

# The JOURNAL

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Vol. 12, No. 1, April, 1988



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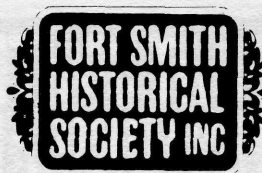
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# The JOURNAL

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COVER: Photograph of Judge Parker's Courtroom, renovated 1965. Portrait in background is of President Ulysses S. Grant. Courtesy National Park Service.

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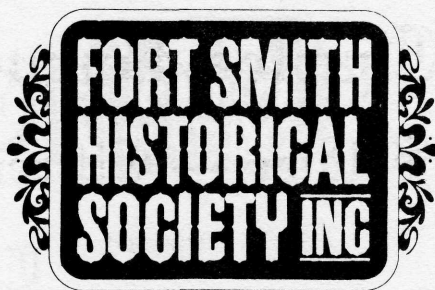
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Dear Readers:

**Come one, come all and bring your friends to the annual meeting of the Fort Smith Historical Society:**

**April 7, 1988 7:00 P.M.**

**Community Room, Fort Smith Public Library**

**Agenda includes Business, Slide Show, Music and Refreshments.**

**Please complete the enclosed ballot and bring it with you or return it by mail.**

Have you ordered your copy of the Index for Volumes I thru IX? Copies are still available at the Fort Smith Public Library or by mail. Price: \$20.00 plus \$1.50 mailing costs.

**Please Note:** In the September 1987 issue of *The Journal* there is an error on page 4 in the list of Federal Judges for the Western District of Arkansas. J. Smith Lemley should read "J. Smith Henley." Our apology that we missed this error in copy.

It is our pleasure to introduce to you in this issue two new writers for *The Journal*, Evelyn Wood Kendrick and Ed Dell Wortz. We welcome back two guest writers whose work has appeared in *The Journal* previously, Eloise Evans Barksdale and Barbara Kern Minor.

1888 was Leap Year, as is 1988. See excerpt from *Fort Smith Elevator* newspaper dated March 2, 1888 for Leap Year Ball rules.

As usual, we have a great many people to thank for their assistance. Without outside help, we would never get off the ground. If we have missed anyone, it is most certainly not intentional.

First of all, we wish to thank the staff at the Fort Smith Public Library — Larry Larson, chief librarian; Mary Nigh, Billie Bair, Clemmie Myers, Wanda Karrant, Gail Underwood, Bob Davenport, Nancy Ivy, and the late Ann Sims. Teresa Fox is back on duty after having her first baby, and we offer our congratulations! If you don't need a book to read, you might drop in and just get acquainted with all the accommodating crew at the Library.

Velda Armstrong at the Old Fort Museum has been most helpful; as well as Miss Gordon Kelley, Kelley Realtors; Mary Campbell at the Guaranty Abstract & Title Company; Florence Skaggs and the many individuals who have shared memories and conversations with us.

Cindy Coleman in Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt's local office offered a helping hand as well as the staff in his Washington office. The Public Relations staff at Fort Chaffee also gave us valuable assistance.

Last but not least, we wish to thank all the employees at the National Historic Site — Park Rangers Tom Crowson, Guy Nichols, Catie Fenn; Sylvia Coleman, Curator; and the volunteers. JoAnn Kyril, Superintendent, received a promotion and moved to Scott's Bluff National Monument & Agate Fossil Grounds in Nebraska. (We wish her well!) Mr. Reed Detring has replaced JoAnn as acting superintendent, and we hope that his appointment will become permanent. We have also called on him for his help since he arrived.

Again, thanks to you all! We just hope you enjoy reading *The Journal* as much as we enjoy getting it all together!

Sincerely,  
Amelia Martin, Editor  
Sarah Fitzjarrald, Associate Editor



# Charles Burns

## Soldier — Citizen

Sarah Fitzjarrald

The story of Charles Burns and his wife, Catharine (Catherine), is the substance of which historical novels are made, and what is exciting for us is that they lived in Fort Smith in its early days and *saved* documents, letters and other memorabilia which their grandson, Francis Burns, made available to the National Historic Site.

Through the courtesy of JoAnn Kyril, Park Superintendent; Sylvia Coleman, curator; Guy Nichols, Tom Crowson and other members of the staff, we are able to share with you, by way of copies of those documents, the account of Charles and his wife who were both Irish immigrants. And to supplement the written word, we are indeed fortunate to have enjoyed many conversations with Francis Burns and his wife, Sue,<sup>1</sup> who remember facts and legends handed down in the family.

Fact and legend do not always coincide however, which is nothing unusual in the history of all families, a reality of life which only adds to the interest of the story since there is almost always a grain of truth in every family legend.

Charles Burns was born in Enniskillen, Ireland, the son of John (Patrick) Burns and Rosa Caruthers Burns.<sup>2</sup> The exact date of this birth remains in question, ranging from 1828 to 1833. However, all roads seem to lead to December, 1830. The different birth dates are due to several factors, not the least of which is that Charles himself gave different dates at separate times and under different circumstances.

*Goodspeed* says that Charles was born in 1833, that his father, a Scotsman, was a direct descendant of the poet, Robert Burns, and that Charles, his mother, father and brother were in Cork, Ireland, in 1845 while planning to come to North America. John Patrick Burns died there, so Charles, his mother and brother (Hugh) came to Toronto, Canada.<sup>3</sup>

*Goodspeed* also adds that his mother was taken ill a few months later and died. Charles came to the United States in 1848, worked for a few months learning the saddler's trade, but left that and ran away to enlist in the United States Army.<sup>4</sup>

### MILITARY SERVICE

On October 26, 1849, Charles enlisted in the army at Rochester, New York. He gave his age as 21 (inferring that he was born in 1828), and his occupation as "laborer." He was assigned to Co. E, 7th Regiment Infantry.<sup>5</sup>

During that era in our history there were two certifications required on enlistment papers.

The first: "I certify, on honor, that I have carefully examined the above named Recruit, agreeably to the



Charles Burns as a young soldier.  
Photo courtesy National Park Service.

General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier."

The second: "I certify, on honor, that I have minutely inspected the Recruit \_\_\_\_\_ (name) previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service."<sup>6</sup>

The second certificate was signed by the examining surgeon and the personal description of the recruit was required. Charles Burns had blue eyes, light hair, fair complexion, and was 5 feet, 6 and 3/4 inches tall.

General Orders No. 25, issued by the Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, July 20, 1838, states in Article VI: "All free white male persons, above the age of 18, and under 35 years, being at least five feet five inches high (later reduced to five feet three inches by circular from AGO), who are effective, able bodied citizens of the United



States, native or *naturalized*, sober, free from disease, and who speak and understand the English language, may be enlisted." (Italics theirs.)

The same orders list rates of pay: Sergeant Major, Quartermaster Sergeant, Chief Musician or Chief Bugler, \$17 per month; first sergeant, \$16; ordnance sergeant, \$18; all other sergeants, \$13; corporals, \$9; Buglers, \$8; musicians, \$8; farriers and blacksmiths, \$11; artificers (military mechanics), \$11; and privates, \$7.<sup>7</sup>

Perhaps the rates of pay brought about Article VII in the same Orders: "The commutation price of the whiskey ration, to which extra-duty men of the army are entitled, is hereby advanced to *three* cents. Commissaries of Subsistence will be governed accordingly."<sup>8</sup> (Italics theirs.)

It might seem strange to us why Charles Burns would increase his age to 21. He was, according to our records, approaching his 19th birthday and well within the legal age limit. However, he did not become a naturalized citizen until 1869<sup>9</sup>, and that may have had some bearing on his giving his age as 21.

Even more interesting is the legend that he joined the army when he was sixteen years old, a legend that if he did not actually start himself, he at least allowed, or might have promoted.

It could have been that because of his small stature his comrades remarked, or even teased him, about the fact that he looked like a sixteen-year-old boy. His record shows, however, that nobody had cause to question his courage or his bravery. So "looking like a sixteen-year-old boy" might have been to his advantage.

*Goodspeed* says also that he was one of the soldiers "sent to quell the Indians."<sup>10</sup> One of the family legends is that he fought the Indians in Florida, a fact borne out on his later pension application.<sup>11</sup>

Don Rickey, Jr., says in his book, "Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay," that during the Indian Wars (after the Civil War), ... "Most of the time, recruiters were more than anxious to enlist any and all who applied, provided there were no obvious reasons for rejection... When few candidates applied, some recruiters were not above assisting underage recruits to falsify their ages."<sup>12</sup>

This was no doubt true in 1849 even though "quelling the Indians" was not yet termed "Indian Wars." And Burns' service record shows that he saw service in several of the western territories.

Later, in 1868, Burns wrote a letter to Bvt. Maj. Gen'l C. Thomas, in which he said, "... having been in the army since I was 16 years old..."<sup>13</sup>

All of which seems to bear out that it was not so unusual, after all, to accept a young lad into the army who "looked like a sixteen-year-old boy." (See accompanying photograph.)

His first enlistment in 1849 was for five years. He re-enlisted at Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, I.T., on the 26th day of August, 1854. On that day he also received his first honorable discharge "in consequence of re-enlistment," which earned him an extra

three months' pay since his first "hitch" was not up until October.

The aforementioned General Orders No. 25, WD, says, "Every able bodied non-commissioned officer, musician, or private soldier, who may re-enlist into his company or regiment, within two months before or one month after, the expiration of his term of service, shall receive three months extra pay, by way of bounty."<sup>14</sup>

Just as certificates of age and ability were required on enlistment papers, there was also a character reference noted on discharge papers. The first one on Burns' discharge papers set the tone for all those following: "As a soldier, attentive to duty, clean, respectful and obedient, as a man, sober, trusty, and of industrious habits."<sup>15</sup>

By that time he had been assigned to non-commissioned staff, increasing his pay to \$13 per month. He had become a sergeant, and a good one.

He had also become a married man. His bride was Catharine Lawrence, daughter of John Lawrence. They were married by Rev. D. Manus, Chaplain at Fort Gibson, on March 4, 1854, "in the (Mil'y) diocese of the South West, according to the Rites of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and in conformity of the Laws of the State of Arkansas."<sup>16</sup>

It is unusual that they were married by a Protestant Episcopal minister because Charles and Catharine were devout Catholics. But such was the life of a U.S. Army post which was no doubt far from a Catholic church.

Catharine Lawrence was born August 28, 1838, in Ireland. Her parents came to the United States soon afterwards and lived in Baltimore, Maryland, for a short while. They both contracted yellow fever and died within a few hours of each other, leaving their infant daughter to the care of friends and relatives. She spent her girlhood in Baltimore.<sup>17</sup>

Two such relatives (or friends) were John and Mary Sullivan. They brought her up and she regarded them as her own parents. She was particularly fond of Mary Sullivan.<sup>18</sup>

The Sullivans moved to Fort Smith. There is no record of when they came here, but John Sullivan died in Fort Smith in September, 1865. He and Mary owned two lots on Byrn Street.

Byrn Street came as a complete surprise to this writer. Just imagine, if you can, living in a town for years, traveling city streets and suddenly discovering that what you thought was a wide alley is actually a street. Such is Byrn Street.

It lies parallel to and directly behind Garrison Avenue to the south as one turns onto Towson Avenue at Texas Corner. It is immediately to the right and just across the street from the rear corner of the Otasco Store. It is two blocks long, running from Towson Avenue on the east to Ninth Street on the west.<sup>19</sup>

It is obvious from the buildings still remaining that they were commercial buildings, small stores or offices, facing the street. In that era it was not unusual for stores and offices to have living quarters upstairs, and one of the buildings still in use looks as if the top story might have been used that way.



Further imagine, if you can, finding the almost completely faded lettering on one of the old buildings, "Arkansas Hide & Fur Co.!"

Mary Sullivan survived her husband, John, by 26 years. On March 4, 1889, she sold the two lots on Byrn Street to Patrick O'Shea and took a mortgage on them for \$1900.<sup>20</sup> It was a tidy sum for those days and times.

But she was in failing health. On the following 12th of June she wrote her last will and testament, prefacing it with, "...at present of weak bodily health but of sound and disposing mind and memory..."<sup>21</sup>

She lived another two years, however, and on January 7, 1891, she added a codicil to her will because the man who had been appointed executor of her will had died. There was little change as far as her original bequests were concerned, leaving the bulk of her modest estate to Charles and Catherine Burns and their three children. She left a small sum to Rev. Lawrence Smythe, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, and to Sister Rose of the Mercy Convent.<sup>22</sup>

Three days after she wrote the codicil to her will, Mary Sullivan died.<sup>23</sup> She and her husband, John, are both buried in the Catholic Cemetery on Lexington Avenue in Fort Smith.

There is also no record showing where or when Charles and Catherine met. We can only wonder if they might have met earlier in Baltimore when he could have been in the area before entering the army. It is another of those tantalizing gaps that make life interesting for researchers.

Catherine Lawrence was a petite Irish lass with a strong will and fiery spirit. She was not quite sixteen years old when she and Charles were married. She was a good match for him, and while he had already proved himself "sergeant" material there was never any question as to who was top sergeant on the home front. Which was probably very fortunate because traveling around the country from army base to army base with a husband (and children) is never an easy task. And we can hardly imagine the hardships women faced in those days with the lack of all our modern conveniences.

On October 13, 1855, their first child, a daughter, was born at Fort Gibson. They named her Maria E. (Catherine would bear 12 more children.)

When little Maria was barely six months old, Charles received orders to go with another army man and return two late recruits to the insane asylum at Washington, D.C.

The orders<sup>24</sup> were as follows:

February 26, 1856

Orders No. 20

"Agreeable to instructions from Adjutant General's Office, 'Washington of Novbr 22 1855' and Headquarters of the Dep. of the West 'Novbr 28th 1855,' Sergeant Charles Burns of Co. E., with Sergeant Edward Murphy of Co. D 7th Infy will take charge of Phillip B. Helbing, and Thomas Gildchrist, late recruits in the U.S.

Army, and conduct them by the most direct route to the Asylum for the Insane, established in the District of Columbia. On arriving in Washington City, Sgt. Burns will report to the Adjutant General of the Army for further instructions. After delivering Helbing and Gildchrist to the Authorities of the Asylum, Sgt. Burns with Sgt. Murphy, will return to this Post without delay.

"The A.A.G.M. and A.A.C.I. will furnish the necessary funds for the transportation of the whole party to the Insane Asylum in the District of Columbia, and the return of Sgts. Burns and Murphy, will commute their rations at the same rate for the additional number of days they are necessarily absent — it being impracticable for them to carry their rations.

By Order of Capt. Little  
Edw. J. Brooks  
2 Lieut 7 Inf  
Actg. Adjut"

Sometime after Burns' trip to Washington, he was transferred to Fort Arbuckle, about 200 miles west of Fort Smith. (It was this fort and Fort Washita, to the south and west of Fort Smith, which were later burned by the Indians during the Civil War in 1865.)<sup>25</sup>

On August 25, 1857, Charles and Catherine's second child was born, a son. They named him Edward H.

In 1859 Charles Burns was issued his second discharge, in consequence of re-enlistment, at Fort Bridger, Utah Territory.<sup>26</sup> By this time he had become Quartermaster Sergeant, increasing his pay to \$17 per month.

Attached to his discharge is a notation of "severance" pay — "Pay, \$39.86; Ret (retained) pay, \$4.00; Ret. bounty, \$17.04; Trav. pay, \$63.63; Trav (unreadable), \$43.99; clothes due Sol, \$74.67 — making a total of \$243.19; and then "Ded Army Spy, 22¢," leaving amount paid Sol, \$242.97. (It makes one wonder what he or Catherine might have needed from the army supply, or PX, for 22¢.)

In 1860 two noteworthy events occurred to the young family. On January 19th their second daughter, Isabella, was born in the Utah Territory. And on June 1st Charles received his official appointment as quartermaster sergeant at Camp Floyd, Utah Territory, even though he had been serving in that capacity prior to his last discharge.<sup>27</sup>

Again the family moved. The next news we have of them is that their son, Charles, Jr., was born at Fort Niagara, N.Y., on September 19, 1862.

On March 14, 1863, Burns received another raise in pay along with his promotion to the rank of Ordnance Sergeant.<sup>28</sup> He was then making \$18 per month.

In January, 1864, Charles received another honorable discharge, in consequence of re-enlistment for another five years.<sup>29</sup> The family was then at Annapolis, Maryland.



Their son, John, was born there a year later, on March 6th. However, he lived only two months before he died on May 9th, 1865.

There is a discrepancy between Burns' honorable discharge in 1864 and his enlistment record for that period. The discharge certificate shows "in consequence of re-enlistment for a period of five years." But the enlistment record says "three years."<sup>30</sup>

Charles and his family remained in Annapolis until October, 1865. While they were there he attended several of the social events in the government service. (We hope that Catherine accompanied him, at least to some of the parties.) At that time non-commissioned officers were issued dress uniforms, and he related how he would dress up in his cape and wear his saber for the occasions. He was given a picture of the Lincoln family by President Lincoln himself. (See accompanying photograph.)



But by this time the war was over. Charles had fought six weeks at Falmouth, above Fredericksburg, Virginia, during the months of November and December, 1862. The weather was severe — snow, rain and sleet — and the men had no tents or other shelter. All they had was one army blanket per man. He became ill but did not go to the hospital, or sick bay. Later he would ask for a veteran's pension because of rheumatism and a lingering heart ailment.<sup>31</sup>

Burns was tired of the army and the war. On October 6th, 1865, he received a telegram from Fort Smith, telling him that his mother-in-law, Mary

Sullivan, was on her deathbed and nobody was here to take care of her or her property.<sup>32</sup>

On the 7th, the next day, he applied for an application to be discharged from the army. It was granted and he was finally discharged on October 19th.<sup>33</sup>

Mary Sullivan, as aforementioned, lived until 1891. We can only surmise that after her husband, John, died in September, 1865, she was probably devastated by her loss and finding herself completely alone, she became ill.

The Burns family remained in Annapolis until October 25. Attached to his final discharge is a note in Burns' handwriting, "I re-enlisted before the 1st of March 1864 under General Orders No. 20, War Dept. Adj. Gen'l's Office W.D. Jany 14/1864. I think I am entitled to \$300 bounty."

What he received, however, was \$371.77. Broken down it was: retained pay, \$46.77; retained bounty, \$175; and clothing not drawn in kind, \$151.<sup>34</sup>

#### STOREKEEPER

Charles and Catherine Burns came to Fort Smith after leaving Annapolis, Maryland, arriving here in November or early December, 1865. He was appointed storekeeper for the Fort by the aforementioned Bvt. Maj. Gen'l C. Thomas, who was A.Q.M. Gen'l (Quartermaster), U.S.A., Washington, D.C., and remained in that position for some time.

In June of 1866 their oldest child, Maria, died. She was eleven years old. Of their five children — Maria, Edward H., Isabella, Charles and John — only three of them were left.

In July of 1867, another daughter, Mary E. (Mollie) was born. She would become the mainstay of the family and lived until March 24, 1938.<sup>35</sup>

Burns' job at the military post was always in jeopardy, due either to the whims of politics or the re-organization of the employee manpower status.

In August of 1867 Charles W. Miner, Capt. 22nd A.A.Q.M., Fort Smith, wrote a letter of recommendation for him saying that he had been employed for eight months as storekeeper. "I cheerfully recommend him to all as an efficient, trustworthy, honorable and industrious man — willing at all times to do his duty — and in a manner highly creditable to himself and his employer."<sup>36</sup>

It was on May 14th, 1868, when Charles wrote his letter of appeal to Bvt. Maj. Gen'l C. Thomas, thanking him for his first recommendation when he was first appointed storekeeper, but again asking for employment here or in the quartermaster's department elsewhere. He wrote, "I think I am at least entitled to a position of this kind. There are a large amount of stores on hand at this Post and the interest of the service requires an experienced man to take charge of them and protect the Government from loss. The quartermaster here would retain me if it were possible for him to do so — which unhappily he cannot do under existing orders.

"I have a large family dependent upon me for support and having been in the army since I was 16 years old, I have no experience in any other mode of making a living."<sup>37</sup>



A letter written the next day, May 15th, by T.H. Baldwin, Capt. 19th Infy, A.A.Q.M., also recommending Burns for employment says, "...I should never have discharged him had I not received orders to discharge all civilian (sic) employees at the Post."<sup>38</sup>

Burns was definitely in need of employment because on the 26th of September, 1868, another son, Joseph, was born.

(Incidentally, he kept his job.)

