARCHERS

Meet 4th Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. Community Room Fort Smith Public Library



The sight and sound of a streetcar in Fort Smith will soon become a reality. The necessary operating parts have been secured and work is underway to complete renovation of Ft. Smith Birney Safety Car #205.

Anyone wishing to be a part of this project can participate. Contributions should be sent to Ft. Smith Streetcar Restoration Association, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Ft. Smith, Ark., 72901. For a donation of \$205.00, or more, you will receive an engraved numbered membership plaque and a lifetime pass to ride the "trolley". Membership in the "205 Club" is limited to 205 members.

For a contribution of \$25. or more, you will receive a paperweight with an engraving of the streetcar.

Anyone wishing to help with the actual restoration should call Art Martin at 783-1237, or Bradley Martin, 783-0145.

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#### FORT SMITH ART CENTER EXHIBITS 423 North 6th

#### MAIN GALLERY -

May 1983 Jack Gilliland
June 1983 Eduardo Conde
July 1983 TBA
August 1983 Billy Kirk
September 1983 Mike Cowne
October 1983 Dorothy Reif
November 1983
Competition and Exhibition
December 1983 Childrens Christmas Cards
Competition and Exhibition
GALLERY ONE -
May 1983Barbara Fent
June 1983 Lola Doome
July 1983 Suzi Winters
August 1983 John Bell
September 1983 John W. Cross, Jr.
October 1983 Marjorie Bess Huie
November 1983 Pat Pershell

#### BAY WINDOW GALLERY -

May 1983 Ruth Gardenhire
June 1983 Susan Heinrichs and
Joyce Gralak
July 1983 Buren
High School
August 1983Linda Ridener
September 1983 John Isaacs, XV
October 1983 Suane Sanders
November 1983 Gary Dooly
December 1983 Mark Morgan

December 1983 ..... TBA

#### **PHOTO ALLIANCE GALLERY -**

Unscheduled at this time. The Art Center Newsletter will highlight exhibits in the Photo Alliance Gallery

#### THE CENTER INC.

Fund raising efforts are still underway for The Center, Inc. The complex will be a great asset to the city. To volunteer time or money for this project, call 501-785-4477 and ask for Mary Jean Black, or write, The Center, Inc., P. O. Box 1626, Ft. Smith, Ark., 72902.

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#### FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

3600 North O Street

Season Tickets -Matinee - \$10.00 (2:30 p.m. Sunday) Regular - \$12.50 (8:15 p.m.) Champagne - \$25.00 (7:30 p.m. Thursday)

ARSENIC & OLD LACE February 2 through 12th Comedy

ADULT SHOW (Not included in Season Ticket)

VERONICA'S ROOM April 14-16 and April 21-23 Thriller

A MIGHTY MAN WAS HE June 16 - 25 COMEDY

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST July 28 - August 6 DRAMA

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM September 22 - October 1 SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDY

STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE November 10 - 19 DRAMA

OLD FORT MUSEUM

\_\_\_ • \_\_\_

320 Rogers Avenue

Tuesday through Sunday Open 10:00 - 5:00 September through May 9:00 - 5:00 June through August

Nominal admissions charge. Members and school groups free.

SPECIAL MONTHLY EXHIBITS

May 1983	Bits and Spurs from the
	Collection of Gene Inman
June 1983	June Brides and Bridal Gowns
July 1983	Glassware Patterns

The special exhibits for August through December will be announced later.

#### --- • ---CLAYTON HOUSE

514 North 6th Ft. Smith, Arkansas Open 10:00 - 4:00 Mon. through Sat. 1:00 - 4:00 Sunday

Nominal donation for tour of the house. Special group tours can be accommodated, telephone 783-3000 for further information.



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#### FRONTIER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Frontier Achievement Awards dinner, sponsored by the Social Studies Educators of the Fort Smith School District will be held on Friday, April 29, at the U.C.T. Hall.

Awards will be presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of our historical or cultural heritage.

For information concerning nominations for the awards contact Ray Baker, c/o Southside High School, 4100 Gary, Ft. Smith, Ark. 72903

#### 50th ANNIVERSARY OLD FORT DAYS ARKANSAS OKLAHOMA RODEO May 1983

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During this celebration week, the historical features of our City will be featured.

Special events are also being planned.

For additional information, please call Joann Kyral, 783-3961.

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#### ACTIVITIES AT FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY REGULARLY SCHEDULED/ACTIVITIES

Every Wednesday, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. Free Movie everyone brings a sack lunch. Cokes and coffee are available.

2nd Wednesday each month, Book Review 10:30 a.m.

Every Thursday, Children's Story Hour 9:30 a.m.

#### CLUB MEETINGS IN COMMUNITY ROOM:

1st Monday 7:30 p.m., Fort Smith Computer Club 2nd and 4th Monday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ft. Smith Embroiderers' Guild 2nd Monday 6:30 p.m., Professional Photographers 4th Monday, 7:00 p.m., Camera Club 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Old Fort Gun Club 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Frontier Genealogy Society 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., National Organization for Women 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., League of Women Voters 3rd Friday, 1:30 p.m., Poets Roundtable of Fort Smith 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room on first floor. Ft. Smith Chess Club

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Fort Smith Beekeepers Association 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m., Child Nurture Club (Sept. through May) 1st Thursday, 6:30, Westark Relics 1st Thursday, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., 60-Plus Writers

# IN LOVING MEMORY

#### NICHOLAS JOHNSON KELLY

Nicholas Johnson Kelly, member of the Fort Smith Historical Society Board of Directors 1979-81, and contributor to the Journal, died Friday, December 31, 1982 at the age of 74. A retired industrial engineer, he had also served as a guest lecturer in a series of time and motion studies at Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas, during World War II. He was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Fort Smith and is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two sons, N.J. Kelly, Jr. of Phoenix, Arizona, and James Michael Kelly of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and four grandchildren.

#### TODD ANGELO POLLAN

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Todd Angelo Pollan, 17, died October 23, 1982 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident October 16. He was a senior at Southside High School and a member of the Grand Avenue Baptist Church. He is survived by his parents, George and Carolyn Pollan: one sister, Cee Cee Pollan and one brother, Rob Pollan, both of Fort Smith; his maternal grandmother, Faith Clark of Springdale, Arkansas; and his paternal grandfather, Cleve Pollan of Tupelo, Mississippi.

Seventeen years was not enough time To hug a boy who looked like a man, To say I love you till words weren't needed, To have just one more minute with sweet darling, just-right Todd --. But then -- 70 years wouldn't have been enough time to spend with Todd. He was so wonderful, Our Todd He lit up our life.

# **BOOK NOTES**

SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS, ORIGINAL LAND GRANTS. Compiled by Sue Clark, Published by Frontier Researchers, P.O. Box 2141, Fort Smith, AR 72902. Price \$5.00 plus \$1.50 shipping.

Records in this book are copied from microfilm of the Arkansas State Land Office Tract Book and cover the years 1830-1899. After 1900 records are in the court houses in Fort Smith and Greenwood. Each entry includes name of purchaser, date, land description by section, township, and range.

**TRUMAN TRIBUTE.** Published quarterly by Mrs. Doris Roney Bowers, 2573 Redlich Court, Decatur, IL 62521. Price \$10.00 per year or \$18.50 for 2 years.

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New quarterly family magazine of genealogical and historical materials on Truman, Trueman, Trewman and variant spellings. First issue, which was published August 1982 contains 18 pages of a variety of family data, a list of Trumans in the Name Index To Early Illinois Records at the Illinois State Archives and inquiries, plus blank Ancestor Chart and two Family Group Sheets for your use.

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#### GREAT IS THE COMPANY, THE HISTORY OF BEN-TON COUNTY SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

By Maggie Smith. Softbound, 210 pages, Indexed. Order from The Simon Sager Press, P.O. Box 411, Siloam Springs, AR 72761. Price \$12.50 plus \$1.50 shipping.

This extensive history of Benton County Southern Baptist Association includes also separate history of each Baptist Church in Benton County, a county map showing location of Baptist Churches since 1840, more than 100 pictures, a number of biographies and obituaries and more. The full index will be a valuable tool for use of this book which covers 142 years of Benton County history.

A HISTORY OF SPIRO AREA CHURCHES AND PICTORIAL MEMORIES OF OLD SPIRO. Compiled by Mack and Bess Stanley. 54 pages, illustrated, paperback. Order from authors, 118 South Alaska, Spiro, OK 74959. PRICE \$4.95.

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A history of 20 churches in the Spiro and Pocola, Oklahoma area, including Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Pentecostal, Assembly of God and Church of Christ. Pages 38-54 are a pictorial history of Old Spiro.

# INQUIRIES

Inquiries will be published in the *Journal* as space allows and should include the following:

- 1. Your full name and address.
- Full name of ancestor about whom you desire information.
- 3. Definite time period (birth, marriage or death date, or a date appearing in a certain record at a definite time period).
- 4. Specific place of residence at a certain time period.
- State relationship (names of parents, names of children, names of brothers and sisters, or inlaws).

Make your material easy to read: Type if possible, or write clearly; double space your lines; do not abbreviate any words; put all surnames in captial letters; capitalize only the first letter of given names and places; write dates as follows (Day, Month, Year. Example 25 January 1978). Proof read your inquiry carefully for accuracy of dates, names, places and spelling before mailing.

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- ELLIS: Seeking birthplace and information on Ida ELLIS, born 24 November 1870 in Arkansas or Oklahoma? Died 29 July 1900 at Buck, Indian Territory (Okla.) near Alderson, east of McAlister. She married Luke Marion WHITLOW in 1889 at Newport, Arkansas. Children: Lee Columbus, Minnie Cora, Hattie Mae and Effie Mary Whitlow. Her parents were Isaac ELLIS and Sarah STARNES. Martha Gossett, 600 North 36 Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903.
- HIBDON-JONES: Need information on people involved in murder trial held in Fort Smith, Ark., 1891/1897. Defendent, ? JONES, convicted for murder of Jesse and Charles HIBDON who were murdered, their house burned, and their horses and clothes stolen near Booneville, Ark. Plantiffs: parents of Jesse HIBDON, Calvin Daniel and Susan HIBDON. Rosa Hibdon Adams, 1616 Del Rancho, Irving, TX 75061.

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- YOUNG KING: Mahala S. BAKER YOUNG KING was born about 1813 in Maury County, Tennessee, the eldest child of Edmund and Rebecca PHIL-LIPS BAKER. The family lived in Lawrence County, Tennessee in 1830 and Marshall County, Mississippi in 1840. It is thought that Mahala married Jessee H. YOUNG in DeSoto County, Mississippi on June 15, 1846, while she was living with her brother, Steven Pelzer BAKER. They became the parents of one daughter, Mary Ann or Polly who was born about 1847. She was a widow living with her mother, another brother, John M. and a sister, Louisiana, in the 1850 census of Ouachita County, Arkansas, After this date, the family moved to Sebastian County, Arkansas to live with another brother, James J. BAKER. Here she married a widower, Dixon P. KING, about 1853. They became the parents of one son, Aaron C., who was born in 1854. Mahala was last found on the census in 1880 in Greenwood, Arkansas. I would like to correspond with any members of this family. R.P. Baker, 6525 Magnolia, Mabelvale, AR 72103.
- MANSELL-MILLER-PITMAN: Need information on my grandparents, William Marcus MANSELL, owner and operator of a gun and locksmith shop in Fort smith, and his wife Willie Alzona (MILLER) MANSELL. Information I now have indicates William Marcus was born 22 June 1871 and died 3 February 1952, the son of William and Emily (PITMAN) MANSELL. Willie Alzona MILLER was born 3 March 1876 and died 5 December 1935. Her father's name was Mode MILLER and I believe her mother's name was Nancy BUNK or Nancy BROOKS. Any help will be appreciated. Virginia Fostor Qualls, 5924 Wilkins Avenue, Oakdale, CA 95361.

WARREN-COFFEE: Need information on Able WARREN, Fort Smith merchant circa 1845; also Holland COFFEE, Fort Smith merchant before 1835, also involved in Indian trade in Indian Territory. Andrew Gallup, Exhibits Technician. Museum of the Great Plains, P.O. Box 68, Lawton, OK 73501. PH. AC 405-353-5675.

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## 1883 NEWS

Abstracted From The FORT SMITH WEEKLY NEW ERA By Wilma Jameson

#### January 4, 1883

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A Gas Company has been organized here and Fort Smith will be ablaze with gas in the sweet by-and-by, and it is likely to be near the close of that indefinite period before the works will be put in operation, if we may judge from the lack of energy displayed by other kindred organizations.

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Deputy Marshals L.W. Marx, W.F. Jones, Elias Andrews and John G. Farr have arrived in the last few days bringing in full quotas of prisoners charged with various offenses, from introducing whiskey to the serious one of murder. This, we believe was Mr. Andrews' first trip as a deputy, having hitherto registered as posse to Mr. W.F. Jones, and was but lately promoted for efficient service. Besides a number of prisoners Mr. A. brought in some confiscated property wagons, teams and harness.

What about that fire-engine? Are our citizens waiting until Fort Smith has been burned to the ground and is ashes scattered to the four winds before they can be induced to move in this matter? Or, are they like the

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original Arkansaw traveller who said his house didn't leak when the sun shone? and hence do not need an engine when there are no fires. We are of the opinion that a well directed solicitation would secure necessary apparatus. In time of peace prepare for trouble.

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Walking down the avenue yesterday, we were much amused at the frantic efforts of some of our citizens trying to maintain their equilibrium on the glassy surface of the frozen pavement, and as some of them sat down with more than usual vigor and with a thud that made their teeth rattle, they immediately invoked the aid of an imaginary female named Helenblazes, and tried to look innocent-like, as if they had sat down on the cold, cold ground just for the fun of the thing. Such scenes recalled to our mind the well-known lines "She slips, she slides, she seems to feel-The thrill of life along her keel."

We are pained to announce the death of Mr. John Hare, after a short illness, of pneumonia, in the fiftieth year of his age. A week ago Mr. Hare was in the full prime and vigor of manhood, attending faithfully to his

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official duties, greeting all with genial smile and ready wit, passing the merry jest with a heartiness that made him friends wherever he went. Mr. Hare was born in the county of Wicklow, Ireland, May 1, 1833, and emigrated to this country in 1849. His death occurred on Tuesday evening at 9 o'clock, at his late residence on the Texas Road, from whence his remains were taken to the Catholic Church this morning at 7:30 o'clock, where funeral services were held by the Rev. Lawrence Smythe.