The 26th day of January, 1869, was an important milestone for Charles Burns. He appeared before the Circuit Court "within and for the County of Sebastian" and became a naturalized citizen of the United States.<sup>39</sup>

He swore his support and defense of the Constitution of the United States and "absolutely and entirely renounced and abjured all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate or Power and particularly to the Queen of Great Brittain (sic) and Ireland"<sup>40</sup> — a mere formality in view of his army career.

He also stated in open court that he had been in the United States for twenty-six years, which would set his date of arrival in 1843 when he was 13 years old.<sup>41</sup>

On February 9, 1869, less than a month after he became a naturalized citizen, Charles Burns was sworn in as the duly elected Recorder for the City of Fort Smith.<sup>42</sup>

On April 26, 1869, Charles and Catherine Burns invested in some business property. They bought lots one and two, block nine, in the Fitzgerald Addition.<sup>43</sup> Perhaps it was because of, or in spite of, the uncertainty of his employment with the government. At the time they were apparently living in their home on South Twelfth Street.<sup>44</sup>

They mortgaged their newly acquired property several times but finally let it go in 1893 by signing a quit-claim deed.<sup>45</sup> At the present time these two lots house the Arkansas Glass and Mirror Company and Abilities Unlimited.

In June of the same year, 1869, only a couple of months after they bought the business property, Burns received the bad news that he was losing his job as storekeeper at the Post. He had friends, however. Along with his letter of appeal to keep his job there were six enclosures, but none of those letters were saved.

Charles himself wrote a letter to Bvt. Maj. M. Bryant, 6th U.S. Infy, Comd'g Post, Fort Smith, Ark., in which he said, "... I have been employed in the Q.M.D. ever since I was discharged at Washington."<sup>46</sup>

Major Bryant forwarded the letter, along with the six testimonials, to HD. Qrs. Dept., Mo — "With the recommendation that if authority can be given for the retention of Chas. Burns — it be done."<sup>47</sup>

The answer came from the Headquarters at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, saying, "The limited number of hired men allowed in the Dept. will not justify the employment of this man; or his continuance as storekeeper."<sup>48</sup>

We have few documents covering the next seven years. But we do have the family record of births and deaths, and note that birthdates are listed for Catherine (December 7, 1872) and Frank (March 23, 1876).

#### MARSHAL - JAILER

After he lost his job as military storekeeper at Fort Smith, Burns was employed by the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas while it was still based at Van Buren.

Francis Burns remembers the story told by his grandfather about the time he was serving as deputy marshal and was sent out to bring in an Indian outlaw. When he found the Indian in camp a gun fight ensued and he was forced to kill the man. He brought the body, flung across a horse, back to Van Buren. A hearing was held and Burns was exonerated from all blame.

In May, 1871, William Story opened the first session of court in Fort Smith in an old brick building at the corner of Second and A. Streets. On May 18th John Childers was charged with the murder of Reyburn Wedding, and his trial was set for November 16th. But the trial was continued and re-scheduled for the May, 1872, court. On May 30th his attorney asked for another postponement and his trial was then set for November 6th.

It lasted until November 18th but in the meantime the old brick building burned down. When the fire occurred previously, on the 13th, an adjournment was taken to the next day at the Sebastian County Circuit Court room, where a two-day session was held. Marshal Logan H. Roots received permission from the Department of the Interior to open the large brick building within the fort which had been used as a soldiers' barracks. (This building, part of the National Historic Site, is known locally as Judge Parker's Courthouse.)

Childers was kept in confinement until May 19, 1873, when he was again brought before Judge William Story who pronounced sentence. He was to be hanged on August 15, 1873.<sup>49</sup>

A gallows was erected which would allow for hanging six people at one time. In due time the cross beam at the top became weathered and the next gallows which was built was large enough to execute twelve persons simultaneously. The replica of that gallows was constructed and still stands in the exact location of the original at the National Historic Site in Fort Smith.

Childers left his mark on history as being the first to be hanged within the location of the fort.

Burns had been appointed jailer when the court was moved to Fort Smith and he, among others, accompanied John Childers to the gallows. It was he who read the death sentence.

Judge Henry J. Caldwell, judge for the Eastern District at Little Rock, was appointed by President Grant to succeed William Story whose tenure of less than fourteen months was attended by "incompetence and corruption." Marshal Roots was





**Group of Court employees. Charles Burns, third from right, second row. Circa 1890. Courtesy National Park Service.**

removed from office and succeeded by Marshal John Sarber, who did little to improve conditions.<sup>50</sup> Caldwell served until Judge Isaac C. Parker arrived at Fort Smith on May 2, 1875.

Among the things in the Burns collection is a three-year ledger kept by him while he was jailer. We re-cap the month of December, 1877. During that one month 75 people had seen the inside of the jail; three of them were women. Average jail time was 16½ days, and 22 prisoners spent the entire month behind bars. Seventeen were "sent off" (to various correctional facilities), six were out on bond, nine were released, and one was acquitted. Forty-two were still in prison on the 31st of December, two of whom were women. The rate for feeding the prisoners was 40¢ per person per day. (Nobody was hanged during that month.) And we might mention in passing that the women were housed in separate quarters.

Samuel McCloud's name is at the heading on the ledger sheets twice. In the list of deputy marshals from 1876-1895<sup>51</sup> there is a McCloud, but the first name is left blank. It is possible that it was Samuel, since he signed the ledger. However, Francis Burns thinks it might be because he was a supplier of goods to the jail.

Charles and Catherine were close friends of Samuel McCloud and his wife. Samuel went on to become the president of the First National Bank and enjoyed a substantial income. When the McClouds built their new home the Burns gave them their first

barrel of flour for a housewarming gift in their new place.<sup>52</sup>

Two more children were born to Charles and Catherine during the next couple of years — Henry on July 22, 1877, and William J. on December 7, 1878.

On May 11, 1879, Isabella Burns, their daughter, was married to John Clifford by Michael Smyth, Pastor of the Catholic Church in Van Buren. She was 19 years old; he was twenty-five.<sup>53</sup>

Charles Burns was mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic, Thomas Williams Post No. 72, at Fort Smith, on May 10th, 1880. He gave his age as 50 years old.<sup>54</sup>

The Grand Army of the Republic was a patriotic organization formed of United States armed forces veterans of the Civil War — army, navy or marine corps — who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865, and had been honorably discharged; it also included members of State regiments who had been called into service. It had its first national "encampment" in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 20, 1866, and two years later it instituted Memorial Day.<sup>55</sup>

The GAR was also a fraternal organization which helped members secure pensions, jobs and other necessities. In its heyday the organization wielded a sizeable influence in politics, particularly in presidential elections.

On December 13, 1881, Catherine gave birth to her last, and thirteenth child, Leo.



In April 1882, Charles Burns was re-appointed jailer at the federal courthouse.<sup>56</sup>

On December 13, 1882, exactly one year after the birth of their last child, Charles and Catherine Burns and the whole community received a devastating blow in the tragic death of Edward H. (Ed), their son.

Ed Burns, twenty-five years old, along with some of his friends, was in Thomas Rogers' saloon at the head of Garrison Avenue in the early evening of the 12th. Another young man, a city policeman and one of young Burns' closest friends, came into the saloon. His pulled his gun from his holster and it was accidentally discharged, striking Burns in the shoulder. The bullet ranged down through the right lung. Drs. DuVal and Bailey attended him faithfully from the beginning, but he died the next day.

Edward Burns had been connected with the Marshal's office as a deputy, etc., for a number of years and was recognized as one of the most vigilant and daring officers on the force. His funeral took place on the 14th of December at 8:00 a.m. and was largely attended, Rev. L. Smythe of the Catholic Church officiating.

The young man who shot him was so grief-stricken that he resigned his position on the police force and resolved never to serve again in any capacity that necessitated the carrying of a deadly weapon.<sup>57</sup>

From *Wheeler's Independent*, one of the newspapers of the day, we quote: "Ed. Burns was a resident of this city nearly all of his life, was a printer by profession, and at different times was connected with each of the offices of the city. He was a modest, unobtrusive young man, and his early and unexpected demise is deeply regretted by his many surviving friends."

On February 1, 1884, Charles and Catherine Burns bought some more property. It was also in the Fitzgerald Addition, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Block G (Kelleher & Birnham Plat). This was the location for the home they built and in which they resided for the rest of their lives. It was originally called 722 South Thirteenth, but later the street was renumbered South 14th Street.<sup>58</sup>

Less than three years later the *Fort Smith Elevator* would carry the brief announcement of the aforementioned death of another of their sons: "Joseph Burns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Burns, died at the home of his parents in this city of Saturday morning last, aged 17 years, and was buried on Sunday afternoon in the Catholic Cemetery." The date of the newspaper was May 8, 1885. Joseph was working as a day guard at the federal jail at the time of his death.

One of the most interesting items in the Burns Collection is "Charles Burns' Feed Book." Kept separately by months from December 1884 through June 1886, it was not only a ledger for feed ration purposes for prisoners but also a journal listing names, length of stay in jail and disposition of individual cases.

So much has been written about Judge Isaac C. Parker, the so-called "Hanging Judge," that it might

seem superfluous to add any more. But Charles Burns' Feed Book opens a bright and shining light on the subject of the court under Parker's tenure of office. What others have written in retrospect, researching secondary sources, Burns has managed to give as an on-the-spot chronicle of simple, actual occurrences. (See accompanying article about Judge Parker.)

Incidentally, on the inside cover of the journal is the handwritten notation, "Gen'l U.S. Grant died at 8 minutes before 8 o'clock on the morning of July 23, 1885."

Charles Burns' obituary noted that he had owned a saloon business at one time but due to reverses he let it go.<sup>59</sup> Francis Burns remembers the family story that it was not so much due to reverses as that Catherine could hardly stand the thought of a saloon business after the tragic death of Eddie, their son. Francis had previously thought it was due to the later tragic death of another son, Frank, but the time frame makes it more likely that it was Eddie's death that caused her to feel as she did.

At any rate, from one of Burns' old ledgers we know that he was in the saloon business from June until December, 1886. He paid \$25.75 for a license and other items are as follows: Shamrock cigars, 1000 for \$25.00; barrels of Old Crow at \$2.25 per gal., \$90.00 for one barrel; Woodford liquor was cheaper at \$1.50 per gallon; one cask of wine (21 gal.) at \$31.50; one keg cherry wine, 10 gallons at \$1.00 per gallon; a half-barrel of gin at \$1.25 per gallon, 25½ gals. for \$31.88.

We have no way of knowing exactly where the saloon was located, but it must have been on or very near Garrison Avenue. When he opened the business there were such items as curtains for the front, locks, cloth for aprons, water faucets, bottles, jugs, corks, lemon squeezer — not to mention rent, gas bill, electric bill, rent of a piano, musicians, coal oil, lamp wicks, ice, broom, etc. There was also the cost of a water sprinkler (shared by all the merchants to keep down dust from the street), cleaning the privy and whitening (whitewash) for scouring.<sup>60</sup>

On December 1st, 1886, Charles and Catherine mortgaged their property on South 13th Street to Simon Baer in the amount of \$900.<sup>61</sup> The mortgage was given for two years and was duly marked "paid — canceled."

On September 5, 1888, the local Post of the Grand Army of the Republic authorized a collection "for the purpose of assisting a comrade-member of our Post to Springfield, Ill., to try and perfect his claim for a Pension." (Signed) C.M. Barnes, Actg. Post Adjt.

Among the signers, other than Barnes, were E. Pope, S.H. Sherlock, John Vaughan, Wm. H.H. Clayton, Mr. Leckey, J.W. Wheeler, Thomas Boles, H. Stone, T. Barns, R.G. Bulgin, G.A. Needels, J.P. Green, Chas. Klaus, William Barry. The donations ranged from 25 to 50 cents.<sup>62</sup>

(We believe that Burns was the treasurer of GAR since there are some blank treasurer's reports in the file.)



The next document<sup>63</sup> in our file is interesting in that it was from A.H. Sweetsen, Special Examiner, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Fort Smith, Arkansas. (This is the first time this writer has come upon a bureau of pensions located in Fort Smith.)

Oct. 13, 1889

"Mr. Charles Burns,  
Dear Sir:

The invalid pensions claim, (old man) of Henry Williams of this city, has been submitted to me for Special Examination on appeal, the said claim having been rejected but re-opened as above indicated, and as you are an important witness in the case, and know the claimant, it occurs to me to write you, asking you to please notify him that a letter from me awaits him at the post office, and wherein I have stated that I leave for Ozark tomorrow, Monday, AM, but will return in a day or two, and that if he will call at my headquarters at the Grand Hotel, or will notify me where he can be found, I will at once proceed with the examination, and will explain to him his rights, etc. I do not personally know Mr. Williams, and so, not knowing whether he resides *in* the city or adjacent, it occurs to me that you possibly may be able to put him into communication with me, or with my letter to him (?) otherwise, and I shall appreciate your courtesy in notifying him as above, if you can do so without inconvenience to yourself.

Very respectfully,  
(Signed) A.H. Sweetsen,  
Special Examiner

P.S. I enclose an official envelope, in the possible event of your wishing to write me. It requires no stamp."

Another document in our file, dated in 1889, shows that Charles Burns, Jr., was issued an insurance policy by the Supreme Council, Catholic Knights of America, Branch 102 at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in the amount of \$2000.00.<sup>64</sup>

In 1891 (Oct. 31), a receipt was given to John Vaughan (GAR member) in the amount of \$12.50 for amount collected for the funeral of M.D. Campbell, no doubt another GAR member.<sup>65</sup>

John Vaughan owned a store on Garrison Avenue, dealing in stoves, hardware, tinware, gasoline stoves, queensware, glassware, house furnishing goods, mantles, grates, refrigerators, freezers, etc. (The mantles were for the gas lights found in most residences. But FREEZERS? — how about ice cream freezers, the kind that had to be cranked?)

On Vaughan's letterhead<sup>66</sup> which outlined the above wares, and dated May 24, 1892, he wrote, "We agree to pay the amount subscribed to (de)fray expenses of Decoration Day." Names and amounts listed were: John Vaughan, \$1.00; Stephen Wheeler, \$5.00; S.K. Robison, \$2.00; Jacob Yoes, \$1.00; S.A. Williams, \$1.00; R.B. Creekmore, 50¢; R.A. Caldwell, 50¢; and H. Stone, 50¢. (These men were members of GAR.)

In January 1898 Burns was out of work again. But again he had good friends. George A. Grace, S.A. Williams, and Thomas Boles wrote letters to President Wm. McKinley, asking that he be given his old job back as janitor of the courthouse. He lost his job for political reasons when Grover Cleveland became President. The letters to McKinley mention his excellent character, that he was a member of GAR, a good soldier, a good citizen and active Republican.<sup>67</sup>

Three letters to R.C. Kerens at St. Louis, Mo., who was the one in command to reinstate him, were written by George T. Sparks and John Vaile (both signing the same letter), Samuel McCloud, and H. Stone in which they reiterated that he was a good citizen, a good soldier, and a Republican.

H. Stone wrote, "At the present time a *Democrat* holds the place."<sup>68</sup>

We do not know whether or not he was successful in regaining his old job, because again in 1900 a letter was written to the Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D.C. in his behalf.<sup>69</sup> J.K. Barnes wrote, "Charles Burns is an applicant for the position of Elevator Conductor at the U.S.C.H. and P.O. Building at Fort Smith, Ark. I have known him for over twenty-five years... He has been Recorder of Fort Smith, also United States Jailor (sic) for two or three terms, has held the position of janitor of said building, and also served as Elevator Conductor. While I was Postmaster of Fort Smith, he was removed during the last Cleveland Administration for political reasons alone. He has always been faithful in the discharge of every duty assigned him. He is a man of high character, and possesses sufficient ability, both physically and mentally, to discharge the duties incident to the position of Elevator Conductor."<sup>70</sup>

(He was successful in getting the job.)

It is always interesting to try to guess why someone saved old papers, especially when they seem to have little relation whatever to that person's life. But history buffs are always delighted because every scrap of paper helps to reveal the lifestyle of the people living in that era.

Two invoices appear in the collection which bear the heading, "Williams & Co., Staple and Fancy Groceries...Corner of Eleventh and Pine Streets — COUNTRY PRODUCE A SPECIALTY." The dates were in March, 1898, and probably someone in the Burns family had to go to the store.

Items shown, among others, are oil (kerosene), dried peaches, lemons, washboard, lamp chimney, snuff, salt meat, starch, f. (farina) oats, bran, chops.<sup>71</sup>

If somebody in the Burns family had to go to the store, we can deduct quite a lot about how they lived in 1898. They had kerosene lamps for lighting; Catherine did the family laundry (perhaps with some help from the daughters) by scrubbing the clothes on a washboard, and they might have boiled the white clothes in a big iron pot over a fire in the back yard. And one thing is apparent, some of the clothes were rinsed in starch water to stiffen them.

The family enjoyed a good substantial diet. There was oatmeal and salt meat (either fried in a skillet or used for seasoning other foods), and fruit. Somebody in the family either dipped snuff, or else it might have been used to sprinkle in the nests in the henhouse to keep down mites.

We can be quite sure that they had hogs and chickens because the bran listed was not the high-fiber cereal we have come to appreciate in the last ten years; it was feed for hogs. And the chops were ground corn which was soaked and fed to hogs or chickens.

In 1900 Burns was still a member in good standing of GAR. A meeting was held on April 7th and among those present were Thomas Boles, R.G. Bulgin, David C. Wortz, John Craig, and I.V. Sloane. Dues of 50¢ each were taken up and a notation was added, which reads, "Pd. Bulgin for application blanks and buttons, April 7th, \$1.50."<sup>72</sup>

In 1902 Isabella Burns Clifford died at the age of forty-two.

On April 29th, 1904, Catherine Burns entered into an agreement to buy lots seven and eight in Block 62, Fitzgerald Addition, which joined the property already purchased by her and Charles in 1886. The lots were on South E Street and South Thirteenth (now 14th) Street. Total price of the lots was \$500.00 and the agreement was signed by Jas. Brady, agent for Bishop Edward Fitzgerald (Catholic Diocese of Little Rock).<sup>73</sup>

Tragedy would again strike the Burns family in the death of their son, Frank, on April 7, 1908, when he was gunned down while riding a city streetcar.

Francis Burns remembers the family story that Frank had befriended a man by the name of H.M. Lewis who needed employment. Frank was a bartender and arranged for Mr. Lewis to take his job temporarily while he went on vacation. When Frank returned to his job, there was an argument and tempers ran high.

Frank Burns was the "Greek god" of the family. He would have been a professional boxer but his mother, Catherine, didn't want him to go to New York where he could box legally, since it was illegal in Fort Smith at that time.

He was the largest of the Burns family and was every inch an athlete. He had had several brushes with death and felt that his size intimidated men with whom he came in contact. While Frank depended upon his fists, others carried weapons.

On that April Monday morning, he boarded a streetcar at the corner of Garrison and Sixth Streets. Lewis followed him. There was an argument and Frank knocked him down. Lewis then pulled his revolver and shot him.<sup>74</sup>

His funeral was held on the 9th of April at the family home and then short services were conducted at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Members of the Bartenders Union were present in a body. Pallbearers were James N. Kelley, Ed Hamilton, Clarence Ray, John Nibler, Jim DeBaum, Ed Poe, John Devlin and P.O. Martin.<sup>75</sup>

Frank Burns was also highly regarded by the community.

In the winter of 1910, Charles Burns attended Mass one day at Immaculate Conception Church. Ice had formed on a pool of water near the church and he slipped and fell, fracturing a hip. In those days the only treatment for a broken hip was for the patient to go to bed and stay there, remaining as near motionless as possible with the hope that the bones would mend and knit back together.<sup>76</sup>

He remained bedfast for two years and died on August 14, 1912. His survivors included his wife, Catherine, and seven of thirteen children — Charles, Jr., Henry, Leo, Will, Thomas, Mollie (Mary E.) and Kate (Catherine).<sup>77</sup>

His funeral was held at 4 p.m. on August 15, 1912, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.<sup>78</sup>

The receipt for funeral expenses paid was given to Miss Mollie Burns by J.G. Putman, Undertaker and Embalmer, 805 Garrison Avenue. Total cost, including four funeral carriages, was \$113.50.<sup>79</sup>

Even though Charles Burns' lineage was rooted in Scotland, he had an Irish brogue so thick that it was difficult for many conversationalists to understand. Sue Burns recalls that one of his daughters-in-law would cross the street if she was downtown and saw him coming because it was so hard to talk with him.

And he had the courage which is often attributed to those of Irish descent. Some of us who have read about the federal district court and the "Parker" era tend to overlook the day-to-day courage of the deputy U.S. marshals, including the jailers and guards.