THE "FRISCO LINE" - New Year's Greeting

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To the Merchants of Fort Smith:

We take pleasure in advising our friends, and the shipping community, that the St. Louis and San Francisco Ry., was completed to Fort Smith on January 1st proximo, and is prepared for the prompt handling of all freight that may be offered for shipment to St. Louis and beyond, and other points on its extensive line.

The "Frisco Line" being one hundred miles shorter to St. Louis than any other we can guarantee better time than will or can be made by other routes. The line from Fort Smith to St. Louis being under, one management, rates being as low, and time quicker, should make the "Frisco Line" the favorite with all shippers.

> C.W. Rogers, 1st Vice President & General Manager St. Louis, Mo. G.W. Cale, General Freight Agent St. Louis, Mo. A. Coles, Agent Fort Smith, Ark. \_\_\_\_\_\_ January 11, 1883

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#### FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT

#### Death of Mr. R.M. Mosby

.....Mr. R.M. Mosby, of the firm of Echols, Johnson and Mosby, millers, formerly Henderson & Mosby, superintendent of the mill, while passing through the room used as a planing mill, and which adjoins the main building, attempted to step over an iron shaft, about a foot from the ground, through which power is furnished to the cotton gin on the opposite side of the street, and the skirt of his long overcoat was caught by the shaft where it was coupled together, and in a moment he was thrown from his feet and battered to death against the ground.

Mr. Mosby was comparatively a young man, being about 35 years of age and was highly respected by all who know him for his many good qualitites of head and heart. He came to this city something over a year ago. . . His mother is living in Holley Springs, Miss. He leaves a wife and three small children to mourn his loss.

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The "Famous" Clothing and Dry goods house of Mr. J. Karatofsky has closed its doors, having made an assignment in the last few days. We learn that the assets will cover all liabilities.

The St. Charles Hotel property, now known as the Riverside Hotel, was sold on Monday last to Dr. Main for the sum of \$4,200. The purchase we understand, was for Dr. Bailey, father of Dr. W.W. Bailey, of this city.

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Last week we made mention of the assignment of M. Sternberg & Company, but were unable at the time to give any particulars. We have since learned that the assignee was a Mr. Jacobs, who was formerly in business in this city, and that the liabilities are about \$10,000, with about \$1,000 assets. On Tuesday last five trunks full of his goods were found by detectives in the store of S. Joel, and the U.S. Marshal has taken them under his charge. How these goods came to be where found is a mystery, as Mr. Joel disclaims any knowledge concerning them.

#### —— • —— January 18, 1883

#### REMOVAL

M. Silberberg will, on Monday next, move his large stock of Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Etc. to their new store in the Bonneville Block, where great inducements will be offered to all who may call. Thankful for past favors. I respectfully solicit your patronage in the future.

M. Silberberg.

#### \_\_\_ • \_\_\_ DIED

At his residence on Knox Street, on the 11th inst., Mr. Philip Baum aged fifty seven years.

Thus are we called upon to chronicle the death of another good citizen. For thirty-five years the deceased has been a resident of this city, where he had gathered together considerable real estate by patient industry and perseverance, and was highly respected by all for his quiet and unostentatious manner. He was a native of Munich, Bavaria. We tender our sympathy to the bereaved family.

At the residence of the bride on Knox street, on the 11st inst., Capt. W.G. Nelms to Mrs. Sarah P. Ashbrook, Rev. Mr. Berne officiating.

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#### REMOVAL

Devlin and Sparks will remove their large stock of Boots and Shoes to their new store on Garrison Avenue, next door to John Vaughn, where they will be pleased to meet all their friends and the public in general.

#### January 25, 1883

A correspondent of the Kansas City Journal made a trip recently through Missouri and Arkansas. He described the country which he passed very graphically and truthfully.

Fort Smith is well supplied with newspapers having a daily and four weeklies, the Herald, Independent, Elevator, and New Era. The latter declares on its title page that it is "the oldest Republican paper in the defunct confederacy." Col. Dell was absent in Washington, but I had the pleasure of meeting his accomplished daughter who had charge of the paper meantime, and who in one sentence, gave me a comprehensive idea of the salient points of interest about Fort Smith. But for her kindness I should not have met many of the old residents, and without their assistance my day's work would have been unsatisfactory indeed.

The city of Fort Smith stands on a succession of knolls at the confluence of the Poteau with the Arkansas, the main street following a low ridge, similar to Kansas avenue, Topeka, and varying some twenty degrees to the west as that does to the east. The military reservation includes 300 acres and lies partly in Arkansas and partly in the territory. This reservation was turned over to the interior department in 1871, but has never been offered for sale. The city has along this line, compactly built up to it but prohibited from trespassing upon one foot of it. To the east and southeast it stretches away over the hills presenting a beautiful view and boasting some of the finest residences in the state. In churches and schools it is not deficient, and the morals of the place appear to compare favorably with other towns similarly situated. It has been called a hard town and has had a general reputation for lawlessness and crime, and in proof of the charge the court records are referred to. Now for the explanation. Fort Smith is the seat of justice for the Western District of Arkansas in the federal court, which court has jurisdiction over the Indian Territory in all cases, civil and criminal, where white men are concerned; the courts of the nation attending to the exclusively Indian cases, except where the government is concerned; and Arkansas all the opprobrium, whether she is concerned or not. That is about the state of the case. Judge Parker's court is in perpetual session, virtually, and whenever a few surplus renegades are convicted and hung, public opinion abroad charges it up to the ulcerated condition of society at Fort Smith. On Sunday, when the Church bells were clanging in every

direction and the streets filled with well dressed people going to the call, I had occasion to amend my previous opinion of the place, and still more when I heard 500 Sunday school children singing

"Children of the Heavenly King."

Now for something of the musty past. It would be interesting to go back to the time of the French settlements, when they stamped their nationality on every river and mountain. When the Fourche Ia Fave, the Petit Jean, the Maumelle and the Poteau rivers were named, and their waters first vexed by the progress of the voyageurs, but want of space forbids anything like a detailed narrative.

These people named the point of land at the confluence of the Poteau with the Arkansas, "La Belle Point," and after the cession of this country to the United States, a stockade fort was established here in 1827 by Major Bradford. The site was selected by Major Long, under authority of Brigadier General Thomas A. Smith, commanding the Ninth military department, hence the name Fort Smith. Major Long thus describes the appearance of the site:

"The situation selected for the garrison is secure and healthy, and affords a complete command of the rivers above mentioned. Its elevation is about thirtyfive feet above the water, from which it is accessible by easy account. The point is supported upon a basis of stratified sandstone, well adapted for building, and is surrounded by woodland, affording an abundance of excellent timber. The soil of the adjacent county is exuberant, producing corn, cotton, etc., in great abundance."

Major Bradford commanded from its establishment until February, 1822. His mail facilities were a canoe manned by a soldier who made the trip from here to Arkansas Post in three weeks. Following Major Bradford came a long line of commanders, including many names since famous in the federal and confederate armies, including Arbuckle, Wooley, Bonneville, who got lost in the Rocky Mountains and was dropped from the rolls and afterwards reinstated at the request of General Lafayette; Sibley Gatlin, Crittenden, Sturgis, Cloud, Edwards, Bishop, Judson and others, the latter being well known officers of Kansas, Arkansas and lowa volunteer regiments.

The post was occupied by U.S. regular or volunteer troops during the following periods: 1817 to 1824, reoccupied March, 1833, troops withdrawn June, 1834, reoccupied July 1838; troops withdrawn July 1850, reoccupied March 1851; troops withdrawn March 1858; reoccupied December, 1858; troops withdrawn June 1859, reoccupied September 1860; troops withdrawn April, 1861, reoccupied September, 1863; troops withdrawn September, 1871.

In 1838 a commission selected the present site of Fort Smith, removed a few hundred yards for the site of a walled fort. The United States purchased of Captain John Rogers' 300 acres for the site of the fort and reservation, and in consideration, no doubt, of his "nine small children, and one at the breast," paid him \$60,000 for it. It is to be hoped he lost nothing by the sacrifice.

The same year Capt. Balknap built temporary quarters for his men on a knoll a few hundred yards south of the fort, until the fort should be completed. The headquarters of the military department were afterward established here, and General Zach Taylor commanded for more than two years. He went from here in to New Orleans to prepare for the invasion of Mexico.

Meantime work was progressing on the fort. It is an enclosed space of five acres in form nearly square with bastions at the corners and a wall three feet in thickness and twelve feet in height, connecting them. This wall was perforated with port holes at a height of six feet, but a portion of it only was completed, which still remains to show the design. The buildings consisted of handsome quarters for the officers and men, two stories in height with colonades, a magazine, guard house, hospital, etc. Two excellent wells furnish an abundance of water.

One of the last recommendations of Gen. Taylor to the secretary of war was that further work on the inclosing wall be abandoned, which was adopted, leaving the wall as it now stands, six or seven feet in height. Gen. Bliss, A.A.G., formed the acquaintance of the general's daughter, Miss Bessie Taylor, here, and afterwards married her.

"Camp Belknap" having been found to be on the sixteenth section and therefore reserved to the state for school purposes, the school trustees sold it to Bishop Byrne, of the Catholic Church in 1847, who converted the buildings into a convent in 1853.

Shortly before and after the war, destructive fires occurred in the fort, which destroyed in the end all the quarters save one of the men's quarters, which is at present the federal court building. All the foreign materials for the fort, glass, paint, slate for roofing were brought here by steamer from New Orleans. The fort was completed and occupied first in 1842.

Among the noted confederates who had their headquarters here during the war, although not in command of the fort, were McCullough, Hindman, Cabell, Steen and McIntosh.

On a beautiful eminence overlooking the Poteau river is the national cemetery, an enclosure of fifteen or twenty acres, walled with brick. Here all the dead of the post were buried, some of the dates reaching back to 1825, and latterly the dead of both armies have been removed here from the various battle fields and skirmishes adjacent. It is a beautiful place, kept in order by a disabled soldier, who cares for friend and foe alike. I noticed a number of Kansas men, predominating, I think, over those of any other state, excepting Arkansas. A handsome monument marks the resting place of the confederate generals, McIntosh and Steen, and around it is a field thickly strewed with graves, the most of whom are marked simply with a number. The boys of the Second Indian Battery (Rabbs?) are buried in a group apart, under a clump of trees.

And so the flag floats over all, Union and Confederate, and the receding event of their strife softens, as the years pass, and the bond of fraternal feeling strengthens again as tears mingle and flowers bloom over their graves.

Just before the war a Pacific railroad survey was made from Fort Smith via Albuquerque and the route pronounced very easy and practicable; it is not improbable that in the flood time dawning this early dream of her people may be realized.

Kansas City merchants are putting in an appearance, and will divide the trade with St. Louis and Memphis. Many Kansans are well known in Van Buren and Fort Smith. Capt. Ewing of Thayer, Majs. Hudson and Tom Anderson, of Topeka, the latter of whom married his wife here, Col. Cloud and others, to say nothing of Capt. Payne.

In closing this series of letters descriptive of the new route from Kansas City to Fort Smith, I wish to acknowledge favors from one and all who have made the trip an occasion of unallowed pleasure and particularly Mr. Edward Benn of Blanset, Messrs. Lopp and Crutcher, conductors on the Frisco road, Cal Wolf of the Fayetteville Times, and Mr. John Gardner, Col. Duval and the newspaper fraternity of Fort Smith.

During the cold snap last Saturday the river froze over at Van Buren, and the passengers on the train were compelled to remain in the cars until the ice could be cut away Sunday morning for the transfer boat to cross the river. The crossings are now made on time.

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The clothing and dry goods establishment of M. Wolf, the Cheap John store, made an assignment on Tuesday, R.M. Johnson, assignee. Liabilites \$10,000. This thing is getting to be monotonous.

#### **Too Fast**

This city has been placed under an interdict like a leprous place. At the request of the Board of Health, the Mayor, without consulting the Council, has issued his proclamation, closing the schools, churches, and forbidding all assemblies of any kind. The Board of Health recommended this extraordinary measure on account of the reported existence of some cases of scarlet fever, none of them of a serious nature, however, we are informed. There has been no deaths from this cause.

Aside from the serious injury an arbitrary measure of this kind needlessly afflicts upon this community, in the business season, there is a principle involved that ought to be faced at once. And it is this:

Why should the functions of social, commercial,

moral and religious life be arrested, paralyzed in this manner and held at the mercy of any man or any set of men? Why not, instead of placing a whole community under severe restraint, restrain the cause of the evil?

In case of small-pox the patients are cared for in a building set apart for that purpose, the community rightly defraying the expenses and any needful measure needed to stamp out the dread disease are readily endorsed by the people. But where is the need of such extreme measures as have been adopted by our authorities in the few cases of scarlatina prevailing? What good will it do? The members of the families where the disease is located will attend to their duties as usual. They will go to market, to the store or any where else to get what they need, but none of them would go to church, to prayer meeting, school or any other public place while sickness is in their family. If there is a danger of contagion from scarlatina let the Board of Health through the city council place a nurse or guard at every infected house at the city's expense where the people are not able to pay for the service and let this nurse or guard be charged with attending to the wants of those afflicted with the disease. But do not attempt to order a large flourishing town to assume the habiliments of the grave-yard for one whole month on account of a few cases of a mild disease easily controlled.

We have the highest regard for the Board of Health, the members of which, without an exception are, we believe, our personal friends. But we believe we express but the sentiments of the community in saying, that the measure inaugurated was too sweeping, unnecessary and injurious to the best interests of our city.

#### THE STATE VS THE CHURCH

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Two of the ministers of this city disregarded the mayor's proclamation last Sunday and held divine services in their respective churches, viz: Rev. Mr. Berne, rector of the Protestant Episcopal church, and Rev. Lawrence Smythe of the Catholic church. In this connection we find the following in the Fort Smith Herald of yesterday:

Rev. Mr. Berne, of the Episcopal church, was before the Mayor yesterday to answer the charge of a violation of the Board of Health ordinance prohibiting services at the churches, etc. Mr. Berne said that the orders of his church were imperative, and that it was not left discretionary with him as to whether he would hold services or not, but that it was his positive duty, and he could see no way of avoiding it unless the Mayor would take possession of the church keys and place a police officer on guard at the door. In that event he would feel himself excusable for not holding services. He agreed upon the suggestion of the Mayor to confer with the President of the Board of Health, and signified his willingness to abide by any and all ordinances of the city that did not conflict with his vows as a priest. The court granted Mr. Berne futher time on the charge and continued the case.

The case of Rev. Mr. Smythe has not been tried yet, but he enters a similar plea to that of Mr. Berne, we learn.