As head jailer in the court, even before it was moved to Fort Smith, Burns put into effect an inspection system (weapons check), of all visitors to the jail, a system which was kept throughout Parker's tenure and beyond. Consequently, many jail breaks were halted in the planning stage.<sup>80</sup>

However, there was one notable jail break in 1895 during which Lawrence Keating, one of Burns' closest friends and a highly respected and well-liked citizen of Fort Smith, was shot and killed.<sup>81</sup>

Lying bedfast for two years seems an inelegant way to die for a man who was, "As a soldier, attentive to duty, clean, obedient and respectful. As a man, sober, trustworthy, and of industrious habits."

Charles Burns was all of that and more. He had an outstanding devotion to his family, his comrades, his church and his community. His record is a bright thread woven through the tapestry of the history of Fort Smith. Soldier — citizen — and one gutsy little Irishman.

He lies buried in the Catholic Cemetery on Lexington Avenue in Fort Smith.

Catherine was appointed administrator of his estate<sup>82</sup> and filed an application for a widow's pension, being awarded \$12.00 per month.<sup>83</sup> She survived Charles by twenty-one years, and by that time her pension had increased somewhat. She remained in her home on South 13th Street, but the house is now gone.



She died February 10, 1933, at the age of 94 years, 5½ months.<sup>84</sup> Three of her children were still living at home with their mother — Catherine (Kate), Mary E. (Mollie) and Charles, Jr.

In her last will and testament, dated Nov. 8, 1923, she wrote — (To) “My two beloved daughters Mary Ellen Burns and Catherine Burns both of whom have lived single and lived with, supported and cared for me all these years, and who are still living with me in the home and caring for me in the home and desiring to in a measure repay them for their untiring devotion to me, I hereby give, devise and bequeath to my two beloved daughters Mary Ellen Burns and Catherine Burns all the residue of my personal estate of every description and the home place at which we now live at 722 South 13th, Fort Smith...

“It is my desire, and I hereby enjoin upon my two said daughters Mary and Catherine Burns that as long as they live and maintain the home on said premises above described, that my beloved son Charles Burns, shall have a home with them feeling sure they will respect my wishes therein.”<sup>85</sup>

Catherine Burns’ obituary notice reported that she died at the family home as the result of an illness which became serious after influenza, followed by pneumonia and complications of heart trouble.

It adds further: “Mrs. Burns was born Aug. 28, 1838, in Ireland. Soon afterwards her parents came to America to reside. Neither lived to establish a citizenship in this country. Both died of yellow fever within a few hours of each other, leaving their baby daughter to the care of friends and relatives. Her girlhood was spent in Baltimore, Md...

“Mrs. Burns was a woman of indomitable will, retaining a strong mentality and personality until the end of her life. She underwent a major operation when she was more than 90 years old, from which she made an astonishingly rapid recovery.”<sup>86</sup>

Francis and Sue Burns remember her indomitable will. As previously noted, Catherine’s domination of her family and household was probably rooted in necessity because of the hardship of army life in those early years of her marriage. Not only that, but with her diminutive size and growing family she could not afford to let things get out of hand.

She was so tiny that when the old-fashioned telephone was hung on the wall at average height, one of her sons made a padded step-stool for her so that she could reach it, and even with that she had to tilt her head upward to talk into the mouthpiece.

She did all of the family cooking. And when she cooked the family meal at noon, nothing was saved as leftovers for supper. But here again, it was something she learned in her early marriage. Because of the lack of refrigeration food poisoning and dysentery were a constant threat, and traveling all over the country from one army post to another made it imperative to keep the children well.

After the family was well established in Fort Smith and more children arrived, it was not too many years before the family became quite a crowd, with children and grandchildren, when they gathered at Charles and Catherine’s place for Sunday dinner after Mass.

Francis remembers that the dining table was so large that it would never have fit into one of our present-day smaller dining rooms.

All of the family were devout Catholics — and all were expected to attend Sunday dinner at the home place. It was Catherine, though, who made sure that nobody became lax in going to Mass on Sunday. Anyone who showed up for dinner and hadn’t been to Church was in bad trouble.

And even though Mollie and Kate were living at home, neither of them had ever been allowed in the kitchen to help their mother with the cooking. Francis Burns recalls that when Catherine died she left two elderly women, his Aunt Mollie and Aunt Kate, who never learned how to boil water.

“It was pathetic,” he says.

(Mollie was 66 years old and Kate was 61 when their mother died.)

Old letters, papers and other memorabilia are invaluable to all those interested in historical research. JoAnn Kyril, Park Superintendent, said upon receiving the Burns collection, “It is our first insight into how real people actually lived in the days of the early Fort. We have many historical stories and accounts but these papers are some of our most exciting.”

We cannot emphasize enough for people to save anything that looks more than ten years old. Of course, the tendency, especially among good housekeepers, is to throw out the clutter. May we ask that if you must get rid of those old papers to please contact the local library, the National Historic Site, the Old Fort Museum, or the Fort Smith Historical Society? Any of us will be delighted to help you take care of your clutter.

Ann Landers recently brought up another point in her newspaper column. She printed a letter from a reader in Tennessee — Lydia W., of South Fulton.

Lydia W. was writing about old people and their reminiscing becoming “tiresome and repetitious.” She suggested that when the old folks get going on their stories to grab a tape recorder and save “a priceless piece of history to pass on to your children and grandchildren.”

Lydia W. then quoted something from someone else, “When old people die, it is like a library burning down.”<sup>85</sup>

We would like to add that that “priceless” history not only enriches the lives of your children and grandchildren but a whole community as well — city, county or state.

So if a grandparent becomes a tedious bore, please lend an ear and capture what he or she may have to tell. And if there are old papers lying around, please regard them carefully because nothing is insignificant to a researcher. Old newspaper clippings, grocery receipts, high school prom programs, photographs, etc. are all important. For of such is the warp and woof of our rich cultural and historical heritage which we present quite proudly to the whole world.

## Sources

Note: Unless otherwise specified, the following sources will be found in the Burns Collection at the National Historic Site in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

1. Francis and Sue Burns own and operate the Burns Flower Shop in Fort Smith, which was founded by Francis' parents, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Burns. They have three children — Dr. Mary Carolyn Harper, Mrs. Deborah Helms, and James Michael. Francis and Sue now reside in Roland, Oklahoma. Leo Burns, Jr., and his wife, Isabelle, reside in Fort Smith.
2. Pension Application, National Archives.
3. *Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas*, Chicago, 1889.
4. Ibid.
5. Enlistment certificate, National Archives.
6. Ibid.
7. *Subject Index of the General Orders of the War Department from January 1, 1809, to December 31, 1860*. Washington, Gov't. Printing Office, 1886, General Orders No. 25.
8. Ibid.
9. Naturalization Certificate, Circuit Court of the Fort Smith District of Sebastian County, AR.
10. *Goodspeed*, Op. Cit.
11. Pension Application, National Archives.
12. *Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay*, Don Rickey, Jr., University of Oklahoma Press, 1972.
13. Letter, May 14, 1868.
14. *Subject Index of the General Orders of the War Department*, Op. Cit., General Orders No. 25.
15. Honorable Discharge Certificate, 1854.
16. Marriage Certificate, Charles and Catharine Burns, Mar. 4, 1854.
17. Obituary Notice, Catherine Burns, *Southwest American*, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Feb. 11, 1933.
18. Conversation with Sue Burns.
19. Guaranty Abstract & Title Co., 15 North 6th St., Fort Smith, AR.
20. Ibid.
21. Probate File, Sebastian County Courthouse, Fort Smith, AR.
22. Ibid.
23. Death Records, Fort Smith Public Library.
24. Orders, Captain Little, February 26, 1856.
25. *The Journal*, Fort Smith Historical Society, April, 1982.
26. Burns' Second Discharge Certificate, 1859.
27. Appointment Certificate, Quartermaster Sergeant, 1860.
28. Appointment Certificate, Ordnance Sergeant, 1863.
29. Burns' Third Honorable Discharge Certificate, 1864.
30. Burns' Enlistment Certificate, 1864.
31. Pension Application, 1880.
32. Ibid.
33. Burns' Final Discharge Certificate, 1865.
34. Final Statement, U.S. Army, (Money), National Archives.
35. Death Records, Fort Smith Public Library.
36. Letter of Capt. Chas. W. Miner, August, 1867.
37. Burns' Letter, May 14, 1868.
38. Letter of Capt. T.H. Baldwin, May 15, 1868.
39. Burns' Naturalization Certificate, Op. Cit.
40. Ibid.
41. Ibid.
42. Certificate of Election, signed by Arkansas Governor Powell Clayton.
43. Records, Guaranty Abstract & Title Co., Op. Cit. Special Research, courtesy of Gordon Kelley.
44. Obituary, Catherine Burns, Op. Cit.
45. Guaranty Abstract & Title Co., Op. Cit.
46. Burns' Letter, June 30, 1869.
47. Cover Letter to Hd Qtrs Dept. (Missouri) by Maj. M. Bryant.
48. Notation, Maj. Bryant's Letter, Op. Cit.
49. *Research Manuscript*, National Historic Site, Edwin C. Bearss.
50. *Law West of Fort Smith*, Glenn Shirley, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE, 1968.
51. *The Journal*, Fort Smith Historical Society, April, 1979.
52. Conversation with Francis Burns.
53. *The Journal*, Fort Smith Historical Society, April, 1985.
54. Certificate, Grand Army of the Republic, May 10, 1880.
55. *Funk & Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopedia*, Standard Reference Works Publishing Company, Inc., New York, NY, 1959.
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57. *Fort Smith Weekly Elevator*, Fort Smith, AR, Dec. 15, 1882.
58. Guaranty Abstract & Title Co., Op. Cit.
59. *Southwest American*, Fort Smith, AR, Burns' Obit., Aug. 15, 1912.
60. Charles Burns' Ledger, 1886.
61. Mortgage to Simon Baer, 1886.
62. Record, GAR Meeting, 1888.
63. Letter from Sweetsen, Oct. 13, 1889.
64. Insurance Certificate, Catholic Knights, 1889.
65. Receipt to GAR, Oct. 31, 1891.
66. Vaughan's Letterhead, May 14, 1892.
67. Letters to McKinley, 1898.
68. Letters to Kerens, 1898.
69. Barnes' Letter, June, 1900.
70. Burns' Obit., *Southwest American*, Op. Cit.
71. Williams & Co., Invoice, March, 1898.
72. GAR Meeting (Minutes), 1900.
73. Agreement to Purchase Property, Catherine Burns, 1904.
74. *Southwest American*, Op. Cit., April 10, 1908.
75. Ibid.
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78. Ibid.
79. Receipt, Putman Funeral Home, Fort Smith, AR, 1912.
80. Shirley, Op. Cit., pg. 127.
81. Shirley, Op. Cit., pg. 129.
82. Letter of Administration.
83. Pension Certificate, Catherine Burns.
84. *Southwest American*, Op. Cit., Feb. 11, 1933.
85. Probate File, Sebastian County (AR) Courthouse, Fort Smith, AR.
86. *Southwest American*, Op. Cit., Feb. 11, 1933.
87. *Southwest Times Record*, Fort Smith, AR, May 19, 1987.



# Judge Isaac C. Parker

## "On Trial"

Sarah Fitzjarrald

When Charles Burns' Feed Book came to light recently (see accompanying story, "Charles Burns, Soldier — Citizen"), it offered for the first time the ordinary day-to-day activities of the famous "Parker's Court" in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Heretofore, the overall impression drawn from the thousands of words written about Judge Isaac C. Parker in different books and articles, with the exception of those by the park rangers at the National Historic Site in Fort Smith, is that of a man who was running a one-man show — judge, jury and executioner — whose decisions were absolutely final and from which there was no appeal, a man who sat on the bench day in and day out, inexorably handing out his pronouncements of doom.

This is not to imply that the majority of writers who give such an impression are out to "get him." Most authors are more than anxious to give Parker due credit for his part in bringing law and order to the crime-ridden Indian Territory. Some even bestow upon him lavish praise. But invariably almost every writer refers either directly or indirectly to one book, and therein lies the problem.

The book is *Hell On The Border*. First published by Thrash and Lick Publishing Company, Fort Smith (600 Garrison Avenue), it contained 720 pages. The year was 1898.

The second edition was published by Phoenix Publishing Company, Fort Smith, and was printed on the press of the *Fort Smith Weekly Elevator*, a local newspaper. It, too, contained 720 pages.

Later editions are shortened versions. Apparently the first one was printed in Tulsa, Oklahoma, since there is the name of a printing company stamped on the copyright page located in Tulsa. There is no copyright date but the legend, "Copyright — All Rights Reserved", is found. The book contains 320 pages, but the name of the author is missing from the title page.

The second shortened edition is one published in 1953 and copyrighted by Frank L. Van Eaton, Stockton, California. In the foreword we find "... the author, S.W. Harmon, seems to have been afflicted by an overdose of hero worship for Judge Isaac Parker..."

Interspersed in the discussion of Harmon and his involvement with Judge Parker's court are glowing and highly complimentary remarks, written in third person, about Frank L. Van Eaton and signed by (who else?) Van Eaton himself.

This edition, containing 303 pages, carries the legend, "Copyrighted — All Rights Reserved." (Same misspelling.)

The third shortened edition we have found is sometimes referred to as the "Goldman" edition because its distinguishing mark is the information stamped on the inside front cover, "Goldman Printing Company, Wholesale Distributors, 1815 North Sixth Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Telephone 3-7944."

Through the courtesy of Bob Lucy, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Fort Smith, we were able to determine that the "3---" number first became operational in Fort Smith in 1953. This edition also has 303 pages and is identical with Van Eaton's edition with the exception that it does not contain the foreword mentioning Van Eaton, nor a copyright.

We were able to get in touch with John Goldman, Sr., son of the late Emanuel Goldman, owner of Goldman Printing Company. It was our pleasure to visit with him by telephone, and he shared his memory of the book. His father had nothing to do with the publishing of the book; he was only the distributor, and among other customers, he sold many of them to the Boston Store.

All three of the shorter editions have two things in common — the author's name is not on the title page, and they all have the legend, "Hell On The Border Publishing Company, Fort Smith, Arkansas."

There is no record of any publishing company by that name in any of the city or telephone directories, as far back as directories go. It is our feeling that Hell On The Border Publishing Company was an individual, or group of individuals, who simply paid for reprinting the shorter editions and sold them.

In the Author's Preface in the Van Eaton edition, signed by "The Author" only, we find, "I was frequently summoned to serve on the Federal Juries at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and became conversant with the peculiarities of the court and its environments, as well as becoming intimately acquainted with Judge Isaac C. Parker, and most all the leading attorneys who practiced at his world famous bar, as well as with many of the deputy marshals and other court attaches."

Anybody who ever read any edition of *Hell On The Border* must be impressed with its "legalese." The writer is astonishingly "conversant" with the law to be simply a juror acquainted with Judge Parker and



other attaches of the court. So many editions are somewhat confusing, to say the least, and even more interesting is that the name of the author is just as often spelled "Harman" as "Harmon."

But then there is yet another very interesting edition. It is *Hell On The Border*, re-issued, edited and compiled by Jack Gregory and Rennard Strickland, published by the Indian Heritage Publishing Company, Muskogee, Oklahoma, and copyrighted in 1971. The editors say that Samuel W. Harman began collecting material for the book in the 1880s and was assisted by C.P. Sterns, compiler.

There are two not-so-surprising statements found in the preface of this edition. The first is "J.W. Reid is known to have commissioned the work and his florid style is apparent throughout."<sup>1</sup> And then J.W. Rice, an early Indian Territory printer, reports: "I had the distinction of printing the first brief ever filed in Parker's court. It was printed for the late J. Warren Reed, author of *Hell On The Border*."<sup>2</sup>

In all editions are found biographical sketches of various members of the bar and other court attaches. The most glowing of all is that of J. Warren Reed. He was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of West Virginia and in the United States District and Circuit Courts for the District of West Virginia. He later went to California and was admitted to the bar of that State by the California Supreme Court.<sup>3</sup> He came to Fort Smith in 1889 and began the practice of law here. He was a defense attorney for several of the cases which came before Judge Parker.

The tragedy of *Hell On The Border* is that even though it was published only two years after Parker's death, when records were still easily available and memories were yet clear, the book is notoriously inaccurate in many instances — some trivial, some important. And the author, whoever he was, missed a golden opportunity to relate the truth about Parker and the court in a book which would have remained a lasting tribute to the man, his court and the writer. As it is, nobody actually gets the credit for compiling 720 pages of court cases and other information (or misinformation) about the court, all of which adds a touch of wry irony.

To clear only some of the inaccuracies about Judge Parker let us, for want of a better word, designate each point a "Charge" and offer our research as "Rebuttal."

When Judge Parker stepped off the steamboat in 1875, when he arrived in Fort Smith, the inaccurate stories began. For instance, the first —

CHARGE: "Judge Parker arrived on May 2, 1875, with his wife and two children."<sup>4</sup> This statement appears in one way or another in the majority of stories about Parker.

REBUTTAL: Judge Parker arrived alone. Then on June 30, 1875, he left on the steamboat *Ella Hughes* to go to St. Louis, Missouri. "Judge Parker will return early in September with his family and expects to make this his permanent home."<sup>5</sup>

CHARGE: Unequalled Power.

"The appointment (Parker's appointment by President Grant) gave Parker a judicial power unequalled in the annals of American law."<sup>6</sup>

"No jurist in America has ever been invested with so much power."<sup>7</sup>

"To some this smacked of tyranny."<sup>8</sup>

REBUTTAL: When Isaac C. Parker was appointed to serve in the Western District Court in 1875 the geographical area of the court's jurisdiction was vast, including 17 counties in the east and northeast Arkansas, 13 counties in the west and northwest part of the State, plus the Indian Territory, encompassing approximately 74,000 square miles. (See accompanying map.)

It was not so much the size, however, as the unusual structure of the Fort Smith court that gave Parker his power. The federal district court was combined with the federal circuit court (which acted as an appellate court) and Parker heard cases in both of them. While his power was unusual, it was not unique. There were other such courts.

"Added to Judge Parker's burdens was the 'arrested state of development of the whole federal judicial system.' There were yet several courts of original jurisdiction having no superior appellate courts, and some, like Parker's, were loaded with both district and circuit court jurisdiction."<sup>9</sup>

Besides Arkansas there were the Northern District of Mississippi, the Western District of South Carolina and the Western District of Michigan.<sup>10</sup>

CHARGE: There was no appeal to Parker's decisions.

"And there was no appeal."<sup>11</sup>

"In this single tribunal, presided over by a lone judge, there was no appeal from his judgments for a period of fourteen years."<sup>12</sup>

"Against Parker's verdicts, there was no appeal except to the President himself, and Parker's unique position did, in fact place him where he could, if so minded, block such an appeal. Should Parker allow an appeal, Grant would naturally be reluctant to interfere with the decision of his own appointee, especially when one remembers that Parker maintained powerful friends on Capitol Hill."<sup>13</sup>

"For near fifteen years Judge Parker had held full sway as judge for the Western District of Arkansas, having full and final jurisdiction in all criminal cases under the Federal statutes, being, as legal history records it, the only trial court on earth from which there was no appeal."<sup>14</sup>

"For fourteen years...there was no appeal from his pronouncements of doom... His decisions were absolute and irrevocable."<sup>15</sup>

REBUTTAL: Until May, 1889, Congress provided no appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States for criminal cases. However there were two avenues of appeal — that to the President himself, and that to the aforementioned Federal Circuit Court in which Judge Parker also presided.