We respect these gentlemen for their moral courage. We think that there was not and is not now the faintest cause for shutting up the houses of worship, much less than shutting up the post office or markets, and we hope to see their churches full next Sunday.

Yet the point of Mr. Berne, that his vow as a priest might bring him into conflict with the constituted civil authorities, is not admissible in our Republic. Religious societies, in their connection with general society, as all other organizations, are subordinate to and protected by the State, i.e. the people. Emergencies may arise to make it necessary to close even the churches, not from desire to infringe upon freedom of worship, but from the necessities of the case. But such necessity does not exist at the present.

## REMOVED!

I have removed my barber shop to the building formerly occupied by Ish & Company, auctioneers, where I expect to meet all my old and new customers as well as the public generally.

EPH MERCHAND

In the Slaughter case before the U.S. District Court, the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty," as charged in the indictment.

#### ---- • ----February 1, 1883

The liquor saloon of Jno W. Miller, familiarly known as the Nickel saloon, closed its doors yesterday afternoon, an attachment having been served upon the proprietors by Deputy Sheriff Sanders. The liabilities are about \$1500.

## BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS

Last Thursday the Board of Health met and rescinded their recommendation to churches:

The following resolution was presented by Dr. Price, and on motion adopted: for guarding against scarlet fever becoming epidemic have in a measure subsided and abated. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the steps heretofore directed to be taken by the Mayor by resolution of the Board of Health in regard to requiring services in all churches to be suspended, be so modified as to permit the holding of services in the churches of the various denominations, but parents are required not to permit their children to go to Sunday schools or public gatherings.

The Mayor is instructed to issue a proclamation in accordance with these resolutions.

The application of the Board of School Directors of the city of Fort Smith to re-open the public schools, was, on motion of Dr. Johnson, rejected for the time being, it being deemed at present unwise and impolitic to reopen any schools, be the same public or private.

On motion of Dr. Johnson the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the dignity and majesty of the law and the legality of the acts of this Board of Health have been fully vindicated by the action of the Mayor's court in finding the contumacious and resisting ministers who have sought to evade and disobey the legal orders and directions of this Board; and be it resolved that the Mayor and city council be, and are hereby, requested to cause the fines assessed against said ministers to be remitted and refunded.

It was declared to be the sense of the Board that only such gatherings were prohibited as brought children together in crowds of numbers.

The harsh language in relation to the Revds. Berne and Smythe is to be regretted. There was no occasion for it.

The grocery and provision store of A.J. Moore closed its doors Tuesday morning. Five failures in one month is a bad showing for Fort Smith. We have not learned the amount of liabilities in this last failure.

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The "Home Dramatic Company" have selected the play "Lady of Lyons", and will commence rehearsing at once. Mr. John S. Park and Miss Nina Johnston take the leading characters.

#### February 8, 1883

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Mrs. Katharine Emrich, one of the oldest inhabitants of this city, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Mickel, last Thursday after a brief illness of only a day or two. She was buried on Saturday from the German Lutheran Church, Pastor Germann officiating ...

\_\_\_ • \_\_

...Col. John B. Lathem died last Monday morning at his residence after he protracted a tedious illness, the result of paralysis. He leaves a wife and three children. Col. L. has been a resident of Fort Smith for about thirty years and before the war was one of our leading business men. During the war he was at one time in command of the Post under Confederate rule and gained much credit in that position for his absence of vindictiveness toward Union men of whom the large majority of this county was composed. He also filled several important municipal offices with credit and ability.

- • ---

Thus the old landmarks go, one by one.

#### MARRIED

At the residence of the bride's parents in Little Rock, Ark. Mr. George Tilles, of Fort Smith, to Miss Ella Wormser.

We congratulate our young friend George in having gathered from the parental roof one of the choicest and sweetest flowers that grew in the city of Roses. We wish the young couple all the happiness that their hearts could desire.

## DIED

At Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 5th, Mr. Richard Schneider, 1st Sergeant Co. I, 15th Infantry, U.S.A., in the 31st year of his age.

## FOR SALE

A splendid doctor's phaeton, second hand but good as new. Also a fine four-year-old-filley colt. Enquire at this office.

#### A NEW AND USEFUL INVENTION

Mr. Geo. N. Todd, of Little Rock, has on exhibition at the Southern Hotel, an invention of his own, lately patented, a most ingeniously constructed "Cotton Picker," designed and intended for the purpose of picking cotton rapidly and economically, and after a thorough examination of the model, and witnessing experiments made with it, where the model machine actually picked the cotton from the boll, without injuring or breaking the stalk or limbs, we feel satisfied that it will prove as great a blessing to those engaged in the culture of cotton, as the threshing machines have been to the wheat grower. It is intended to be used with handpower, a full sized machine weighing only 150 pounds, and as it gathers the cotton as fast as it can be pushed along. It is easy to see that an immense saving will be made on the old time plan of picking by hand. Space forbids us giving a description of this meritorious machine.

#### February 15, 1883

Yesterday was St. Valentines day, and the post office did a thriving business. Valentines are the seed that Cupid sometimes sows in order to raise bridal wreaths. The marriage bells will ring out lustily in the fall.

---- • -----

Workmen are engaged in tearing down the walls of the Breen building and removing the debris, preparatory to the erection of a handsome building two stories high and 140 feet deep. Mr. Breen will give his personal supervision to this structure.

--- • ----

Slop, slop, slop. Mud, mud, mud. Is there a way of getting rid of the fearful sloppiness on the street crossings, whenever it happens to rain? At such times they are impassible for ladies, and the gentlemen close their teeth tightly together to prevent using cuss words as they tramp, tramp, tramp through the slush and mud.

#### March 1, 1883

Mr. Barnes, the new Postmaster, will retain Messrs. Weaver and Handlin as his assistants in the post office. Mr. Weaver has occupied his position for quite a number of years, and a more efficient clerk could not be found.

----

We are to have a fire-proof vault for the county records and papers. It will cost the sum of \$500, which is small considering the importance of the action, and the necessity for it. Commissioners have been appointed to attend to the construction. It will be erected in the rear of the Clerk's office, and will have burglar-proof doors. The lease of the present court rooms has been extended five years.

## ABOUT OUR OLD FOLKS

We are glad to record the recovery from a severe attack of pneumonia of our neighbor, Mr. John Stryker, whose four score years seem to press but lightly as yet upon his aged shoulders. Mr. Stryker is, with the exception of Capt. William Rogers, son of Capt. John Rogers, the original owner of the land this city is built on, the oldest citizen of Fort Smith, having come here in July 1837, nearly forty-six years ago. Dr. J.H.T. Main, is, we believe, the next oldest having come here a few months after Mr. Stryker. He is also still hale and hearty, attending to the calls of his profession.

Mr. Michael Manning, who cannot be far from fourscore, struck the rising town clustering around the "Fort" not much later and, though afflicted with total blindness for some years, enjoys excellent health. Among others, who have been here since the forties, we may mention Mr. Asa Clark, Mr. John R.A. Hendry, Hon. R.M. Johnson, who served several terms as Mayor, Mr. John Euper, Mr. John Dodson, Mr. Ed Czarnikow, old man Skully and some others we don't now remember. Of those who came here in the fifties there is guite a number of citizens yet alive and flourishing, furnishing proof of the great salubrity of our city. Come to think we omitted two of the oldest, if not the oldest, of our citizens, Col. B.T. and Dr. E.R. DuVal, familiar names everywhere in this state. They are the sons of William DuVal, of French descent, who settled here in the earliest days of the insipid town. Both the gentlemen named are natives of this town, if we mistake not, and if so, will be entitled to the honor of being the oldest inhabitants, at least Col. B.T.

The writer of this struck Fort Smith for the first time in 1853, just thirty years ago, when there could hardly have been 1000 people in town. Business however, was splendid, Fort Smith supplying an immense country to the north, south and west, but about all of it was done on Water and Ozark streets, and on Garrison avenue, about three blocks up from the river. The present town was "in the woods," all but a few streets near the river and Garrison avenue to Knox street; and in the "Grove" stood many of the old Garrison buildings yet, including General Taylor's headquarters.

#### ---- • ----March 29, 1883

In speaking of the old settlers of Fort Smith we omitted to name the very oldest cock of them all, viz: Mr. C.A. Birnie, who, by no means an old man, has breathed the healthy air of Fort Smith for nearly if not quite a half a century, having been born here in 1833. The Birnies are of English stock and his uncle Geo. S. Birnie when he came here in 1830 from Pittsburg, brought a very comfortable large frame house with him and erected it on the spot, where it stands today on the banks of the raging Arkansaw and it seems to be good for another half a century if well taken care of.

Mr. Charles Reutzel, son of Mr. Casper Reutzel and for some years associated with him in business, will be married tonight at 8 o'clock at the Lutheran church by Rev. Mr. Germann to Miss Mary W.S. Fuhrman. Reception at the residence of Mr. Casper Reutzel on Howard street after the ceremony.

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Mr. John Reutzel, who was in the furniture business at Dardanelle a couple of years, has returned to his old home and means to stick to the Future Great.

.....

\_ • \_

Miss Dyke and Mr. Chism, were married last evening at the residence of the bride's mother, on Franklin street, by Rev. M. Jeffett. The wedding was very private, only relations and a few friends being present. We extend congratulations and wish them much happiness.

#### VOTER!

If you are the husband of a virtuous wife, can you ever look into her face again, unless you vote the decent ticket next Tuesday?

If you are the father of a modest daughter, will you help to elect rulers who would remorselessly sacrifice her innocence and purity?

If you have a son, will you by your vote next Tuesday say, that you are in favor of gambling houses, houses of prostitution and every vileness imaginable?

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The city directory men have just got through their work and give Fort Smith a population of over 7,000 inhabitants. The census of 1880 shows up only 3200. Increase in less than three years nearly 100 per cent.

#### --•---

POWELL-KING: On Wednesday, the 21st, at the residence of the bride's mother, in this city, Mr. R.T. Powell, of Greenwood, to Miss Ida M. King, Rev. M.T. Brown officiating.

#### \_\_\_ • \_\_\_

#### April 5, 1882

They all went to school at the same time to the editor of the NEW ERA: Henry Carnall, the Mayor elect, Henry Reutzel, the City Treasurer elect, Charles Eberle, the Recorder elect and John Sengel, the City Marshall elect. And some of them used to catch it, too sometimes. But never mind, boys, your old teacher did not go back on you but helped to flax the bad boys.

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# It was the towline of the *NEW ERA* that did it. The *ELEVATOR* drew it mild, because the son of the proprietor was the candidate for Mayor. The *INDEPEND-ENT*, the pet of the beaten crowd, swallowed the pill with a wry face and the *HERALD* came very near kicking the fat into the fire with its Bourbon bray. But the *NEW ERA'S* strong towline having once made fast to the craft, pulled her safely in the harbor.

## REDEEMED

"The battle must be won. Fort Smith must redeem herself," was our announcement two weeks ago. Tuesday's election by the people verified it in an overwhelming majority. The result of Tuesday's election will be felt to the latest day while this is a city! It was the turning point in her history. Two years more of such an administration as we have had for years past, would have involved Fort Smith in ruin to such an extent, as the greatest wisdom, skill and integrity would have failed to extricate her from.

The stakes were great. Both sides knew and felt it. Hence the most strenous labor was put forth by both, especially the defeated party, among which, we regret to say, were one or two, who ought to have been on the successful ticket.

There was no trace of political principle involved. It was

REFORM ON RUIN,

Republicans and Democrats worked shoulder to shoulder in the good cause and not the least among the workers were the

#### LADIES OF FORT SMITH

to whom especial thanks are due. The result is truly worthy of a thanksgiving.

The vote was the largest ever polled and establishes the fact, that Fort Smith has fully 7,000 inhabitants, quite an increase from 3200 in June 1880.

#### VICTORY

#### A WORSE THAN TAMMANY RING SMASHED

#### "CONSIDERABLY DISFIGURED AND OUT OF THE RING"

The municipal election on Tuesday passed off with very little disturbance though the excitement was at white heat. There was a firm determination among the law-abiding, peaceable citizens to have a fair and quiet election, which the most reckless bully was afraid to encounter. There were one or two breaches of the peace committed by officers of the present administration, but they were promptly squelched. Below we give the official returns:

#### For Mayor

H. Carnall	•	•	•		•			•	•		•	•	•	•		476
Jas Brizzolara	•					•	•	•	•			•			•	393

#### For Recorder

C.H. Eberle	2					•	•		•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	 463
A.S. Fowler			•	•	•			•			•	•		•			•	•	406

#### For Treasurer

H. Reutzel				•		•	1			•	•		•		526
F.W. Boas									•						342

#### For Marshall

John Sengel	•						•	•	•	•									•	491
John Kemp			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	372
		 _						_	_	_	_									

#### MARRIED

REUTZEL-Fuhrmann: At the Lutheran church at 8 o'clock, p.m. March 29th, 1883, by the pastor Rev. P.F. Germann, both of this city. . .

The bridal couple was escorted by the following groomsmen and bridesmaids, Misses Lizzie Speaker and Emma Fuhrman, and Willie Schulte and Gus Fuhrman...

## NOW IS THE TIME

to prevent the putting up of overhead telegraph wires in this town. They have become a nuisance everywhere and are being removed in many places, and now, while the whole business is in its infancy, here the people should instruct its public servants to compel the laying of underground wires through town.

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#### KANSAS CITY, FORT SCOTT & GULF RAILROAD LINE

The Memphis extension of this line is completed to Augusta, Oregon Co., Mo., 340 miles from Kansas City.

The line will be completed to a connection with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway, at

Hoxie, Ark., about June 1st next, where the line eastward from Nettleton, Ark., will be met, thus also making connection with the Texas and St. Louis Railway, at Jonesboro, Ark., and with the Knobel branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Ry. at Nettleton.

Owing to the delay occasioned by the overflow from the Mississippi River, the line will not be completed to Memphis, Tennessee, until about July 31st next.

#### THE NATIONAL CEMETERY

The national cemetery at this place is rapidly becoming a favorite resort of our townfolk in quest of a quiet shady place, where one can spend an hour or two very pleasantly mid nature's charms and those of art.

Situated within less than ten minutes' walk of the main business street of the town, on the high banks of the Poteau river a few hundred yards above where it falls into the swiftly rolling, majestic Arkansas, its stately oaks and smooth lawns, its clean walks and fine shrubbery, afford a grateful relief from the heat, dust and bustle of our stirring town. It is, indeed, the only public breathing place our people have. The cemtery is an old one, having been established about forty years ago, at the time the old fort, where General Zach Taylor was stationed after the Florida war, was removed from the "sixteenth section" now a part of the city, to the new Fort at the mouth of Poteau, where, what is left of it, is now occupied by the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Arkansas. When the national cemeteries were established by an act of Congress, the old cemetery here was considerably enlarged and surrounded by a handsome brick wall, which includes the Superintendent's neat residence.