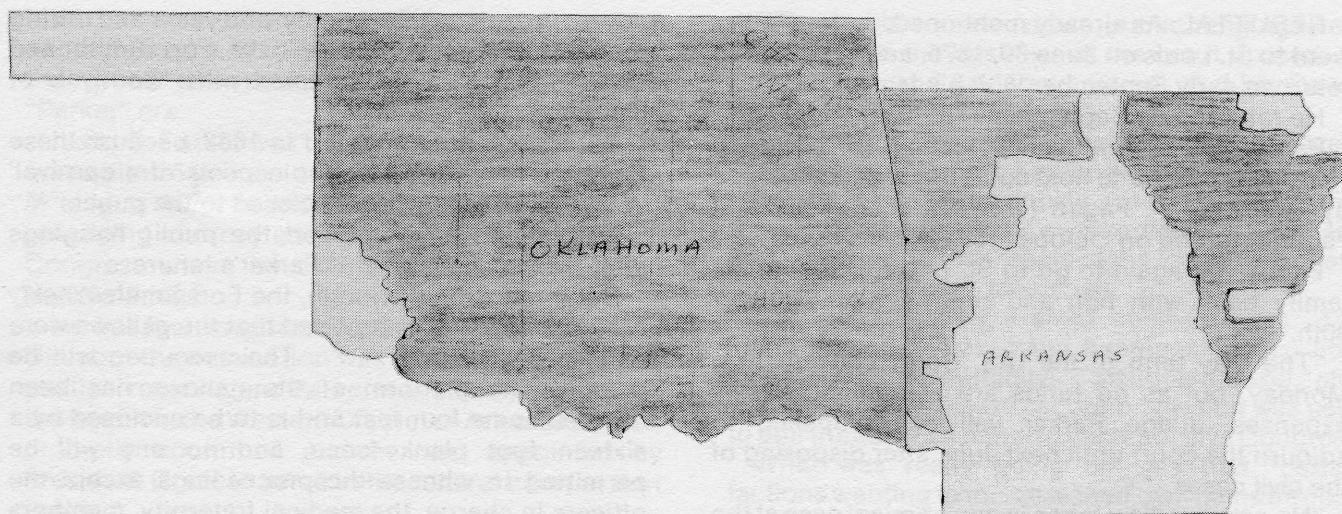


And again, in 1884 Fannie Echols was the first woman sentenced to die on the gallows. (There were four others so sentenced.) Six felons, including Fannie, were scheduled to die on July 11th. Before then three of them had already received commutations from the President. And then Mat Music, a rapist, received an unconditional pardon from President Arthur, while on the evening of July 3, "Marshal Boles received a telegram from Washington that the President had commuted the sentences of Fannie Echols and Dan Jones to life imprisonment. This action was not unexpected by the Fort Smithites, because Judge Parker and District Attorney Clayton had recommended it strongly."<sup>18</sup>

REBUTTAL: When the aforementioned Charles Burns' Feed Book surfaced recently the most immediately apparent observation, even with a cursory examination, was that Judge Parker was most assuredly not going it alone.

13	acquitted by USC Brizzolara Dec 30/85 -
13	60 days US jail Dec 29/85 Exp Feb 26/86 \$1500
12	Fond guilty by Pettit July 15 Dec 19/85 - Drink & Selling
12	30 days Dec 30 Exp Jan 28/86 1000 fine
12	30 " " " " " " " " " " " "
12	1 year Detroit. 12/31/85
1	on bond by USC Wheeler Dec 21/85
10	acquitted by " " " " Brizzolara Dec 30/85
4	acquitted by U.S.C. Wheeler Dec. 24/85
4	" " " " " " " " 24/85
10	30 days US jail 12/31/85 Exp Jan 29/86
10	
10	
10	Fond guilty of Manslaughter Dec 22/85 2 years 12/30/85
10	
8	acquitted by USC Wheeler Dec 29/85
2	Turned out by CM Barnes Dec 29/85

16



Shaded Areas represent jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas, in 1875. (Courtesy National Historic Site.)

As the book is opened the left-side page lists names of the prisoners and the right-side page shows the disposition of each of their cases. It is this page which carries notations such as, "Acquitted by USC Brizzolara," "On Bond by USC Wheeler," "On Bond by USC Brizzolara," "Acquitted by USC Wheeler," etc. (See illustration.)

USCs were United States Court Commissioners (District Court) and were appointed by the President. Their duties were to issue writs (warrants, subpoenas, etc.) and to hold court, a court which acted as a valid court in all crimes and also functioned as a preliminary hearing prior to the grand jury process. Any person charged with a crime had first to appear before a commissioner's court. He could be acquitted and released, fined, and/or sentenced to jail, released on bond, or held in jail pending a grand jury hearing.

Besides the U.S. Commissioners in Fort Smith there were others out in the district — one in Fayetteville, Arkansas; one at Muskogee, IT; one at McAlester, IT; one at Helena, Arkansas; and others.<sup>20</sup>

Criminals were not just brought in to face Judge Parker, the so-called "Hanging Judge," without going through a buffer zone, so to speak. There was another procedure also. Each case had to be heard by a grand jury.

In Parker's famous charge to the grand jury in the case of Crawford Goldsby, alias Cherokee Bill, he said, "The laws of the United States cannot be executed in this district until you as a grand jury first act in the premises."<sup>21</sup> And again, "It is a principal of law, arising under the Constitution of the United States, that if a man is the accused of a capital, or otherwise infamous offense, he cannot be tried for it, no matter how guilty he may be, no matter how injurious to the community it may be not to try him, unless he is first indicted by a grand jury."<sup>22</sup>

"In Parker's twenty-one years on the bench, 13,490 cases had been docketed, exclusive of more than 4000 petty crimes that got no farther than the commissioners' courts."<sup>23</sup>

"In addition to the U.S. Commissioners, the court attaches, clerks and others, there were the U.S. Marshal and his deputies. 'Without these men,' Parker said time and again, 'I could not hold court a single day.' And in his later years, when he talked much of his record on the bench, he gave a great deal of credit to the deputy marshals, particularly the sixty-five of them who gave their lives in the field in the cause of peace and decency."<sup>24</sup>

Even here there is yet another inaccuracy — the records at the National Historic Site in Fort Smith list 103 deputy marshals who gave their lives in the line of duty.

And as far as its being "his" justice, Parker had the duty of handing out the sentence imposed by the Federal Statutes in criminal cases involving murder or rape — the death penalty — which was *mandatory*.

**CHARGE:** Court was never recessed.

"During the twenty-one years and more that Judge Parker reigned as judge of the court for the Western District of Arkansas, a court that was characteristic both for the large number of cases tried and for the fact that it was always open... The daily session was from 8 o'clock in the morning until dark..."<sup>25</sup>

"Parker merged one term into the other with no apparent break, and never recessed until the last case scheduled had been tried. He opened court at 8:30 in the morning and closed at dark. Often he held night sessions at the request of the attorneys."<sup>26</sup>

"One term of Federal court simply merged into another with no apparent break in the process of continual trials. Court was never recessed. From eight o'clock in the morning to late afternoon, there were continued cases ever on the docket to be taken up where left off the night before."<sup>27</sup>



REBUTTAL: As already mentioned, Judge Parker went to St. Louis on June 30, 1875, and expected to return in early September with his family.

He returned on September 17th.<sup>28</sup>

Parker left Fort Smith on October 1, 1875, to go to Helena, Arkansas, to hold court there, accompanied by Gen. Jas. F. Fagan (U.S. Marshal).<sup>29</sup> He and Fagan returned on October 15th.<sup>30</sup> (1875)

Parker left again to go to St. Louis, bringing his family back with him and returning on October 30th.<sup>31</sup>

"The May term of the U.S. Court convened on Monday, but as no funds are at hand to defray expenses, Judge Parker will be compelled to adjourn the court until next July, after disposing of the civil cases..."<sup>32</sup>

"No action will be taken in any criminal case at the August term of the United States Court for the Western District of Arkansas. Parties and witnesses in such cases will not be required to attend until Nov. 3, 1879."<sup>33</sup>

These are a few items showing that there were "breaks" in the "process of continual trials." The Western District Court was an expensive court. Of necessity, many witnesses came from all over the Indian Territory and stayed in Fort Smith until the cases which involved them were finished. And witnesses got paid for their travel and their lodgings. When the money ran out the court had to be adjourned.

There was also the necessity of Parker's going to Helena, Arkansas, to hear cases.

CHARGE: Public Hangings A Disgrace.

"Hangings in Fort Smith were 'gay gibbet days.' The railroad ran special trains and issued excursion rates. Using all modes of transportation, the people came to town via wagons, surreys, horseback, oxen and on foot.

"Morbid crowds jostled, laughed, cursed and fought for better points of vantage from which to view the executions."<sup>34</sup>

"Only nine convictions for murder were secured that year (1887). One of these died in jail while awaiting execution, three were commuted, and three were executed February 9, 1888. The wholesale slaughter and imprisonment by the Fort Smith court appears to have had a temporary wholesome effect upon the class of men who commit murder..."<sup>35</sup>

"Five thousand people attended the execution."<sup>36</sup>

On April 31, 1876, five men were executed simultaneously and the Fort Smith newspaper, the *Western Independent*, reported that "between six and seven thousand" people witnessed the event.

REBUTTAL: The public hangings were a disgrace. But the rampant crime in the Indian Territory was even more outrageous and stringent measures were necessary. Hangings were sensational and the interested reader is often left with the feeling, if he does not look behind the lurid accounts, that Judge Parker sentenced people to die on the gallows every

day, or every week, for twenty-one years and during that long tenure the people of Fort Smith and surrounding area were treated with "Carnivals of hanging."

But such is not the case. "In 1882, because these hangings had 'taken on the aspects of a carnival' Washington ordered them closed to the public."<sup>37</sup>

That would have stopped the public hangings after the first five years of Parker's tenure.

But interestingly enough, the Fort Smith *Weekly New Era* newspaper reported that the gallows were closed even earlier — "... The execution will be private. The platform of the gallows has been lowered some four feet and is to be enclosed by a sixteen foot plank fence, and no one will be permitted to witness the proceedings except the officers in charge, the medical fraternity, members of the press, etc. We think the arrangement will meet the approval of all enlightened people."<sup>38</sup>

We tend to vote with the newspaper since it was doing what small town newspapers do — report the day-to-day happenings in the community — and while newspapers are not always infallible, they have no cause to dream up events to report. In which case, since the date of the *Weekly New Era* was June 8, 1878, that means public hangings ceased only three years after Parker took the bench.

In all, Judge Parker sentenced 160 people to be hanged. Of that number, only 79 actually died on the gallows. Of the remainder, 2 were killed attempting to escape, 2 died in jail awaiting execution, 2 had been pardoned by the President, 46 were commuted by the President for terms of ten years to life, 2 were granted new trials (by Judge Parker) and discharged, 9 were acquitted by the Supreme Court, 15 convicted on smaller charges by the Supreme Court and given sentences of from one year to life, 2 nolle prosequi (case dropped by prosecutor), and one commuted by the Supreme Court.<sup>39</sup>

It is quite a record. Parker sentenced more people to die than any other American judge. But we must remember the ratio still holds — two more felons *escaped* the gallows than were hanged, still about a one-to-one ratio.

And during those twenty-one years of his tenure we cannot forget the 103 deputy marshals, good men and true, who gave their lives in the cause of justice. Twenty-four *more* good men died than felons who were hanged, and yet we read again and again about the "appalling" number of men who were sentenced to die on the gallows. To us the emphasis seems to be reversed — how about the "appalling" number of deputy marshals who sacrificed their lives willingly?

We realize full well that we have not presented a conclusive case. There is too much in-depth study yet required to afford all the answers about Judge Parker and the men around him. But in view of the foregoing, with only a few doors opened, we might ask why, then, was Judge Parker dubbed "The Hanging Judge?"

We can only offer some background information about Parker, J. Warren Reed, the political climate, the greed and power plays that attended the "Parker" era.

Isaac C. Parker was born in October, 1838, which made him 36 years old when he came to Fort Smith in May of 1875. In his 36 years he had become a practicing attorney and had served two sessions in Congress where he distinguished himself as the Indians' friend.

He was first nominated for the federal judgeship in Utah but the nomination was withdrawn for various political reasons, and Parker was then nominated for the bench in the Western District of Arkansas. It was promptly confirmed and he was appointed by President Grant to serve in the federal court at Fort Smith.

To the west lay the Indian Territory and it was there that Parker would prove his honor, his love of justice and his regard for the Indians.

The Indians had their own laws and tribunals which protected them from each other. However, their laws and tribunals had absolutely no jurisdiction over the white men who inhabited their lands. Consequently, the Indian Territory, with no white man's courts, became the promised land for the thieves, murderers, rapists and other assorted felons who chose to escape into the protected hills and wooded terrain to the west of Fort Smith. The Indians were at their mercy, as well as the law-abiding white men living in their midst.

Parker faced a Herculean task and he did what had to be done. He sent deputy marshals out to bring the criminals in to trial.

The Western District Court had originally been established across the river at Van Buren, Arkansas, but was moved to Fort Smith in 1871. The first man to be hanged at Fort Smith was John Childers, and after his execution six more murderers died on the same gallows before Parker's arrival to Fort Smith in 1875.

The gallows was built to accommodate the hanging of six men simultaneously, and we note that it was a public place with no planks surrounding it to keep out the morbidly curious on-lookers.

The first six men hanged after Parker's arrival were done so simultaneously. With that, Parker not only got the attention of the scum running loose in the Indian Territory, but also sent shock waves all over the country.

A few months later, in April, 1876, a quintet met their fate together, and next was a quartet (September, 1876).

By that time the country's newspapers in cities from coast to coast were screaming about "tyranny," "slaughterhouse," and a few other choice gory phrases. It seemed that the delicate noses nationwide that hadn't been able to detect the stench of the lawlessness and gore in the Indian Territory were suddenly a-quiver with a new scent, that of a corrective dosage.

Things rather quieted down, public hangings were stopped, and the business of the court droned on. But the hue and cry about Parker and his Power increased.

New elements became evident. The Western District Court at Fort Smith, along with the three others mentioned previously, were different in that they functioned as their own appellate courts, and that fact stuck in the throats of the legalistic purists. "Too much power!," they cried.

But that was only a small consideration. "Too much power!," "Too many hangings!," "Too little civilization!," "Bloodthirsty!," "Slaughterhouse!," etc., were only the cover-up cacophony which was used to pull the ears of a hitherto unresponsive Congress.

What was really going on was that "certain factions wanting to increase their own gains through exploitation of the Indian tribes and their lands west of Fort Smith constantly besieged legislative ears at the nation's Capitol."<sup>41</sup>

These factions knew that the only way the Indians' land rights could be vacated was by the territory's becoming an organized territory. And Judge Parker and the Western District Court were the Indians' only protection, not only against the lawless hoodlums running wild in their homeland, but also the speculators wishing to move in. Parker stood firm. He ... "realized that he and his court were being used as propaganda vehicles for those wishing to exploit the Indian lands."<sup>42</sup>

Nevertheless, Congress began reducing the area of the court's jurisdiction. But ... "Parker was not a fool. He knew the tide of civilization would eventually flood Indian Country. What he wanted to do most by upholding the law was slow the inevitable and thereby ease the Indian's transition into 'modern' civilization."<sup>43</sup>

Finally, the Western District Court lost its jurisdiction and ... "Two months later Judge Parker lost his battle with death."<sup>44</sup>

While the majority of stories about Parker manage to convey the idea that when "his" court lost its jurisdiction he simply threw in the towel, lay down and died. However ... "For many months, the judge had been aware he was dying of Bright's Disease, or dropsy, as it was often called. True to character, he refused to surrender to the inevitable."<sup>45</sup>

There is a very interesting sidelight to Judge Parker's story, and that is the story of J. Warren Reed and Samuel W. Harman.

We do not wish to suggest by any stretch of the imagination that either of them had anything to do with the big newspapers, railroads, or other big-money speculators who were desperate to have Judge Parker and the Western District Court out of their way.

J. Warren Reed came to Fort Smith in 1889 to work as a defense attorney in the Parker Court. 1889 was the year when the Supreme Court began hearing criminal cases. It is interesting to note that he had worked in the West Virginia Federal District Court and the Circuit Court.



Since the Fort Smith Court had both of those combined in one, we wonder if at times Reed might have been somewhat galled at the court that was not set up according to the usual structure of federal courts.

In his biography in *Hell On The Border* we note that, "In the spring of 1898 he was called to Chicago by legal duties and while there he applied for and was admitted to the bar of the United States district and circuit courts of that city."<sup>46</sup>

However in the Gregory-Strickland edition of *Hell On The Border* we find, "Reid (Reed) had fallen on evil days as the Fort Smith court settled down to more limited jurisdiction... Reid moved to Oklahoma and was forced to sell his book on the streets of Muskogee. The great attorney who had won so many judgments against Judge Parker became a book drummer pushing his works at cut rate from door to door."<sup>47</sup>

The next sentence reads, "Harman bought a hotel in a small Missouri town and peddled his copies from behind the registration desk."<sup>48</sup>

We don't believe for one minute that a short article with limited publication will change very many minds about "The Hanging Judge." But each bit of enlightenment, however small, is a step in the right direction. Judge Parker was a great man, a good man — he did not deserve such a name. When he died there was a moving tribute in an editorial by A.J. Kendrick of Fort Smith. In it he said, "There is but one (summation) that need be pronounced upon this remarkable man. Sweet and simple, it comes ringing down the age... 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'"<sup>49</sup>

THE DEFENSE RESTS ... but not for long. We still have a nagging need to know what really happened to J. Warren Reed (Reid) and Samuel W. Harman (Harmon).

Credits, credits — who's got the credits?

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# Edward A. Haglin

Ed Dell Wortz<sup>1</sup>

A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Edward A. (Ed) Haglin was born March 19, 1862. His parents were Andrew and Mary Griner Haglin. Andrew Haglin's native land was Sweden and Mary's was Germany. They both came to the United States in 1849.

They chose Fort Smith as their home, and because they were hard-working and energetic they soon figured prominently in the small town.

Among other things, Andrew Haglin owned the Studebaker Wagon Company (before Studebaker began manufacturing automobiles), and the McKibben Hotel which was located on Garrison Avenue across the street and down a few doors from the First National Bank. It was later known as the



Edward A. Haglin in Uniform of Border Rifles, circa 1880.  
Courtesy of National Park Service.

Baltimore Hotel. He was also in business with another man, by the name of Pape, and together they owned and operated a general store.

Edward Haglin graduated from Belle Grove High School in Fort Smith, went to the Arkansas Industrial College (now known as the University of Arkansas) in Fayetteville and graduated there.

When he returned home he quite naturally took a cue from his parents and became one of the town's most active citizens.

He joined the Border Rifles. This organization, first called "Border Cadets," was the forerunner of the National Guard.

In 1883, Edward Haglin was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant by Governor James H. Berry in the "Arkansas State Guard."

Working as the militia, the Border Rifles took their work seriously.

*The New Era*, a local newspaper, reported on October 11, 1883, that "The Border Rifles moved out of barracks last Thursday and the soldiers are citizens once more... During ten nights... The Border Rifles had inspection and drill in full dress uniforms Monday night and presented a very respectable appearance." (See accompanying photograph.)

The drills were also contests, each man competing individually, in which the prizes were a silver medal in 1883, and a "plume" (a plumed hat) in 1884.

Judges for the 1884 contest were Dr. J.G. Daily, J.A. Yantis and P.T. Devaney.

The Border Rifles had their own armory and a new one was built for them in 1884. When they were not on ten-day maneuvers it was their custom to mount their horses and carry on guard duty exercises along the bank of the Arkansas River.

The Border Rifles also volunteered for fire fighting. The *Daily Herald*, another local newspaper, carried the story on December 19, 1883, of a house fire and said of them, "With proper apparatus and a

1. Editor's Note: Ed Dell Wortz, granddaughter of Edward A. Haglin and daughter of the late Carl and Ed Dell Haglin Wortz, is a native of Fort Smith and a prominent business woman.

She is a graduate of Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri; and the University of Arizona, Tucson. She is involved in church and civic organizations, is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Old Fort Museum, and a recipient of the Social Studies Educators Frontier Achievement Award for her contribution to the historical development of Fort Smith.



little training the boys would make an exceedingly good fire company, for they are well organized and know how to perform that duty so hard to learn, to obey orders."

The townspeople loved the Border Rifles. Besides the drills, maneuvers and occasional barracks life there were pomp and circumstance and *fun*. On January 3, 1884, *The New Era* carried this item: "The Border Rifles' Ball came off as advertised, on Thursday night last at the opera house. The young folks were out in force and finery. Dancing commenced at nine o'clock and was kept up till near twelve, when all repaired to the dining room in the Wiersing Hall, where a splendid supper awaited them, prepared by the ladies of the Christian Church. After supper, the dancers returned to the ballroom and indulged in tripping the light fantastic until four o'clock a.m., when the young folks returned to their homes, after having had, as some expressed it, 'a hog killing time.' Music was furnished by the Bolinger string band, the best in the city."

Ed Haglin liked the excitement of firefighting. When the volunteers became the organized Fort Smith Fire Department he remained active as a firefighter and became that organizations' first secretary.

He married Della Creekmore and they had two children, Edward, Jr., who died as a young man, and Mary Ed Dell. Mary Ed Dell Haglin grew up and married Carl Wortz. She, too, was active in church and civic affairs. Between 1926-1932 she was a chaperone for the Ozark Smile Girls' Band (see related story in the September, 1983, issue of *The Journal*).