The present Superintendent, Mr. Dillon, who has been in charge for a number of years, is just putting on the grounds a Spring dressing of rich mould, which will be covered shortly with verdure and flowers. It is a pity the appropriation for this purpose is so trifling, only \$62.50, not near enough to keep the extensive grounds as they should be kept, even with the best attention of the Superintendent. He needs a horse and cart very much to assist him in his labors.

The register of visitors in the Superintendent's office shows from week to week a large number of names of people from abroad and at home who have been over the grounds. Sunday, of course, is generally selected for that purpose.

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Deputy U. S. Marshal J. H. Mershon and J. J. Smith arrived Friday with 18 prisoners from the B.I.T., charged with the usual offenses, such as trading in whiskey, deadly assault, murder, larceny, etc.

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Thos E. Lacey, Deputy Sheriff to this county and under several administrations an efficient U. S. Deputy Marshal, is entering the Missouri Pacific railway service on the 1st of next month. He will have charge of the gravel train between Muscogee, I. T., and Denison, Texas.

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Fort Smith is booming, there is no doubt of it, as any town is, that more than doubles her population in less than three years. But we haven't a fire engine, nor any means to oppose a conflagration, the streets are wretched, no market house, no courthouse, no street lamps, no waterworks, no sewerage system, and but a single school house, for the purpose of which, fourteen years ago, the editor of the NEW ERA, when president of the schoolboard, was roundly abused. There is lots and lots to do for our new administration. But don't crowd them. Rome wasn't built in a day. It requires careful, skillful and honest management to supply the wants of this city and keep it from striking the rocks that swamped Helena, Memphis and many other cities. Then again, the taxes are already as much as the people can stand, hence all improvements must necessarily be slow.

#### TO BE HANGED TOMORROW

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Robert Massey, a white man, is to suffer the extreme penalty of the law tomorrow for killing a man in the Indian Territory. The execution will be private.

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#### April 19, 1883

D. Layman, one of the bravest and at the same time most reckless of the U. S. Deputies, is reported killed by a gang of outlaws in the Indian Territory, some of whose members he captured while Deputy under the editor of this paper while Marshal.

#### FAIR PLAY

- • \_

Night before last we witnessed near our office the arrest by a deputy constable of three Indians for alleged drunkenness. Three city police officers were on the spot, too, but they saw no cause for arrest. The Indians couldn't speak a word of English. A fellow countryman, who could just talk enough to make himself understood, gave his pony and saddle in pledge for the appearance of the supposed culprits next morning. While the dicker was going on, two tipsy white men broke into the crowd, chafing the officer, wanting to ride the pony, etc., etc. The Indians arrested for drunkenness stood silently by. The officer did not arrest the uproarious white men, but slunk off with his pony.

Now this kind of work won't do.

It is not fair. Drunken men should be arrested. But then arrest them all alike and if any favor is to be shown, let it be toward strangers, especially if they are inoffensive and quiet. And again, let the city police manage such cases and let the constables attend to their peculiar province of duties.

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#### THE FATAL DROP

Last Friday at 11:30 o'clock a.m. Robert Massey, a native of Texas, was executed within the enclosure surrounding the permanent gallows in the old Garrison grounds at this place for the murder of E. P. Clarke, with whom he was traveling from southern Kansas to Texas, through the Indian Territory. There were not over twenty spectators besides the officers. Among them was the father of the murdered man, who had come here all the way from Texas to see the execution.

Massey died protesting to the last that he killed Clarke in self-defense. He was a fine looking young man less than thirty years old. Clarke was only about twenty when killed. All the evidence was circumstantial. The arrest of Massey was made by the murdered man's father, who turned Massey over to the military at Fort Sill, from whence he was brought here.

MARRIED: COHN-SILBERBERG - Last Thursday morning, April 12th, 1883, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Hon. I. C. Parker, U. S. Court, Mr. Isaac Cohn, of the house of M. S. Cohn and Company, to Miss Fannie Silberberg, of this city.

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PAYNE - At Tahlequah, C.N., April 15th, 1883, Martha Ross Payne, youngest daughter of the late W. H. and M. A. Payne, aged eight years.

The deceased was a sister of Mrs. Gid Morgan and Mr. G. L. Payne.

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#### April 26, 1883

HORRIBLE

#### LOOK OUT FOR YOUR LIVES -A GENERAL MASSACRE IMMINENT.

#### OH, DON'T.

We haste breathlessly to lay before the world the following astounding piece of intelligence just clipped

from the Independent of yesterday:

The dog ordinance will be in full force and effect after May 1st. The Mayor has issued a proclamation to that effect and all parties having dogs running at large without collars or tags indicating that they are licensed, will be shot by the city authorities. We caution our friends in the country not to allow, etc. etc.

Mercy on us! Is this the reward the people get for having put in a new administration? Ugh! We can just see Mayor Carnall and all the boys with him on the war path next Tuesday, shooting citizens "without tags or collars." None are safe, except the Independent folk, who have always worn "tags and collars".

#### SHOOTING DOGS

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The Mayor has issued his proclamations, commanding all unlicensed, uncollared and unbadged dogs to be shot from and after the first of next month. We trust, the Mayor and Council will devise some other means to dispose of unlawful dogs.

The shooting of dogs might be harmless in a quiet village, where a single pedestrian is occasionally visible in the streets with now and then a wagon. But in a busy town like this to open in our crowded streets an indiscriminate fusilade and to have women and children frightened at the sudden discharge of arms and people in danger of being struck by a stray shot, to say nothing of the howling of the wounded dogs, and the crowds attracted, is, to say the least, impracticable and out of date in this growing city. The practice has never done a particle of good and has always excited much disgust and indignation. In large cities dogs are captured with a net thrown over them, put into a cart and quietly disposed of. Something of the kind should be done here.

#### DIED

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REICHERT - In this city on the 19th isnt. at seven P.M., at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. John Gutler, Mr. Julius F. Reichert, of spinal meningitis, aged sixty-two years......



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A pound for stray dogs has been constructed on the reserve back of the Avenue. The dogs are caught with nets, which is quite an improvement on the old style of reckless shooting.

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#### MAD DOG

Considerable excitement was caused on the Avenue yesterday morning by the appearance of a mad dog, which was dispatched after a long chase in front of Brogan's saloon.

Mr. August Hach was married to Miss Nettie Schoeppe, on Wednesday night the 25th isnt. at the German Lutheran church at 8 o'clock p.m. ......

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#### May 10, 1883

The old Presbyterian church, sold some years ago to Mr. Ed. Devany has been transformed into a hotel, for which, by its close proximity to the railroad depots, it is well situated. A first story of rock has been added to it and the building was so thoroughly remodeled that nothing but the old shape reminds one of the old church. A handsome fence surrounds the premises.

#### ----- • -----

#### May 17, 1883

#### STREET RAILWAY

Mr. Sam McLoud left day before yesterday for St. Louis to purchase the cars, iron, etc. necessary for the street railway to be put down in this city. The line is to start from near the depots of the St. Louis and San Francisco and Fort Smith railways, provided the grade to Washington street will be such as not to require double teams. This undertaking is in the hands of Messrs. McLoud, Johnston and Moore and these gentlemen deserve credit for their enterprise, for it can hardly be expected to pay for some time yet, though in the end it is bound to be a success.