Edward Haglin was also a man of literary talents. He worked for the *Fort Smith Weekly Elevator* and also sold stories to the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* and the *New Orleans Picayune*. For the latter two newspapers he used the pen name, "Acorn."

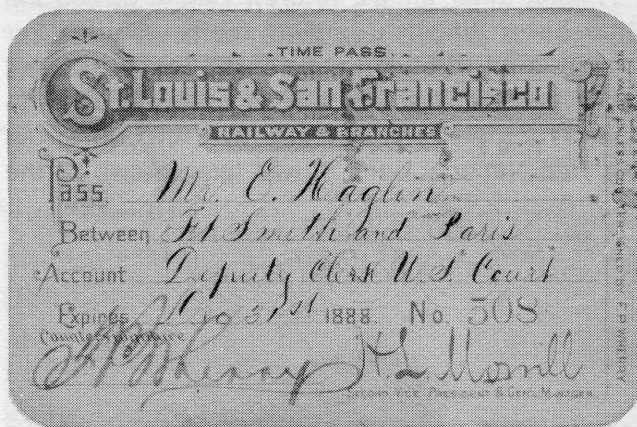
Later he was appointed by Judge Isaac C. Parker as a deputy clerk for the U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas. He was on duty in 1887 when Frank Dalton was serving as U.S. deputy marshal for the same court.

Frank Dalton was the brother of Grat (Graton), Bob and Emmett Dalton. Grat also served as a deputy marshal and after leaving that job he joined

his brothers Bob and Emmett and they became the infamous Dalton gang.

Frank Dalton, however, remained on the side of law and order and was later killed in the line of duty.

On July 3, 1887, Dalton needed some help in serving an arrest warrant on a man living in the Choctaw Nation, I.T., five miles south of Fort Smith. J.C. Pettigrew was deputized and rode out with him. Pettigrew earned \$3.00 for the day's work and the legal document detailing his appointment was executed by Stephen Wheeler, clerk of the district court, signed by him and also by Ed Haglin, deputy clerk.



**Railway Pass issued to E. Haglin, Deputy Clerk, U.S. Court. Courtesy of National Park Service.**

In 1888 he was issued a time pass by the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway Company, to be used in traveling from Fort Smith to Paris (Arkansas). It was designated, "Deputy Clerk, U.S. Court."

On February 21, 1889, a statement was written on the official stationery of the "United States Court," which reads, "To Whom it May Concern... I take pleasure in stating that I am acquainted with Mr. Ed Haglin of Fort Smith. He was at one time deputy United States district clerk. He is a gentleman of high character and very highly esteemed in the community where he is known. I commend him to all who may meet him. (Signed) I.C. Parker."

Edward A. Haglin lived a full and useful life. He died in 1951 at the age of 89 years.

Please let me say that Judge Parker was absolutely right in "commending him to all who may meet him," and I feel justifiably proud to call him my grandfather.

# Miss Florence Hammersly

Barbara Kern Minor



Miss Florence Hammersly

(Photo from the book *Hell on the Border*, page 126.)

Miss Florence Hammersly was the only female ever employed by Judge Isaac Parker in the Federal District Court at Fort Smith. Parker's tenure lasted until September 1, 1896. Hammersly was there when her father, court crier Jacob Alexander Hammersly, rang the final bell proclaiming: "Oyez, Oyez! The Honorable District and Circuit Courts of the United States, for the Western District of Arkansas, having criminal jurisdiction of the Indian Territory, are now adjourned forever."

However, her work in the Court continued until 1911 under the titles of stenographer, assistant court clerk, collector and deputy clerk.

She was born in Fort Smith September 18, 1868, died at the age of 81 on January 19, 1950, in Little Rock and was buried in Lot #186-A in Forest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith. Her father was born in Indiana, lived in Fort Smith 40 years, died at the age of 62 on January 6, 1900, after a four day illness of cerebral hyperaemia, and was buried in City Cemetery, now called Oak Cemetery. Her mother, Mary, nee Lytle, was born in Alleghaney,

Pennsylvania, June 24, 1848, died at the age of 84 November 18, 1932, from acute gastritis and was buried the next day in Forest Park Cemetery.

After Florence was born, Mr. and Mrs. Hammersly returned to Alleghaney where they had been married September 20, 1867. During that stay two children were born to them and died. When they came back to Fort Smith a son, Hugh Humbert, was born in 1878, followed by Jessie, Parker, and Mary Louise.

The Commissary storehouse at the Fort, which had been converted for use as a barracks, was a residence for court officials after 1871. Judge Parker had his chambers there. He thought so much of the Hammerslys that with his authority he was able to furnish living quarters for them there. It was young Hugh's job to cut the wood for burning in the fireplaces which was the only means for heating.

Florence had favorably impressed Judge Parker with an essay she wrote and read at her high school graduation June 7, 1888, entitled "Should the Indian Territory Be Opened." She studied secretarial skills at the Fort Smith Commercial College which opened the same year in a former Masonic Temple building at Sixth and C streets. Upon completion of her education there she went to work for Judge Parker.

Her role was that of the Judge's stenographer which consisted of handling his letters and other paper work. When he left the bench she became a clerical assistant to the United States District Court, eventually earning the title of deputy clerk in 1898. The family remembers that she always referred to herself as a stenographer-clerk.

By 1897 the Hammersly family was out of the Fort residence, after having lived there for seven years. Mr. Hammersly was no longer the court crier, and they were making their home at 110 Little Rock avenue, near the Commissary building. Later the name of the avenue was changed to Rogers avenue.

The family was living at 501 North Fifth street when Mr. Hammersly died. Hugh, the oldest son, then supported the family. In 1906 a house was built for them at 1806 North Eighth street, later numbered 1906 when the area was re-zoned. They lived there until 1910, then moved to 214 North Seventh street when Hugh got married.



By 1911 Florence had left the employ of the government and gone to Muskogee, Oklahoma, to work in an office. When she came back to Fort Smith she worked as a stenographer in various places.

Described by her family as a school teacher type, she was an intelligent woman who busied herself with research projects and who liked to write poetry and articles on history, the bent evidently inherited from her father who was a teacher.

She never became known as a paid, published writer. The only piece that has survived time is a poem, for which she won a prize, that was read May 27, 1891, at the dedication of the Gould Bridge connecting Arkansas with the Indian Territory. The contest was conducted for a poem written especially to commemorate the occasion. It is untitled.

"Long years we've been near together,  
Our city and the Indian land;  
So near we could see each other—  
That hand could most touch hand.  
But there's been a barrier to Commerce,  
Friendship's social queen;  
Tho' so near, we've ever been distant—  
The Arkansas rolled between.  
But today we are united  
By this highway of steel and stone;  
No longer will Commerce be blighted,  
Nor Friendship wander alone.  
Fort Smith and the Indian country  
Henceforth will go hand in hand,  
Abreast with the tide of progress—  
Our own, our sunny land.  
Now, while our native vintage mingles  
With the waters that flow to the sea,  
We'll unfurl our grand old banner  
And shout for the home of the free."

Her sister, Mary Louise, was talented in music. Her gift stemmed from her mother who was a musician. Mary Louise played the organ, and also the piano, which she played in local theaters, mostly for the silent movies.

Both girls were more interested in their work than marriage and retained their maiden names all their lives. Their sister, Jessie, married D.C. Huddleston. Judge Parker performed the wedding ceremony.

Mrs. Hammersly died at the residence on Sixth street, then known as Van Buren road. She and Florence had lived there from the time Florence returned from Muskogee. The house still stands, beyond Newlon road, with architectural changes.

Mary Lou, as she was called, had been living in Fayetteville. Talking pictures had come in, eliminating the need for the theater piano accompanist. She and a friend had opened a florist shop. Mary Lou's personality, that of a friendly and out-going nature,

helped the business flourish. After their Mother's death Florence moved to Fayetteville to live with Mary Lou. The Huddlestons were living in Sacramento, California; both Hugh and Parker were living in Fort Smith.

Florence was not involved with the flower shop but stayed at home, and took odd jobs now and then as she did most of her life, such as typing and record keeping.

It was in Fayetteville that she became an Episcopalian, because her sister, Mary Lou, had embraced that faith. They had never been active in church work in their earlier days in Fort Smith.

Then, in 1940, Mary Lou died and was buried in Fayetteville. Florence had been with her eight years. She returned to Fort Smith and moved back into the two story family home at 1906 North Eighth street.

During the middle years of World War II she was still working in an office.

She had moved to a place of her own on Seventh street when the years began taking their toll, her health deteriorated rapidly, and there being no care facility available for her in Fort Smith, she was taken to a Little Rock hospital in 1949 where she died in 1950. She was survived by Hugh and Jessie. Her death notice appeared in the January 21, 1950, issue of the *Southwest American* newspaper of Fort Smith, and the obituary the next day.

By an ironic twist of fate her obituary consisted of a biographical sketch of her from the 1899 edition of "Hell on the Border," the book she loathed. She didn't like the book because of its unpleasant and gruesome contents. While she would shun the action of the gallows, her younger brother Hugh would hurry home from Belle Point school and with a chum, slip away from his parents and climb to the roof of the Commissary to see what he could. He kept the rifle Jacob Alexander had with him the night the jailer came for him to help subdue Cherokee Bill, who was loose in the jail because a gun had been smuggled to him, enabling him to get out of his cell.

To pretty, happy-go-lucky Florence there were things too disagreeable to witness, to talk about, or to record.

### Credits

The author publicly expresses gratitude to Mr. Hugh Humbert Hammersly, Jr., for giving his time unstintingly to share the family archives and his own recollections of "Aunt Florence."

Thanks also to Don Groves of Forest Park Cemetery; Wanda Karrant, Fort Smith Public Library; Guy Nichols, Fort Smith National Historic Site; Roxanne Owens, Old Fort Museum; and Martha Coleman, Westark Community College Library, for their assistance.



# Beverly Stites

## Magistrate U.S. District Court



U.S. District Judge Franklin Waters administers the oath of office to U.S. Magistrate Beverly Stites as her brother holds the Bible.  
Photo by Paul Strang. Used by courtesy of *Southwest Times Record*.

Beverly Stites, former teacher and district court clerk, on January 22, 1988, was sworn in as the first full-time female magistrate that the Federal Court of the Western District of Arkansas has ever had. She actually became magistrate November 30, 1987.

Chief District Judge Franklin Waters of Fayetteville administered the oath of office during the ceremony held in the third floor courtroom of the Federal building in Fort Smith. Her brother, Phillip Rickman, held the Bible as she repeated the oath. Floyd and Marie Rickman, her parents, presented her with her judicial robe. The Rickmans all live in Fort Smith.

Judges and attorneys from near and far came to watch as Magistrate Stites was sworn in.

U.S. District Judge Morris Arnold of Fort Smith said, "We all know what a grand clerk of the court Beverly has made." He congratulated her and challenged her to "Call them like they are."

As magistrate, Stites will hear Social Security appeals, handle arraignments and misdemeanor cases and review prisoner petitions, alleviating the district judges' loads.

A Fort Smith native, Stites graduated from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville and has taught high school English, Speech and Journalism. She also sold real estate before deciding to re-enter the academic world in 1978 and study law. Three years later, she graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville law school and began her law practice with attorney Ron Bumpus in Fayetteville. In November, 1981, she became a law clerk to Judge Waters.

She was appointed clerk of the court in February, 1985, where she served until replacing former U.S. Magistrate Ned Stewart, Jr., late last year.

She has two sons, Scott, 20, and Shane, 17.



# Quinn Chapel African Methodist Church

Evelyn Wood Kendrick<sup>1</sup>



Quinn Chapel African Methodist Church, 723 North Eighth Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

In assembling and editing the material covering the 122 years of Methodism in Fort Smith we met with common obstacles. History is usually written after the actors have left the stage, valuable records destroyed and data lost forever. In this instance the records, documents and paper found, supplemented by memory, have furnished a fair portrayal of what African Methodism has accomplished in Fort Smith, as well as the names of the principal actors which have been planted here during this century.

We hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed delving into the happenings of yesteryears.

In this account we take a thoughtful look at the actual history of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. It goes back to 1864 when it was organized by a few persons having prayer meetings. Those persons were: Dick and Nina Thompson; Andy and Caroline Rogers; Julia Pettigrew; Mollie Thompson; Dick Morris; Lucindy Edwards; and Lizzie Humphree McGee. The prayer meetings at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson soon grew too large for a residence and other arrangements had to be made for a place of formal worship. The First Baptist Church, which was on Fourth Street then, gave permission for this little band to have services in their church on Sunday afternoons and a night during the week. This set-up lasted until they rented a place on Ginger Corner, over Sam Edmundson's Grocery Store.

Step by step progress was made. Others that joined the group were: Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Rollins; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lewis; Mathilda Reed; Joe Kane; Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davis; and Codila Dane. Soon a small frame was built and finally the lovely edifice that now is the meeting place of Quinn Family. Rev. Reese, the first pastor, organized the African Methodist Church and named it after the Fourth Bishop, W.P. Quinn. The

1. Editor's note: Evelyn Wood Kendrick, daughter of the late Ernest A. and Annie Laura Wood, is a native of Fort Smith. She has spent her entire life here except for two years when she finished high school in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and later attended Flipper-Key-Davis College (which merged with Shorter College) in Oklahoma, and Business College in Tulsa.

She was married to the late Willard F. Kendrick and they had one child, Mary Evelyn Williams, now deceased.

Evelyn Kendrick's life has been, and still is, an all-out commitment to her Church, her community, and her family.

She has served as president, secretary, or historian of every lay organization connected with A.M.E. and/or Quinn Chapel. She is trustee, steward and secretary of the official board at Quinn Chapel, and has served (or is still serving) as president, executive secretary, or chairman of state or district conferences of A.M.E. lay organizations, and took time to sing in the choir.

She has served as president of Northwest Regional Federated Clubs of the District for 24 years, and president four years of the State Association of Women's Clubs, both civic organizations. She has also served as chairman of the prestigious Tanner Memorial Committee.

Her charitable organizations include the Justamite Club and the Phyllis Wheatley Club.

She holds the only life membership in Quinn Chapel Connectional Missionary Society.

Evelyn Kendrick takes special delight in her grandchildren — Anistyne Shoate, Gregory Jones, Willard Eugene Williams; and her great granddaughter, Karen Anne Shoate.

She is a woman of rare charm and wit and summed up her life at Quinn Chapel by saying, "I have been everything there except the pianist and the janitor."

second pastor, Rev. George Thomas Rutherford, came and moved the Church to the place on Ginger Corner. After renting for a while the pastor brought before the congregation the idea of buying their own church home. They readily agreed and began to search for a place. Phillip Rollins suggested that they purchase the place next to his, but when they went to purchase it they found that Whites were planning to use it for a school for the Colored People. The Church knew we needed a school so they sought elsewhere. They found a place next door to Sister Diley Moore and the School Board helped them to purchase it for \$125.00. The school board paid the first \$25.00. The lot was purchased from Mr. William H. Rogers on October 14, 1869. The deed contained the names of the trustees: Wesley Lewis, Samuel Dean, and Phillip Rollins.

It was Conference time and Rev. George T. Rutherford carried the Deed to the Annual Conference where it was accepted. At the close of the conference he was re-appointed as pastor for another year.

The small church had a fund-raising campaign and by April they started their building. Rev. Rutherford, marshal of the Indian Territory and Arkansas, shot Wes Wiley in the line of duty and was carried off to Ft. Gibson because his conscience was bothering him. A local preacher named Granville Ryles came and finished the church. The Congregation was having services in the school house until the church was finished.

The membership consisted of: Phillip and Rachel Rollins; Wesley, John and Martha Lewis; Mollie Thompson; Chaney Arrington; Caroline Ellis; Dick Morris; Dick and Vinia Thompson; Andy and Caroline Rogers; Lizzy Humphree McGhee; Julia Pettigrew; Tom and Sarah Davis; Lucindy Edwards; Clara Handcock; Minerva Bonner; Anderson Douglas; Mathilda Reed; James and Cordelia Kane.

Other ministers that followed were The Reverends: Reese McKnight, Cole Roberts, Washington Tombs, A.A. Williams, George C. Christburg, A.A. Whitman, J.W. Collins, Rev. Ashburg, and P.W. Wade.

Rev. P.W. Wade wanted to build a new church and the old building was torn down and a nice frame building erected. The cornerstone was laid by the Masonic Lodge. Anderson Douglas wanted the church to have music and the first instrument was purchased. It was a small organ called a melodion. Next, a bell for the tower was purchased and the members thrilled to the sound of "Little Jim," as they called it. The young men and women soon carpeted the aisles of the church and the women put in chandeliers.

Ministers who followed Rev. Wade were: Dr. Jackson, Reverends J.W. Whiteside, A.J. Miller, Rev. Dodson, Rev. Rucker, J.W.W. Walker, H.S. Berry, G.W. Swan, J.L.H. Watkins, R.B. Brookins, A.H. Hill, T.H. Jackson, S.L. Jones, J.M. Conner, J.G. Robinson and E.C. Foreman.

Under Rev. E.C. Foreman the old church was torn down and replaced by a beautiful red brick, the present edifice. The Cornerstone was laid in 1917 by the Odd Fellows Lodge, the Masons and the Knights of Pythias.

Rev. J.W. Whiteside was the Presiding Elder and the Bishop was Rt. Rev. J.M. Conner. The contractor was G.W. Hammond. Trustees whose names appear on the cornerstone were: F.J. Rowell, Charles Forehand, William Scott, Mose Herrell, Dr. S.W. Harrison, John Holman, T.H. Holland, Cassius Clardy and B.F. Warren. The event marked a day in history when African Methodism could look back and see how far the small band of members had travelled.

The Rev. H.G. Montgomery was the next pastor, followed by: Reverends W.E. Guy, Jones, T.H. Robinson and Sims. The pipe organ was purchased under the pastorate of Rev. Sims, and the parsonage was bricked. Rev. M.R. Dixon, Sr., was the next shepherd of the flock, followed by: Reverends G.B. Ashford, E.J. Lunon, W.R. Akery, F.A. Roundtree, Frank C. Churchill (who instituted the zone system in the Missionary Society), T.P. Duhart, who paid the mortgage indebtedness of the church, including the organ.

Various organizations sponsored many of the things that the Church could not underwrite. One of the first was the communion set by Board #1, under the presidency of Mrs. Lillie Bolin, and the silver collection plates by the Missionary Society in 1927, when Mrs. M.H. Edwards was president. Mrs. Violet Leverett in her will left an amount for which a stained glass window was purchased. Mrs. Emma Clardy, in memory of her mother, Mrs. Palina Scott, set wheels in motion for a second stained glass window. The Sons and Daughters Club, under the presidency of Mrs. M.H. Edwards, sponsored the drive that gave the first refrigerator for the parsonage, and the duplicating machine.

Rev. Joseph Shumpert succeeded Rev. Duhart, and under his pastorate the cooling system was inaugurated, making Quinn Chapel summers indeed, "Cool Down Here." Rev. C.C. Blake and Rev. A.M. Roberts followed Rev. Shumpert.

The next dynamic leader was Rev. J.J. Brown, who organized the Gospel Choir under the direction of Mrs. Jeannetta Bolin in 1953. The Gospel Choir was combined with the Senior Choir in 1963 due to loss



of membership. Rev. Brown also organized the Young Matrons, who contributed a silver communion filler under the leadership of Mrs. Alice Frances Owens. The Lay Organization was organized under his pastorate, and they made numerous contributions to the Church.

Rev. T.M. Greene, Rev. W.M. Jameson and Rev. J.M. Watkins followed Rev. Brown. Rev. Watkins was instrumental in getting the Lay Organization to pay an outstanding mortgage of \$500.00. He organized the Boy Scouts and increased attendance at the Sunday School Conventions. Under his administration several items were given to the church. There was a Baptismal Font donated by Mrs. Alphonso (Mae) Trent in memory of Mrs. E.O. (Hattie S.) Trent. Alphonso Trent was church treasurer until his death. (The feature story of Alphonso Trent may be found in the April, 1984, issue of *The Journal*.) A Communion table was given by Mr. George Sheppard in memory of his mother, Mrs. Dicey Sheppard; and a lectern was given by Mrs. Evelyn Kendrick and family. The laymen, under the leadership of Evelyn Kendrick, gave several mica-top banquet tables and chairs to the church.

The Missionary Society, under the presidency of Mrs. Minnie R. Walker, lit the corner of 8th and H Streets with a neon sign and also placed a water cooler in the first unit of the church. The history of Quinn would not be complete without the mention of Claude McCowan, affectionately called Brother Mac. He worked diligently planning, designing and maintaining the church lawn. Rev. W.C. Montague and Rev. G. Edward West followed Rev. Brown.

Dr. G. Edward West served Quinn Chapel longer than any other minister. He was appointed in November, 1964, and served until November, 1980. He remodeled the parsonage in 1965 and made extensive repairs on the church pipe organ to restore it to its maximum efficiency. During his administration the following was accomplished:

Quinn Chapel was placed in the Fort Smith Historical District's Records. In 1971, he founded the West Apartments, a federally funded low-income housing project. Repairs were made on the property inherited from the Ben Ella Jennings Estate for preservation and rental value. In 1973, in conjunction with the Urban Renewal, he made the Harley-Wilson Community Park a reality. Also in 1973 the church and parsonage were completely remodeled.

Rev. Tilford C. Owens followed the West administration. He was a constant visitor of the sick, and he reorganized the weekly prayer meetings upon which the Church was built. His wife worked diligently with the youth of the Church.

Rev. Ray C. Williams followed Rev. Owens. Rev. Williams launched a campaign to retire the existing indebtedness of the church. He made history by

presenting a play for the community entitled, "And All You Thought We Could Do Was Dance." His very talented wife organized a choir in his honor, the "Q.C. Choir," and later the "Bible Band Singers." He had the pulpit area recarpeted.

Rev. Ben S. Grinage, next pastor, was instrumental in having repairs made to the outside of the church, and once again the church was in debt.

In October, 1984, Rev. Thurston B. Lamb was sent to us. Being a dynamic preacher and leader of the people, he immediately launched a financial campaign to pay off all indebtedness.

Accomplishments under Rev. T.B. Lamb included the purchase of furniture for the parsonage paid for in full — \$2,500.00. (Some items were donated by individuals and organizations.)

There were also many more accomplishments under Rev. Lamb's administration. Thirty-two (32) individuals joined the Church and re-committed their lives to Christ. The Sunday School received the 1985 Runner-Up Plaque which was presented by Bishop H.H. Brookins. A screen door to the lower unit of the church was installed, after being donated by Mr. and Mrs. John H. Stewart, Sr. New air conditioning and heating units were bought for the sanctuary. Choir loft chairs were re-upholstered and paid for by one of the members, Ms. Mary Ann Simpson. Mrs. Beatrice Mickens and her brother donated brass flower stands for the altar. Christian and American flags were purchased and placed in the sanctuary by Stewardess Boards #1 and #2. The Fresh Flower Club and the Pastor's Aide Club were organized. The sum of \$6,129.00 was raised and applied to the mortgage of the church. Also, paraments for the pulpit and communion table were purchased by Stewardess Boards #1 and #2.

In October, 1986, Rev. T.G. Allen was sent to us. Under his administration the indebtedness of the Homecoming Souvenir Booklet was paid.

In October, 1987, Rev. William Vernon Leake, the son of our former National Evangelist, Willard Leake, was assigned as our pastor. Rev. Leake, a great gospel preacher, leader, organizer, teacher, community worker, follower, and builder, has endeared himself greatly to the members. He has launched a Gideon Financial Drive for expansion and repairs of the church, which have already been started. We pray that his tenure with us will last for many years.

The hours of consecrated service of countless Quinn Chapelites cannot be tabulated for many are not known. It is only the very obvious that are recorded, and perhaps not all of them. Our motto at Quinn is, "If I can't do great things, I'll do small ones in a great way." May we beg of you as you read this history that you pray for us to become stronger and continue God's calling.

# Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith

Eloise Evans Barksdale<sup>1</sup>

The Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith was organized by May Gray and Eloise Barksdale in December, 1962. The late Miss Margaret Montague served as the first president. The group met at different homes for a number of years for study discussions and reading of their poetry. In later years the meeting place was changed to the Fort Smith Public Library, meetings being held every third Friday of the month at 1:30 P.M. At the time of organization the poet laureate of Arkansas, Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni of Fayetteville, Arkansas, offered her advice and encouragement in establishing the first continuing branch of the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni was elected poet laureate of Arkansas by the state legislature in 1953 and served her fellow poets and the State until her death in 1970. She had followed Charles T. Davis, Sr., of the *Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, Arkansas, who was the first poet laureate of Arkansas from 1923-1946. Ercil Brown of North Little Rock was asked to be interim poet laureate for the year 1970. Miss Lily Peter became poet laureate of Arkansas in 1970.

The Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith follow the purpose of the state organization, organized in 1931, which reads: The Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of poetry and the encouragement of poets. The purpose of this organization shall be to foster and encourage poets in the art, to promote an appreciation of poetry to the community and to secure a fuller recognition of contemporary poets in the state of Arkansas. Membership dues are \$7.50 yearly which entitles its members to a course of study outlined in the annual yearbook, monthly prizes offered by the PRA and criticism of one poem each month by a well qualified critic.

Miss Lily Peter, the present poet laureate of Arkansas, whose home is in Marvell, Arkansas, gives each branch of the PRA a generous donation each year to be used for projects pertaining to poetry. The Fort Smith branch has conducted contests in grade

and high schools. In 1973, due to the generosity of our poet laureate, the Fort Smith branch prepared an anthology of its members' poetry. Fifteen poets are represented in the book titled *Poems* by Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith. The most recent project of the Fort Smith branch is in adding six volumes of the PRA anthologies to the series of older volumes, beginning in 1964, to the Arkansas Room at the Fort Smith Public Library. These books are dedicated to the memories of deceased members: Miss Margaret Montague, Mrs. Emily Montague Rollwage, Mrs. Katherine Price Bailey, Miss Gretchen Youmans and Mrs. Julia S. Porter. One book was placed in honor of Miss Lily Peter, poet laureate since 1970.

Present members of the Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith are: Miss Betty Calvert, Mrs. Christina Alter, Mrs. Eloise Barksdale (president), Mrs. May Gray, Mrs. Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough, Mrs. Kathleen Knox, Mrs. Mary Minniear, Mrs. Margaret Wills, Mrs. Mary Ann Evans, Mrs. Robbie Vaughn, Mrs. Amelia Martin, Mrs. Adele Jarman, Mrs. Mary Frances Beasley, Mrs. Zella Murphy and Mrs. Judith Ferguson.

The Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith have enjoyed twenty-five years of the study and writing of poetry. Monthly meetings are structured around assignments designated either by the state or local organization. Throughout this time many members of the local group have distinguished themselves by participating in the annual Arkansas State celebration of National Poetry Day in October, by winning poetry contests, and by having their work published in books, anthologies and various other types of publications.

In 1987, the 25th anniversary of the Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith coincided with the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States of America. The group chose to commemorate the Bicentennial with their poetry and we share with you some of the poems which were written by the members for this special occasion.

1. Editor's note: Eloise Evans Barksdale, a co-founder of the Roundtable Poets of Fort Smith, is also a charter member and first president of the Fort Smith Branch of the National League of American Pen Women. She was named *Poet of the Present in Arkansas* in 1968. Her poetry has been published in numerous anthologies, newspapers and magazines since 1939. She was listed in international *Who's Who in Poetry* in 1970 and included in its anthology of prize winning poems in 1972.

Mrs. Barksdale's poem "Old Fort Smith" was featured in Volume I, No. 1 of *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*.



**WE THE PEOPLE**  
**(For the Signers of the Constitution)**

May Gray

While millions watched and Newton sang GOD  
BLESS AMERICA,  
Each listener's heart was filled with love and  
gratitude  
Toward all the fifty-five who, quill in hand, said, "We  
Hitherto subscribe our honor and our name."  
"Every event," said Washington, "is in the hands of  
God,  
Patron and protector, the source of all our rights."  
Equality, justice, and liberty are promised in  
Our oath of affirmation, a three-part miracle:  
(Principles laid deep within your heart like a flame)  
Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Time took your  
Energy, your youth, your life, but left your honor and  
your name.

**THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

Eloise Barksdale

Founding Fathers from twelve states  
having elected George Washington as their leader  
at the Constitutional Convention  
held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
in the year 1787,  
designed a government of LAWS.  
Overlooking few guiding principles  
for a more perfect union, the "signers,"  
United in their support of the peoples'  
grievances and desires for more freedom,  
Never wavered in their united efforts to formulate  
a document which would endure, by  
Drafting a "declaration of sovereignty"  
affording every person a better way of life.  
Every man on the roll of the thirty-nine delegates  
Rendered a part of himself — his love, his dreams,  
his visions of unity of all the states.  
Serving their states, their country, their homes  
and descendants, great patriots gave months  
of their lives to complete the document which  
would establish the foundation for unity and freedom  
in the United States of America.

**UNION**

Mary Ann Evans

Until there was a meeting of the minds  
No compromise was possible;  
In that hot city in that hot summer  
Ordinary men agreed on extraordinary words—  
Named them "The Constitution."

**LIBERTY**

Judy Ferguson

Living in freedom is our greatest treasure  
If it's not allowed to be frittered away.  
But when ease and apathy become the lure  
Each of us is snagged upon today  
Remember that the treasure can be lost  
To subversive elements of tyranny and hate.  
You and I must choose freedom's fate.

**FREEDOM'S SONG**

Robbie Vaughn

Freedom is a fairy child,  
Revered, cherished, undefiled,  
Easy to love, hard to hate,  
Enemy to a puppet state.  
Dear to us who are with it blest,  
Offering hope to those oppressed.  
Men of old fighting to be free  
Send this message to you and me:  
Stand firm, the American way  
Or many freedoms could be swept away,  
Never may we find these things  
Gone forever as on fairy wings.

**UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

Mary Frances Beasley

Long live our constitution,  
In hearts and minds abide,  
Bright beacon light of freedom  
Enveloping human rights.  
Reservoir of justice,  
Triumphant shield of state,  
Yokes broken, liberty assured!

A Poem by Zella Murphy

Arkansas,  
Missouri,  
Every state in the Union,  
Resplendent in autumn dress  
Inspiring one with brush and  
Canvas to capture the beauty from  
An artist's point of view.  
To God be the Glory, as a touch of  
His hand covers the  
Earth in this panorama of color.  
Forever and a day, as some say,  
Recalls struggles of yesteryear  
Enveloping our lives and freedoms.  
Even so — America is free!

# In Loving Memory

## GILMER K. DIXON

Gilmer K. Dixon, 75, a member of the board of directors of the Fort Smith Historical Society, died October 28, 1987.

He was president and general manager of the Seamans Store Company; past president of the Arkansas Council of Retail Merchants; a member of the Noon Exchange Club, of which he served on the national board of directors for twelve years; vice president of the Bank of Mansfield; a graduate of the University of Arkansas; and a veteran of the World War II United States Army Air Corps. He was also a member of the First Methodist Church, where he sang in the choir; and a member of the River Blenders Chorus of the Fort Smith Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA). As a final tribute to a faithful and beloved member, the River Blenders chorus sang "I Fly Away" and "I Believe" at his memorial service.

Survivors are his wife Rachel; a daughter, Carol Ann Dixon of Casa Grande, Arizona; and two sons, Kirk of Little Rock and Keith of Dallas, Texas.

## JIMMIE DELLE CALDWELL

Jimmie Delle Caldwell, 59, died October 7, 1987. She was a life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society and had served as a member of the board of directors.

Miss Caldwell was retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, where she had worked for forty years and had been manager of OSP assignment there.

She was active in St. John's Episcopal Church and community affairs, a member of the boards of Arkansas Alliance of Historic Preservation, Fort Smith Heritage Foundation, Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association, Western Arkansas Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Y.W.C.A. and Frontier Researchers Association.

She was voted Fort Smith Woman of the Year in 1968, was the recipient of the 1985 Golden Deeds Award from the Fort Smith Exchange Club and the 1983 Social Studies Educators Frontier Achievement Award.

Other organizations of which she was a member are: League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women's Club, Fort Smith Art Center, Friends of the Library, Bonneville House Association, Salvation Army Auxiliary, Telephone Pioneers and numerous state, local and national historic preservation societies.

She was treasurer of Belle Fort Smith Tours, Inc., vice chairman of the Historic District Commission and a member of Arkansas Valley Vo-Tech's electronics advisory commission.

She is survived by her mother, Blanche Caldwell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Smith Historical Society, Fort Smith Trolley Museum, St. John's Episcopal Church, Fort Smith Heritage Foundation, the American Cancer Society, or the Fort Smith Public Library.

## ANN MARIE SIMS

Ann Marie Sims, 68, died December 18, 1987. A member of the staff at the Fort Smith Public Library, she prepared book reviews and was a readers' adviser.

She was an alumna of Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia; and a member of Christian Women's Fellowship, First Christian Church; Fort Smith Little Theater and Business and Professional Women.

Survivors include her sister, Mary Sims Alexander, Fort Smith; one niece, Ann Kathryn Alexander; two nephews, John V. Alexander; and Thomas D. Sims, Atlanta, Georgia, a former resident of Fort Smith.

## CARL WORTZ

Carl Wortz, well-loved civic leader of Fort Smith, died August 13, 1987. He was 97.

His father, Carl Wortz, Sr., established Wortz Biscuit Company around the turn of the century and Carl, Jr., succeeded him in owning and operating the company until the 1960s, when Carl Wortz III took over. The company was sold to a group of Fort Smith businessmen in 1972.

Wortz was a Rotarian, a 32nd-degree Mason, a member of the Belle Point Masonic Lodge No. 20, a charter member of the Amrita Grotto, a member of the First Presbyterian Church and a World War I veteran.

Wortz and his wife, the late Ed Dell Haglin Wortz, became the owners of the Knoble Brewery, one of Fort Smith's historic landmarks, in the 1960s.

He formed the Ozark Smile Girls' band in the mid-twenties (see September, 1984 issue of *The Journal*), and was interested in many organizations involving young people. He was known for his love and appreciation of all his fellow men.

Wortz is survived by his daughter, Ed Dell Wortz, Fort Smith; his son, C.H. III, Hot Springs, Arkansas; one sister, Mrs. W.L. Hutcheson of Fort Smith, and one grandchild.



#### JEROME M. NEY, SR.

Jerome M. Ney, Sr., 81, died January 26, 1988. He was owner and operator of The Boston Store, one of Fort Smith's oldest and best known retail stores, for most of his adult life. The Boston Store was founded in 1879 by his family. It was closed in 1986. (The story of The Boston store and the Ney family is in Volume X, No. 2 of *The Journal*.)

During World War II Ney was deputy administrator of the Office of Price Administration in Atlanta, Georgia, and later served a position affiliated with the national program in Washington, D.C.

He was a member of the American Retail Federation and was elected its president in 1947. He was also a director of the National Retail Merchants Association for over 30 years.

He founded Universal Travel Service of Fort Smith, was a past member of the board of trustees of both St. Edward Mercy Medical Center and Sparks Regional Medical Center, and was a member of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce for over 60 years.

Ney was a lifetime member of the United Hebrew Congregation of Fort Smith.

His survivors include his wife, Ione Sternberg Ney; two sons, Randy and Jerry Ney, of Beaumont, Texas; a granddaughter, Jennifer, of Beaumont; three grandsons, Marshall of Topeka, Kansas, and Randolph and Jonathan, both of Beaumont.

#### W. RAYMOND HARPER

W. Raymond Harper, 85, died November 8, 1987. He resided in Fort Smith, was retired from Missouri-Pacific Railroad after 48 years service, a 32nd degree Mason, and a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Belle Point Masonic Lodge No. 20, Scottish Rite, MO-PAC Booster Club and St. Luke's Big Kids Club.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; two daughters, Betty Griggs of Fort Smith and Helen Mae O'Neal of Little Rock; a son, Judge W.R. "Bud" Harper, Jr., of Fort Smith; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

(See September, 1981 issue of *The Journal* for the story of the Harper family.)

#### ED LOUISE BALLMAN

Ed Louise Ballman, 94, one of Fort Smith's best known civic, cultural and educational benefactors, died January 3, 1988.

She was the daughter of the founder of six Fort Smith Furniture companies, was the first woman to be elected to the vestry of the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas and a major contributor to the construction of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

She was a multi-term member of the Fort Smith School Board and the Board of Trustees of Westark Community College. She founded the Ed Ballman Foundation and was instrumental in the building of Ballman Elementary School and the Ballman-Speer Building on the Westark campus. She donated land for the Fort Smith Boys Club and contributed with others to the construction of the Fort Smith Vocational School.

She supported the Old Fort Museum and was instrumental in the establishment of the Artist Point Art Colony in the Boston Mountains.

A graduate of Wellesley College, she also attended the New York Conservatory of Music and later performed regularly with the Fort Smith Symphony.

Ballman's survivors include one nephew, Charles Pratt, Jr., of Seattle; a niece, Mrs. Patricia Pratt Shad of the Netherlands; one grandniece, Leslie Anne Shad, also of the Netherlands; one grandnephew, Rees Edward Eric Shad of Argyle, NY; and a great-grandnephew, Dylan Spencer Shad of Argyle.

#### CATHERINE YOUMANS McCARTNEY

Catherine R. Youmans McCartney, 87, died January 13, 1988. She was a homemaker and a member of First Presbyterian Church. She was the daughter of the late Frank Youmans, U.S. District Judge, Western District of Arkansas, Fort Smith. (See September, 1987 issue of *The Journal*.)

Survivors are her husband, Paul; a daughter, Catherine McCartney Sandahl of Fort Smith; a brother, Paul Youmans of Denver; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

#### LUCY McDONOUGH BROWN

Mrs. Lucy McDonough Brown, 89, died February 6, 1988, in Dallas, Texas. She was the daughter of James B. McDonough, who, while serving as assistant district attorney under U.S. District Judge Isaac C. Parker, was prosecutor in the cases of Cherokee Bill and the Buck gang.

Mrs. Brown, the widow of the late Joseph Real Brown who was counsel for Kansas City Southern Railroad, was a former resident of Fort Smith and a former member of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Funeral services were held at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in Fort Smith, with burial in Forest Park Cemetery under the direction of Fentress Mortuary.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Lucy B. Harris of Dallas; a son, Joseph R. of Los Angeles, California; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

#### SISTER MARY WILHELMINA DOWER

Sister Mary Wilhelmina Dower, 83, died August 26, 1988, in a Fort Smith hospital. A native of Conche, Newfoundland, Canada, she entered the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy in 1927 and made profession of religious vows in 1933.

She was a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, Texas, and spent most of her religious life in the ministry of education. She served in elementary parochial schools in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Tontitown, Slovak and Fort Smith. Her later years were devoted to a visitation ministry.

She is survived by her brother, Bernard Dower of Conche.

#### MEMORIAL GIFTS

For Mrs. H.N. Stanphill  
H.N. Stanphill

For Carl Wortz  
James and Annis Walcott

# News and Opportunities

## **ANNUAL MEETING FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

APRIL 7, 1988 7:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY ROOM

FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Election of Board Members, Slide Presentation,  
Music and Refreshments

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## **ANNUAL MEETING ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

April 14-16, 1988

Jonesboro, Arkansas

For more information, contact: Arkansas Historical Association, 12 Ozark Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.

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## **ARKANSAS HERITAGE WEEK May 7-May 15**

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*The Index for Volumes I thru IX of The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society is still available at the Fort Smith Public Library, or by mail from the Society, 61 South 8th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Price: \$20.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **HELP!! SAVE OUR NATIONAL CEMETERY!!**

Burial space at the National Cemetery in Fort Smith is almost completely filled. When filled, National Cemeteries are closed permanently and never re-opened. If the Fort Smith National Cemetery closes, veterans and their families from western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma will be sent to the District National Cemetery in Houston, Texas, for burial at the cost of \$1.00 per mile.

A group of concerned citizens is trying to acquire additional land adjoining the south wall of the present cemetery. The group has an option on this five and a half acres which belongs to the Kansas City Southern Railroad, and must raise \$500,000 in the next twelve months to exercise the option.

This is the last opportunity to keep this cemetery open. Please send your contribution, any amount, to: National Cemetery Fund, 619 North A Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901.

Make checks payable to National Cemetery Acquisition Commission, Inc. All donations are tax deductible, and it is proposed that all persons giving \$100 or more will have their name inscribed on the wall of the expansion — the "Builder's Wall."

\*\*\*\*\*

## **WILLIAM S. SESSIONS, FORT SMITH NATIVE, APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FBI**

William S. Sessions of San Antonio, Texas, who is a native of Fort Smith, was sworn in as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on November 2, 1987.

He attained his law degree at Baylor University and practiced law ten years before going to Washington, D.C. in 1969 to serve as a senior criminal prosecutor at the Justice Department.