#### DIED

SENGEL - At his residence in this city at half past one o'clock yesterday morning, of consumption, John Sengel, Jr., City Marshal, aged thirty-six years......

#### ---- • -----

#### May 24, 1883

Mr. Sam McLoud has returned from St. Louis and reports the purchase of the iron for the street railway and several daisy cars, and soon we will hear the tingle of this welcome improvement to the comforts and conveniences of the town.

---- 0 ----

The work of grading the streets in the vicinity of the 'Frisco depot is going on rapidly. Mr. McLoud telegraphed from St. Louis, that he had purchased two street cars at \$750 each, for the new line. If this growing city is to have street cars and gas it would be a good idea to also have good sidewalks and crossings.

#### THE DEATH OF FRED TURNER

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It appears, that Fred Turner, a young man, the son of the late proprietor of the Turner House in this city, returned that day from a protracted stay in Texas to visit his mother, who with her other son, Will, was staying at the residence of her daughter-in-law's father Mr. J. B. Bright, but was going the same day to the Wheeler and Quesenberry place, a few miles above here in the Cherokee country. The party consisted of Mrs. Turner, her son Will and wife, daughter of Mr. Bright, their child and Mary Quesenberry daughter of Mr. Argyle Quesenberry, partner of Mr. W. W. Wheeler, his brother-in-law. While this party was crossing the Arkansaw river, Fred Turner arrived in town and as soon as he learned of his mother's departure, also crossed the river to overtake her.

He overtook them just a little while before the threatening rainstorm was about to burst and after the first warm greetings were over, he proceeded with his brother Will to tie down the wagon cover to protect the ladies and children from the impending rain. Fred was thus engaged at the front part of the wagon, when the horses started suddenly. He tried to check them, but just then the bridle bit he held broke and the animals ran away throwing him under the wheels of the wagon......The remains were buried the next day in the city cemetery.

The mother of the deceased is a sister of the late Mrs. Poore, wife of Admiral Poore of the U.S. Navy.

#### THE NEW CITY MARSHALL

Governor Berry has appointed Chas. Sengel City Marshal in place of the latter's brother, John Sengel, deceased. The city council confirmed or ratified the appointment on Monday night.

As far as the appointee is concerned, the Governor's action is all right, but it is a poor law that compels the Governor of a State to make such an appointment. That is wrong. What does the Governor know about the man or the place? The matter should be left to the Mayor and Council of each city. And the idea of a city approving the action of the state - for it amounts to that - is simply ridiculous and the most glaring reversal of the axiom, that the part is less than the whole. It is worse than putting the cart before the horse.

This case, while the appointment itself is every way satisfactory, exposes a flaw in the law governing municipalities which loudly calls for correction.





#### At GEO, TILLES' BOOK STORE, FORT SMITH, ARK.

#### May 31, 1883

#### MARRIED

SCHULTE-BOTEFUHR - On Thursday night last at the Episcopal church by Rev. J. L. Bern, Mr. G. W. Schultz, of the firm of Sengel & Schulte, to Miss Laura C. Botefuhr, daughter of Prof. W. C. C. Botefuhr, all of this city.

The attendants were Miss Mamie Meyers and Mr. Ed Botefuhr, Miss Mary Gates and Mr. N. K. Pryor and Miss Lillie Botefuhr and Judge J. F. Read......

#### Alexia del Alexia

#### DIED

BRUCE - In this city, on Wednesday, May 30th, Mrs. M. E. Bruce, wife of Mr. Isaiah W. Bruce, of this city.

......She was the oldest daughter of Mr. Asa Clark,......She leaves a disconsolate husband and four children, all boys, and a son, Mr. Alvin Greenlee, by her first husband. Louis Jesse, a well known colored man, 80 years old, was found dead in his bed early yesterday morning, at his daughter's residence......

#### June 14, 1883

Another sad accident occurred last Sunday evening......It was that of the drowning of Charles Baum......

Charles was the eldest son of Mr. Phillip Baum, who died only a few months ago, and was in his 26th year......

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E. C. Johnson, Esq., formerly of the Little Rock True-Democrat, has purchased the interest of Mr. J. E. Brietz in the Independent, of this city, and the two papers will be consolidated under the name of the Independent True-Democrat. We welcome Mr. Johnson among us and wish him success.

## DIED

PAXTON - In this city on Saturday last, Rev. Dr. Paxton, pastor of the Baptist church of this place, after an illness of one week, caused by a congestive chill.

Dr. Paxton's loss will be deeply felt, he being a most excellent man and a faithful worker in the field he had chose. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon from the Presbyterian church, and was conducted by Rev. A. J. Randall, who had recently come here to assist Dr. Paxton with his work.

#### MARRIED

PRICE-CUNNINGHAM - On Wednesday night June 6th, 1883, at the residence of the bride's mother, Miss Ada Cunningham, of this city, to Mr. Sterling Price, of Nashville, Tenn.

#### June 21, 1883

#### DIED

GROSS - Last Sunday night at 4:30 p.m., at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Lewis Miller, Mrs. Mary Gross, at the ripe old age of 85 years and 6 months.

Mrs. Gross was one of the oldest residents of this section, having settled at Van Buren in 1840, where she resided ever since, with the exception of the past two years, which were spent in this city. She was a member of the Presbyterian church......

#### \_\_\_\_ • \_\_\_ June 28, 1883

The construction of the Frisco depot building on Ozark street, is being rapidly pushed forward.



### CONTENTS OF PAST ISSUES

Limited quantities of past issues of *The Journal* are available at <sup>5</sup>5<sup>00</sup> per copy at the Fort Smith Public Library. Copies may be ordered by mail from: **The Fort Smith Historical Society** 61 South 8th Street • Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

For mail orders: Order by Volume and Issue Number, include your complete mailing address and \$500 plus 75¢ mailing charges per copy.

mailing charges per copy. VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER, 1977 Map of Arkansas Fort Smith Incorporation Papers Fort Smith City Streets Fort Smith Early Settlement Fort Smith Fire Departments Diary of Corrine Sherlock Southard Miss Agnes Oglesby Oral History Fort Smith Architecture Fort Smith Presbyterian Church Poetry and Poets Eloise Barksdale and Virginia Foster Fort Smith 1877 Fort Smith United Daughters of the Confederacy Book Talk Inquiries Fort Smith Historical Society Organization Fort Smith Historical Society Membership VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2 - DECEMBER, 1977 Telephone Company in Fort Smith Oral History, Capt. Roy G. Wood Poetry and Poets, New Year's Calling In 1883 Diary, Kate Rector Brunoldi and Guler Old Time Broom Making The Joys of Genealogy Fort Smith Architecture First United Methodist Church Fort Smith 1877 Book Notes and Books for Research Inquiries and Bloopers Correspondence from Readers Fort Smith Historical Society Charter Membership Index VOLUME II, NUMBER 1 - APRIL 1978 Oral History, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lorenz Belle Fort Smith Inc. Gift Texas Road Leard Cemetery Bottles, Windows to the Past St. John's Episcopal Church Poets and Poetry, Lord Gaines Goolsby Ancestor Chart, Blakemore Family Conclusion of Rector Family Diary

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Fort Smith 1878

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