A Republican, he was named by President Nixon in 1971 as U.S. Attorney for the western district of Texas. In 1974, he was appointed by President Ford to the federal bench for the western district of Texas and was serving in this capacity when chosen by President Reagan as Director of the FBI.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FORT SMITH TRUCKER NATIONAL HERO**

Robert Williams of Fort Smith is America's National Highway Hero for 1987-88.

Williams, 52, was nominated for the honor by the person he rescued, Dee Blair, wife of state representative Buddy Blair of Fort Smith.

June 30 on U.S. Highway 71, Blair's car spun out of control on the rain-slicked highway and hit Williams' truck. The car's gas tank ruptured and burst into flames. Blair was unable to pull herself from the flames engulfing her convertible.

Williams jumped from his truck, using his fire extinguisher to put out the flames that caught Blair's hair on fire and lifted her to safety before her car exploded.

The highway hero contest is sponsored by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company to honor truck drivers who are outstanding examples of their profession.

Williams and his family went to Daytona Beach, Florida, to receive the award which was made before the Daytona 500 stock car race. There they joined the other five finalists and their spouses as guests of Goodyear for the race. Goodyear chairman Robert Mercer presented Williams a \$20,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Each of the runners-up received \$5,000 bonds.

Williams is a driver for Melton Truck Line of Shreveport, La., and was one of 22 truckers to receive a state Highway Hero Award before he was made a finalist for the national honor.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CLARENCE HIGGINS, HALL OF FAME**

Clarence Higgins, who touched the lives of so many for so long, was enshrined in the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame in August, 1987.

Higgins, who served as executive director of the Fort Smith Boys Club for 27 years, was active in Babe Ruth baseball for more than 30 years before retiring in 1985.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ARKANSAS' OUTSTANDING ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**

Ralph Williams of Fort Smith's Fairview Elementary School has been named the outstanding elementary principal in Arkansas.

Bearing the title of the state's best, Williams will dine with President Reagan at the White House with others



named to the National Distinguished Principals program. Those chosen to represent each of the 50 states this year received a sterling silver school bell.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FORT SMITH SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Fort Smith Southside High School has, for the second time, been given recognition by the United States Department of Education for its academic excellence. It was the only Arkansas school among 271 schools nationwide named as a winner in the department's Secondary School Education Program and one of only four schools nationwide to receive the award for a second time. After being selected for the award during the 1982-83 school year, the school was not eligible to be chosen again until this year.

Wayne Haver, principal of Southside, and Fort Smith School Superintendent Benny Gooden attended a Rose Garden ceremony at the White House in October, 1987, where the outstanding schools were recognized.

Arkansas was allowed to nominate six schools to receive this honor and three of the Arkansas nominations were Fort Smith schools, Kimmons Junior High, Northside High School and Southside. Nationwide, 670 schools were nominated.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **JOEL STUBBLEFIELD ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS COUNCIL**

The presidents and chancellors of Arkansas' twenty public colleges and universities recently elected Westark Community College president Joel Stubblefield as chairman of the presidents and chancellors council.

Stubblefield, Westark Community College president since 1984, also serves on the board of directors of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Fort Smith, Sebastian County Heart Association, Noon Exchange Club, the Executive Committee of the Council of North Central Community Colleges, and the AIDC Statewide Task Force on Productivity, and is immediate past president of the Fort Smith Historical Society. A native of Fort Smith, he holds degrees from the Ouachita University, Syracuse University, and the Army's Command and General Staff College.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **COACH GAYLE KAUNDART RETIRES**

Gayle Kaundart officially stepped down as coach of the Westark Community College men's basketball team on December 31. Kaundart, 64, coached 32 years in Fort Smith, 19 years at Fort Smith Northside High School and 13 years at Westark.

It is said greatness must be measured over the course of time and that time is the ultimate test. Gayle Kaundart has passed that test. Not only because of the victories gained and the championships won, but because of the lives touched and the people influenced.

An era has ended, but his legacy lives on.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RICHARD MULLOY DAY NAMED**

In a memorial tribute to Richard Mulloy, former principal of William O. Darby Junior High School, Fort Smith officials proclaimed September 11 as Richard Mulloy Day.

Following the memorial, a wreath was laid at a stone memorial to Mulloy erected by the William O. Darby Ranger Foundation beside Darby Junior High School.

Mulloy was a member of the board of trustees for the Darby Ranger Foundation and was key in the foundation's effort to twin Fort Smith with Cisterna Di Latina, Italy. (See September 1987 issue of *The Journal*.)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL MONUMENT UNVEILED**

A monument to Martin Luther King, Jr. was unveiled Sunday, January 17, 1988 in the Martin Luther King Memorial Park at North Greenwood and R streets in Fort Smith, fulfilling a four-year dream of Fort Smith NAACP.

The monument, 10 feet high and costing \$8,700, is composed of a 7½-foot concrete base bearing three bronze plaques. The center plaque contains a portrait of King and words from King's famous speech about returning to the South.

The memorial plaque is flanked with a dedication plaque containing the names of contributors, and a founders plaque containing a list of dates the park was renovated. A 2½-foot stainless steel crown sits atop the foundation and plaques. Faith McNeely, Park Committee chairwoman, said a fountain will spout from the crown and a gas light will be affixed above the fountain.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST SHRINE**

The Vietnamese Buddhist community of Fort Smith inaugurated its first shrine on Saturday, September 19, 1987. Before inauguration of the shrine located at 3811 Mussett Road, the 500 member community had been holding its weekly meetings and ceremonies in the homes of individuals. Dinh Nhu Truong, chairman of the Vietnamese Buddhist Association of Arkansas, said although the Laotian Buddhists have long had a shrine in Fort Smith, this is the first Vietnamese shrine here.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **NEW FORT SMITH POST OFFICE**

Open house was held Wednesday, September 23, 1987 for Fort Smith's new main post office at 3318 South 74th Street, just south of Rogers Avenue and St. Edward Mercy Medical Center.

The unit houses mail processing functions, administrative offices and a portion of the city's delivery service.

Zip code of the new office is 72917-9998.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FORT SMITH LIBRARY OFFERS ELECTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA**

The Electronic Encyclopedia is a revolutionary new kind of reference information tool available at the Fort Smith Public Library, according to Larry Larson, librarian.

The entire text of the Academic American Encyclopedia is contained on a single compact disc. The CD-ROM Disc has a massive database of 9 million words and more than 30,000 articles, over 110 megabytes of text and indexing.

Using the Knowledge Retrieval System, the Micro-computer and the CD-ROM Player provide the latest information on science and technology, the arts, geography, medicine, social science, contemporary life, law, sports and much more.

Reference service for Fort Smith Public Library patrons will take on a new look with the new technology of the CD-ROM Disc and the Micro-computer. Patrons will be assisted in using the new system. Search results can be printed out.

In addition to the Electronic Encyclopedia, other programs are available for the public to use on the Microcomputer. A library patron may also bring in their own software to use.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RON RUSSELL**

#### **NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT**

The Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce has named Ron Russell as its new president, succeeding Richard Sugg.

Russell, 45, comes to Fort Smith from Batesville where he was executive director and industrial developer of the Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sugg, who has stepped down for health reasons, will continue to be employed by the chamber as an assistant manager.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **1,546 JOBS CREATED BY NEW INDUSTRIES**

In 1987, 1,546 new jobs were created in Fort Smith by four new industries and 27 plant expansions, Carter Hunt, chairman of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, said January 8.

The total capital investment for new industries in 1987 was \$27 million and the capital investment for expanded industries was \$53.9 million. This data, announced at the January monthly chamber board meeting, brings the 25-year total of new industries in Fort Smith to 134 with 7,348 new jobs and a capital investment of \$258.1 million. The 25-year total of expanded industries is 777 which created 20,541 new jobs with a capital investment of \$700.3 million, Hunt told the board.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **MORE EMPLOYEES AT FORT CHAFFEE**

Col. Henry Larson has announced that an additional 142 employees will be hired at Fort Chaffee as a result of the Joint Readiness Training Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **GRADY SECREST RECEIVES BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS AWARD**

Grady Secrest, recipient of the 46th Noon Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award, was president of that club when the first Book of Golden Deeds was presented in 1942.

Secrest, owner of Secrest Printing Company since 1932 and former business manager for Fort Smith and Van Buren semi-professional baseball teams following World War II, was recognized as being a role model for civic involvement and leadership for a whole generation of young people.

He has served as president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, has supported disadvantaged children, has been active in the Boy Scouts and in local baseball and softball programs. He is a member of the Arkansas Jaycees Hall of Fame and served as president of the Fort Smith Chapter in 1938 and 1939.

Other community service credits include the Fort Smith Boys Club, Fort Smith Printers Association, Fort Smith Softball Association, Chamber of Commerce, Westark Area Boy Scouts, Western Arkansas Scottish Rite, United Commercial Travelers, Belle Point Lodge No. 20 and Amrita Grotto.

Secrest has held many offices at Fort Smith First United Methodist where he served on the board for 21 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **JAYCEE AWARDS**

Recipients of the 1987 Jaycee awards are:

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:** Fort Smith KISR's Dennis Snow, 32, for the two weeks he spent living on top of the Central Mall marquee attracting attention to James Killian's plea for a heart transplant. Through his efforts more than \$44,000 was raised.

**OUTSTANDING YOUNG FIREFIGHTER:** Ronnie Rogers, 33, who had 12 years of experience with a volunteer fire department before he signed with the Fort Smith Fire Department in September, 1983. He received his fire service training from Oklahoma State University.

**OUTSTANDING YOUNG EDUCATOR:** Becky Jernigan Kremers, 32, president of the Fort Smith Classroom Teachers Association. Fort Smith school superintendent Benny Gooden who presented the award said of Kremers, "She works tirelessly to improve education and the teaching profession." Kremers received the Golden Apple Award from the Association in 1985-1986 for "going beyond the call of duty" in the teaching profession as well as in work for the Arkansas Education Association. She is also a three-time winner in a competition of the economic education awards program sponsored by the International Paper Co. Foundation and coordinated by the Joint Council on Economic Education.

**YOUNG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** Cpl. George Lawson, 32, of Muldrow. Lawson has been with the Fort Smith Police Department since May, 1977 and is now a patrol training officer. "Leadership such as George's is needed with these young officers," said acting police chief Paul Linton, who presented the award. Lawson has also worked in the department's motorcycle traffic division and as a narcotics and vice detective.

**BOSS OF THE YEAR:** David McMahon, Sr., owner of Belle Point Beverages and Belle Point Ranch. He was nominated not only for the way he runs his business, but for his record of community service. McMahon has set an example for his employees and often involves them in community activities. Aside from being active in the Jaycees, McMahon expends his energy for organizations like the United Way, 4-H, Fulfill A Dream and the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair.



# Book Notes

All review copies of books are placed in the Arkansas Room of the Fort Smith Public Library and designated a gift from the author or contributor and the Fort Smith Historical Society.

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## **PORTRAITS OF CONFLICT: A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF ARKANSAS IN THE CIVIL WAR**

By Bobby Roberts and Carl Moneyhon. Published by University of Arkansas Press. 242 pages, illustrated and indexed. Price: hardbound edition, \$34.95; paperback edition, \$19.95. Available in bookstores, or can be purchased directly from the University of Arkansas Press, 201 Ozark, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.

The American Civil War presented the first major opportunity to photograph fighting men and the places where they fought, thus creating an extensive visual record of war. Most research into these photographic records has focused on the eastern fronts, but in *Portraits of Conflict*, what Mathew Brady called "the eye of history" moves west to

Arkansas to leave us one state's family album of the war years.

With over two hundred photographs (many never before published) and related documents, the authors make indelibly real the physical and spiritual suffering of the ordinary soldier and his love for his country and its land.

By carefully matching available written sources to photographs, the authors have created a unique opportunity for the reader to see the war on a human scale that may always elude traditional narratives.

Bobby Roberts is the director of the archives at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and has served as an assistant curator for Special Collections at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He has been a member of Governor Bill Clinton's staff for several years and is presently a board member of the Arkansas Department of Correction.

Carl Moneyhon is a professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His previous works include *A Documentary History of Arkansas* and *Republicanism in Reconstruction Texas*.

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# Letters from Readers

We want to extend to you our congratulations on the completion of the excellent Index to *The Journal*; an index makes a journal so much easier to use.

Keep up the good work.

Tom W. Dillard, Director  
Torreyson Library  
University of Central Arkansas  
Conway, Arkansas 72032

— • —

Mrs. Stanphill died July 22, 1987, a victim of cancer. Please accept this check in her memory.

H.N. Stanphill  
5710 South Country Club  
Little Rock, AR 72207

— • —

It was my pleasure recently to read two past issues of your *Journal*; as an old ex-Fort Smithian, I want to join your group and relive at times some of my growing-up days in Fort Smith. (I haven't lived there for over half a century, but have kept in touch and have been back many times.)

In addition to the \$10 dues, I am sending \$11.50 extra for two copies of *The Journal*—Sept. 1979 and Sept. 1985. (I was in the first class at Rogers way back yonder.)

I might suggest a story for some future issue—the Fort Smith & Western Railroad and the Midland Valley Railroad; Fort Smith's "own," you might say.

My father, the late L.D. Reavis, went to Fort Smith in 1906 (I think) and worked as a railway postal clerk on the two railroads until 1939. Thought you might like the idea.

Glynn Reavis  
234 East Normal Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93704

— • —

Something happened in the Summer of 1922 which was important historically—the opening of the first bridge across the Arkansas River at the foot of Garrison Ave.

I did not attend the Celebration. Dr. Means and I had an eighty year old woman with Pneumonia. I was her night nurse and on call during the day if necessary. She recovered and I think it was because she felt that she had to live.

I read about the celebration in the *Southwest American*. A girl had been selected as Miss Fort Smith or a similar title. I wonder why no one has written about this important historical event for *The Journal*?

I am sending a check for my dues. . .

Alice Duffield  
639 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

# Inquiries

**Inquiries will be published free of charge in *The Journal* as space allows, with preference given to inquiries from members of the Fort Smith Historical Society. They should include the following:**

- 1. Your full name and address.**
- 2. 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.**
- 5. State relationship (names of parents, names of children, names of brothers and sisters, or in-laws).**

**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 capital letters; capitalize only the first letter of given names and places; write dates as follows (Day, Month, Year. Example, 25 January 1978). Proofread your inquiry carefully for accuracy of dates, names, places and spelling before mailing.**

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## ORPHAN TRAIN

THE ORPHAN TRAIN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AMERICA (OTHSA) has been established as a clearing house and resource center for information concerning the "placing out program" or "orphan train program", which was begun in 1854 by Charles Loring Brace and the New York Children's Aid Society, and ended in 1929 with child welfare reform laws.

During this "Orphan Train" movement, over 150,000 orphaned, abandoned and neglected babies and small children were relocated out of institutions to homes in rural America by railway cars. This included northwest Arkansas.

Groups ranging in size from 15 to 125 were taken from the railroad cars to stages and platforms for public viewing in hopes of being chosen by a new family that would give them a good home. Many times a child was put on several platforms before someone finally chose him/her.

The OTHSA and its members are seeking information on the Orphan Train riders or their descendants, the railroads carrying them, train company personnel, orphanages and families receiving the children, institutions and charities participating and the overseers of this unique experience in America's history.

Your information is being sought for the archives.

Direct all correspondence and Society membership requests to OTHSA, Route 4, Box 565, Springdale, Arkansas 72764. A free copy of the OTHSA newsletter will be sent if a SASE is enclosed.

Mary Ellen Johnson, Director  
Orphan Train Heritage Society of America

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## LEARD-STANDIFER

Seeking death notice of Jane E. (Rainey) Leard, born 24 Dec 1796 Georgia, died 26 Sept 1882 Ft. Smith, Ark., buried Leard Cemetery in Ft. Smith. Married c. 1816 So. Carolina or Georgia to Alexander L. Leard, born 1792 Abbeville, So. Carolina, died 1851 Neshoba Co., Miss. She was mother of John Rainey Leard, born 19 Apr 1822 Wilkes Co., Ga., died 10 March 1902, Ft. Smith, Ark., buried Leard Cemetery. She was mother of Eliza (Leard) Standifer, whose husband was Jesse Standifer. Need proof Jane Leard was wife of Alexander Leard and mother of John Rainey Leard. Wallace Leard, 8753 Del Vista Drive, St. Louis, Mo. 63126.

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## MILLER

Looking for family of our grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Miller, called Frank, believed to have been born near Dayton, AR ca 1890. Parents may have been Joseph and Nancy Miller. Had brothers named Sherman and Doug Miller, possibly others. Margaret A. Seitz, P.O. Box 839, Elephant Butte, NM 87935.

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## WILES/WILDS/WYLES

Need information on John Wiles and wife Lavinna who were in Sebastian County ca 1860. Children: twins, Wm. M.B. and Elizabeth, b. 1847; Sarah, b. 1851; Marion (son), b. 1853; Mary Ann, b. 1855; and Amanda, b. 1857. John Wiles was a private, Co. R, 13th Arkansas Infantry. Bess Carter, Rt. 1, box 76, Pollack, LA 71467.

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## CIVIL WAR ORPHANAGE

Seeking information regarding Civil War orphanage in Fort Smith (1865) run by a Rev. Springer. Would like to contact descendants of residents of this home. David Strickland, 1022 Terrace Trail, Carrollton, TX 75006.

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## WILBURN

Looking for information on Gunnery Shelton Wilburn, born 1851, died 1918. Said to have been a U.S. Marshal ca 1880-1890 under Judge Parker. Barbara Holmes, Rt. 4, Box 151 B., Chandler, OK 74834.



# 1887-1888 Newspapers

## FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

October, 1887 - June, 1888

Abstracted by Thelma Wray and Mary Lou Jacobsen

The *Fort Smith Elevator* was published weekly, and is on microfilm at the Fort Smith Public Library.

Arkansas' economy expanded during the late 1800's. Railroad construction brought workers into the state and farming and industry prospered. Bauxite was discovered near Little Rock in 1887 and mines opened.

It was a time of family picnics, of young men courting their ladies in buggies and annual fairs.

The year of 1888 was leap year and also election year.

Grover Cleveland, Democratic, was president of the United States (1885-1889) and Simon P. Hughes, Democratic, was Governor of Arkansas (1885-1889).

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October 21, 1887

Right of way has been granted for building a streetcar line in Helena.

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At its present pace Little Rock will be a city of 100,000 inhabitants within the next five years. (L.R. Gazette)

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Utah is clamoring for admission to the Union. She has a population of 200,000, and promises to give up polygamy, but her professions of reform are too fresh. Congress will do well to hesitate several years before admitting her to full sisterhood among the states.

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The eighth annual fair of Western Arkansas and the Indian Territory opened last Tuesday and is now in progress... The spacious horticulture hall is full, the exhibits coming from Washington, Johnson, Madison, Sebastian, Franklin, Pope and Crawford Counties. There are over 130 varieties of apples alone and the fruit is as fine as could be asked for in any country... Fort Smith Canning Company and Fort Smith Evaporating have splendid displays of their industries...

The stock exhibit excels by far any kind ever seen in this state... upwards of 75 race horses, and more than that number of fine stock horses, mules and jacks as well as sheep, cattle and swine...

Machinery hall is full of reapers and mowers, plows and other manufacturing implements, besides buggies, wagons, carriages, etc. Sengel & Schulte and C.J.F. Hoffman have wagons and buggies; the South Bend, Ind., plow company and the McCormick manufacturing company are exhibiting their machinery.

In the main building the exhibits are varied and interesting and all available space is taken up... Art department presided over by Mrs. G.W. Schultes assisted by Miss Maudie Johnson and Miss Annie DuVal.

The textile department is in the same wing presided over by Mrs. J.M. Sparks, assisted by Mrs. T.H. Barnes, Mrs. D.B. Sparks and Mrs. Jennie Dillard... among other exhibits are several bolts of handsome goods and some blankets from the woolen mills at Springfield, Washington County.

The miscellaneous of "Commissary" department is in charge of Mrs. C.M. Cooke, assisted by Mrs. M.A. Bomford, Mrs. Stephen Wheeler and Miss Lena ----berg.

The mineral exhibit is one of the most important displays on the ground, consists of the largest and finest collection of specimens ever before shown here... our iron ore, coal, building stone, sand stone, etc. is greatly admired by visitors, and great surprise is expressed when informed that it all exists in inexhaustible quantities.

Grubbs Brothers have a handsome display of drugs and toilet articles... just opposite is the Chamberlain Medicine Co.'s exhibit. This company is just introducing its remedies here through Mr. John Schaap, druggist... display of field crops and vegetables... Mr. L. Cullen, who runs Mr. M. McEachin's vegetable farm near town, has the finest collection of vegetables we ever saw...

The childrens department, adjoining the department on school work, is handsomely arranged... and their fancy needlework and other items would do credit to grown people.

(Other displays by Holmes Dry Goods Co., The Old Domson tobacco work of Richmond, Va. represented by Fellner Bros. & Gans, Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, Domestic and Singer sewing machines, R.C. Bollinger with a grand display of piano, organs and other musical instruments.)

H.E. Grasse, the saddler, has some handsome harness on exhibition which he proposes to raffle off on Saturday night.

Chinese Art is profusely displayed in the Chinese Department.

### Price of Admission

Adults, single admission, good for all day, 50 cents

Children under 12 years, 25 cents

Children under 6 years, free

### Family Tickets

For family consisting of father, mother and their children under 12 years, single admission, good for all day, \$1.00.

Any other adult person may be substituted for either of the parents.

Carriage, buggy, wagon or horse, single admission, 25 cents.

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Mr. Ed Haglin returned on Monday from a trip to San Antonio, Texas.

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Gid Morgan is here representing Tahlequah at the Fair. Gid is little, but loud and lively.

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Dr. E.B. Frayser, an old-time citizen of Fort Smith, but now of Vanita, has been in the city this week.

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Dr. W.H. Blanton of Prairie Grove is attending the fair and has on exhibition some fine cattle.

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Fred Dillon, formerly of this city but now of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, is here this week visiting friends and attending the fair.

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Mrs. Conden and sister, Miss Emma Beckel, formerly of this place, but for some years residents of Kansas, are visiting friends here.

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Mr. Thomas S. Coleman has shown us a sample of glass sand, which he says is first-class and will make good glass. We placed some on exhibit at the fair.

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Mrs. M.D. Wisdom and children arrived on Saturday last from Muskogee and will reside here in the future. The Colonel remains in the office of the Indian Agent at Muskogee.

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### Fort Smith Manufactures

Books	Boilers	Carriages
Cigars	Brooms	Machinery
Candy	Wagons	Mattresses
Brick	Charcoal	Iron fronts

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### UNITED STATES COURT PROCEEDINGS

At the close of our last report ex-Deputy Bass Reeves was on trial for murder. His case went to the jury Saturday, and they remained out until Sunday evening, when they returned a verdict of not-guilty.

... As we go to press Emanuel Patterson is on trial for the murder of Deputy U.S. Marshal Willard Ayers in August, 1880.

Dick Martin, charged with larceny, was brought in by Deputy Marshal J.H. Cooper.

Prisoners were brought in by Deputy Marshals B. Conley and Tyner Hughes.

Hunter Poorbear, a full blood Cherokee Indian, who was convicted a few weeks ago on a charge of receiving illegal pension fees, was on Friday last released on bond and allowed to go home, Col. F.C. Boudinot furnishing the bond. The bond requires Poorbear to appear here on the 10th of December to receive sentence provided he is not pardoned before that time, which he likely will be as Judge Parker and District Attorney Sandels both recommend it. Poorbear cannot speak English, and the facts in his case plainly show that he was totally ignorant of the law governing the collection of pensions. He is also a man of excellent character. He has been sick much of the time since his incarceration, hence the leniency of Judge Parker in allowing him the bond.

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### ANOTHER CARLOAD OF CONVICTS SHIPPED TO LITTLE ROCK

The following convicts, convicted during the past month, were transported to the Little Rock penitentiary on Tuesday last in charge of deputy marshal Jim Pettigrew:

Frank Crutchfield... Delo Ramby... Simon Secondyne... John Carter... Fay Ashley... Jay Wade... Scott Andrain... William King, Ambrose Burlington and Jake Price... Henderson Riley... Elisha Barrett... Sam Omson and William Burke... Luther Chew, Douglas Perryman, Babe Hawkins, Douglas Morrell, Dick Jefferson, Hardy Colbert, Perry Hysell, George Gatewood, Albert Walker, Tony Geiffing and Jack Cooper.

This makes fifty-one sent to Little Rock during the present term of court.

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### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Governor Thompson McKinney of the Choctaw Nation, accompanied by other national officers and some 25 members of the Council of that nation, arrived here yesterday morning on a special train to attend the fair in a body. They were met at the depot by the Mayor and a delegation of citizens who escorted them to the Main Hotel, and later in the day they were taken to the fair grounds in a body. The cadre delegation numbered forty-eight. The *Elevator* extends them a hearty welcome.

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October 28, 1887

### TAX COLLECTIONS

The law in regard to the collection of taxes has been changed. The taxes of 1887 will be due between January first and April tenth, 1888. The total amount of taxes levied in the city limits will be \$1.00 per \$100, and in the county it will be \$1.00 per \$100 without the school tax. With the additional school tax it will be just what each man's school district voted, that is, if your school district voted a five mill tax your taxes will be \$1.50 per \$100, and if



you voted a 2½ mill tax, they will be \$1.25 per \$100. If your district voted no school tax it will be \$1.00 per \$100.

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**\$20 REWARD**

Strayed from me last May or June one yoke of oxen. One red with horns a little drooped, 7 or 8 years old; the other is a roan, blind in one eye and 5 or 6 years old. The horns of both are stagish and both branded JM. Will pay \$20 to anybody who will deliver the oxen to me at Webbers Falls, I.T., or I will pay a liberal reward for information leading to their whereabouts. When last heard from they were going in the direction of Fort Smith.

H.J. Vann  
Webbers Falls, I.T.

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**November 18, 1887  
Fort Smith, Ark.**

It was in 1817 that Maj. H. Long, of the United States Army, selected the neck of land at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau rivers as the site for a fortress, naming the same in honor of his superior officer, Gen. Thos. A. Smith. The land on which the fort was built was at that time part of the territory of Missouri, but subsequently included in the territory of the Choctaw Nation. In 1838 the government bought of John Rogers, the first white settler in this region, for a new reservation, 300 acres of land east of the river and built thereon a new fort. In the same year Rogers laid out the original plat of the city of Fort Smith on ground immediately north of the reservation. A village grew up there, which in 1842 was incorporated as a city.

Fort Smith was always a favorite station with military officers and many of those who commanded here subsequently rose to distinction. Gen. Zach. S. Taylor had his headquarters here in 1845, before the Mexican War. The government abandoned the post in 1871. The place being so isolated from the civilized world by rugged mountains and impenetrable forests, the little town of Fort Smith might have sunk to insignificance but for the United States Court for Western Arkansas located here. This Court has jurisdiction in all cases arising in the Indian Territory between citizens of the United States and in cases between citizens and Indians. The court is in session almost all year round and nearly \$200,000 are annually disbursed by it in salaries, fees, etc.

The Arkansas River was up to 1876 the only practicable means of communication with the outer world. In that year the Little Rock and Fort Smith railway was completed to Van Buren, a village five miles distant on the opposite bank of the Arkansas River. From that period Fort Smith took a new lease on life. In 1884 the Frisco railway built its line to this place and completed the extension to Paris, Tex. last year. The building of each line imported a vital impetus to the city's growth...

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**December 2, 1887**

**A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY**

**TWO MEN AND ONE WOMAN ARE  
KILLED AND TWO MEN WOUNDED**

— — — — —  
**THE RESULT OF TWO DEPUTY  
MARSHALS ENDEAVORING TO  
ARREST A DESPERATE HORSE THIEF**

— — — — —  
**A FAITHFUL OFFICER MURDERED  
WHILE IN THE DISCHARGE OF HIS DUTY.**

We are called upon this week to chronicle another deadly encounter in the Indian country between United States officers and lawless characters, in which Deputy Marshal Frank Dalton, a fearless and trusty officer, was brutally murdered while two other lives were lost and two men wounded, one of the killed being a woman. The facts in the case as near as we have been able to gather them are about as follows:

Deputy Marshal Frank Dalton came in last Friday with six prisoners, the fruits of a protracted trip to the territory, and turned them over to the U.S. Jailer.

His outfit struck camp on the opposite side of the river in the Cherokee Nation to remain until the officer got ready to start out on another trip. Dalton had a writ for one Dave Smith charging him with horsestealing, and Deputy Cole had a writ for the same party for introducing whisky in the Indian country. Learning that Smith was at a camp about four miles from here in the river bottom, the two officers left Dalton's camp early Sunday morning for the purpose of arresting him. They rode leisurely over to where they expected to find him, and arriving near the camp dismounted and approached the tent on foot. Dalton walked around on one side of the tent and Cole on the other. As Dalton came round toward the door of the tent Smith came out and met him, armed with a pistol. Cole heard Dalton say, "Don't shoot, we want no trouble here" or words to that effect, but the utterance had scarcely left his lips when Smith fired on him inflicting a mortal wound, the brave young officer falling almost at the crack of the pistol. About the same time Smith fired, Cole came around and seeing his companion fall, shot Smith in the back, and he too fell mortally wounded. Two other men, Lee Dixon and Will Towerly, rushed out and Cole backed off, when he stumbled over a tent rope and fell, Dixon shooting at him as he fell and wounding him in the left side. He regained his feet, however, and as he retreated past Dalton asked him if he was badly hurt, but received no answer. He was fired on from the tent as he retreated and returned the fire by taking refuge behind a tree into which his assailants put several bullets, and from this shelter engaged in a single handed fight with the occupants of the tent until they ceased firing on him, when he got away on foot and reached here about 11 o'clock to report the matter at the marshal's office,

when a posse of men immediately set out for the scene, where they found Smith and Mrs. Leander Dixon dead, and the husband of Mrs. Dixon badly wounded. Will Towerly had escaped, and several determined men at once set out in pursuit of him, while the wounded man, Dixon, was brought here and placed in the prison hospital. His wound is an ugly one, the ball having entered near the collarbone of the left shoulder and ranged down into the back. He says he received the shot while stooping over his wife, who had just received her death wound. Dixon denies that he did any shooting, but Cole says he is the man that shot him as he tripped over the tent rope.

Dalton was still alive when Cole retreated from the camp, and then the most brutal act of the dreadful tragedy was performed. Young Towerly came out of the tent and approaching the prostrate and helpless officer, shot him in the head with a Winchester, while Dalton was begging him not to do so as he was already killed.

Dalton was a fearless and efficient officer, and an honest, upright young man, highly esteemed by all who knew him for his many good qualities of head and heart. He was but twenty-eight years of age and unmarried, his home being with his mother at Chelsea, Cherokee Nation. His remains were brought to this city, and after being embalmed at the undertaking establishment of Birnie Bros., were placed in a coffin and sent home by rail Sunday night in charge of his brother and Mr. Bud Heady, posse of the murdered officer.

Smith, the dead outlaw, was about the last remaining remnant of the Felix Griffin gang of thieves who made their headquarters in the vicinity of Webbers Falls. Lee Dixon, the wounded man, is a brother-in-law of Smith, the latter's wife being Dixon's sister. Dixon and some of the other men about the camp were at work cutting wood and clearing land. Towerly is a young man about nineteen or twenty years of age, and was boarding at Dixon's camp.

Deputy Cole has had several close calls since he has been on this force, being compelled about a year ago to kill a drunken bully on the ferry boat just across the river from here, the fellow firing on him for no cause whatever. Only a few days ago he and his posse came in contact with "Big Chewee," a Cherokee desperado, and his posse was badly wounded. However, he has escaped injury up to Sunday last and the wound he is now carrying is not dangerous, a fact we are pleased to note.

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**December 16, 1887**

#### **NATURAL GAS STRUCK AT GREENWOOD**

Last Saturday some excitement was occasioned in the city by the report that parties engaged in sinking a drill for coal near Greenwood, in Sebastian County, had struck natural gas. Investigation of the matter this week proves the fact beyond doubt.

The vein was struck at a depth of 108 feet. When first discovered it was lit and burned for about five minutes. Since that flame the flow has been sphyzmodic...

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**January 13, 1888**

Thomas J. Murray, aged 28 years, died Tuesday morning last at the residence of his sister, Mrs. John Woods in this city, of pneumonia. His remains were interred in the Catholic Cemetery on Thursday evening. Deceased was a son of Mr. James Murray, of this city and has resided here for several years, having formerly lived at Arkansas City, this State, of which place he was at one time chief of police. He was unmarried. Peace to his ashes.

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**January 20, 1888**

#### **GET READY**

You should get ready for your plow season and buy plow and plow goods while the prices are down. Our stock of plows of all kinds, traces, hames, cultivators, collars, riding plows, and Champion reapers and mowers are all in and we are prepared to show you better goods for less money than you have ever bought for before. All we ask is to give us a call and we will prove this to you.

Sengle & Schulte  
Fort Smith, Ark.

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**January 27, 1888**

#### **DIED**

James W. Rutherford, one of Sebastian County's best and most exemplary citizens, died at his home in Sulphur township, nine miles from the city, last Monday at 9 A.M. from an ulcer in the throat from which he has long suffered. He was 47 years of age and leaves a wife and 5 children to mourn his untimely end. His remains were interred at Steep Hill cemetery on Wednesday. Jim Rutherford was most widely known and highly esteemed whose loss will be keenly felt by the community where he has lived for many years. His first wife was sister of Mr. J.J. McAlester of McAlester, C.N., who arrived here on Tuesday evening to attend the funeral — she died several years ago leaving the children. About 2 years ago Mr. Rutherford married Mrs. Lizzie Ward — sister of Mr. Wm. McCarther, who survives him. We extend to the family and relatives of the deceased our utmost sympathy.

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#### **KILLED BY MARSHALS**

On Friday night last Deputy United States Marshal Tyson and posse of three men raided a house occupied by one Rhodes, one mile and a half from Beainer Choctaw Nation for the purpose of arresting Jim Bridage, Rhodes and another man whose name we have been unable to learn on writs charging them, with robbery. The parties, it is understood,



resisted arrest and fired on the Marshals, who returned the fire killing Bridage. Rhodes and the unknown man escaped. Rhodes is the same party who a few years ago was arrested on a charge of murdering a man down on the river at this place but came clear. He will be remembered by many of our citizens as the little heavy set fisherman who lived down on the river and usually peddled fish around town barefooted, with his trousers rolled up. After his acquittal on the murder charge he left here, and this is the first we have heard of him since.

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#### THE ANHEUSER-BUSCH BUILDING

The plans and specifications for the Anheuser-Busch building adjoining J.M. Sparks three story block, are now here and work on the magnificent structure will soon begin. The main building will be three stories fronting 37½ feet on Garrison Avenue. Back of it fronting on a 12½ foot private alley will be a one story brick office, next to this comes the soda water and bottling rooms two stories with rooms on the second floor for the employees of the agency, and on the extreme end of their 300 foot lot, fronting on Rogers Avenue, will be erected the stables necessary to accommodate the stocks used by the company, there being ample yard rooms reserved. The buildings will all be handsome structures highly finished inside and out. The total cost of the grounds and building is estimated at \$90,000.

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#### ANOTHER FACTORY

Mr. Fred Triesch has started a cigar factory upstairs in the building occupied by Atkinson & Triesch's tin shop, and is now ready to receive orders. Fred is an industrious young man and we wish him success.

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**February 3, 1888**

#### ATTEMPTED MURDER AND ROBBERY

Last Friday night Isham Hobbs, a colored man who works for Mr. J.H. Gill, was induced by Lewis Reeves, another negro, to accompany him down below Ballman & Co.'s furniture factory on pretense of cutting pine stakes for some purpose. Reeves had seen Hobbs have a \$10 bill, and his object, as the sequel shows, was to rob him of it and murder him if necessary to accomplish his purpose. When near Ballman's factory Reeves struck his victim on the head with the back of the ax he carried and shot him in the face. The bullet routed over the right ear and lodged in the back of the head. The miscreant then took the coveted \$10 and took out for parts unknown. Then Hobbs was carried to his boarding house and received medical attention. At this writing he is getting along very well and will likely recover. He had \$15 in an envelope, which Mr. Gill had paid him that evening, but as Reeves did not know it his victim is that much ahead.

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**February 10, 1888**

#### ANOTHER FORT SMITH ENTERPRISE

Last week the Fort Smith & Choctaw Bridge Co. of this city filed articles of incorporation in the office of Secretary of State of Little Rock. The incorporation of this company are Mrs. Mary Bower, Messrs. B.J. Kayser, W.B. Castwell, Ben T. DuVal, Solin Mathews and W.R. Cravens. Col. B.T. DuVal is president of the company and John Mathews secretary and treasurer. The intention of the company is to build an iron wagon bridge across Poteau River about a mile above the city. Application has been made to congress for a charter for the bridge, and there is but little doubt it will be granted. The bridge will cost from \$25,000 to \$30,000, and if no obstacles are thrown in the way of the project or the enterprise they will commence work on it at once and speed to an early completion.

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People who have older disused clothing that they are in no need of can apply the same to good advantage by donating it to Mr. McEachin, poor commissioner, for the use of unfortunates whom the winter weather has found ill supplied with raiment. Leave it at Mr. McEachin's office in the Eberle block.

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#### REMOVAL NOTICE

Sam Baer has changed his quarters and the Yellow Front Saloon can now be found opposite the American National Bank, where Mr. Baer has fitted up to receive his friends in the most elegant manner. His stock of whiskies, wines, brandies and cigars cannot be surpassed in any market and he is prepared to serve customers by the jug, quart, pint or drink. Remember the place No. 926 Garrison Avenue, opposite American National Bank.

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**February 17, 1888**

#### FAILURE

Last Monday the clothing firm of Blakemore and Co., of this city, made an assignment to Mr. Lawson Thresh, in behalf of its creditors. The liabilities are said to be about \$8000 with assets sufficient to cover all the firm owes. The short crop last season, coupled with slow business this winter and short collections, is given as the reason for the failure. We trust the firm may make some arrangement with its creditors by which they may reopen its doors.

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**February 24, 1888**

#### STREET PAVEMENT

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING OF  
CITIZENS AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
TUESDAY NIGHT CONSIDER THE SUBJECT

Tuesday evening the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce were packed by representative citizens of Fort Smith who met in response to a call for the

purpose of taking into consideration the matter of paving Garrison Avenue. Col. Wm. Cravens presided over the meeting and Martin Theurer officiated as secretary. The subject received a most thorough discussion. Col. D.M. Ross, a gentleman who has had much experience in matters of this kind, stated that Garrison Avenue can be paved with native stone its entire length for \$25,000. The same work in Joplin would cost \$40,000. The depth of the material would be fourteen inches deep. The general feeling prevailed in favor of our native rock. The scheme of paving with brick also received much attention, and to arrive at some definite conclusion in regard to the qualities of paving material a committee was appointed to investigate the different kinds proposed and report as to their efficacy. The committee consists of Wm. Breen, W.N. Ayers, W.J. Johnson, H.E. Kelly, Frank Parks, C.E. Bocquis and G.T. Sparks.

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Judge R.B. Rutherford will be a candidate for circuit clerk at the next primary election. He has many friends throughout the county and will make a good officer if elected.

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**March 2, 1888**

#### RULES FOR LEAP YEAR PARTIES

1. Ladies will call for the gentlemen promptly at eight o'clock. Those who keep their escorts waiting and are consequently late to the party will be treated for the remainder of the evening as wall flowers.
2. The gents will be expected to behave in the most lady-like manner.
3. Gentlemen are to bring to the ball a fan, a corsage bouquet and smelling salts.
4. The gentleman's whose bouquet is not crushed in the first dance will be witness to the fact he has been held with propriety.
5. No gentleman shall cross the floor without a lady attendant.
6. If a gentleman goes for a glass of water without a lady attendant the floor manager will at once declare him out of order and compel him to be seated.
7. Gents are expected to be languid and drop their handkerchiefs as often as possible, make frequent calls for water, and at supper give the ladies no time for eating.
8. The ladies who have been snubbed at dances heretofore will claim the greatest number of dances and those who have been active society belles will let the gentlemen severely alone.

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Overcoats which have been selling for \$3.50 are now \$1.75, Boys suits for \$1.25, worth \$2.50, Men's suits for \$2.75, worth \$5.00, Men's pants for 75 cts., worth double. Reduction in all our departments before taking inventory on or before January 1, 1888.

Boston Clothing Store  
Silberberg & Baer Bros. Props.

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**March 9, 1888**

#### THE SEWER BUSINESS

Much comment has been occasioned during the past week on account of the discovery of the fact that all the arrangements entered into by the city for the construction of the sewer system were of no avail. The reason of this condition of affairs is that the petitions for the construction of sewer did not represent a majority of the property of the city, or if it did, that a number of the signatures representing property were signed in partnership form and also that other signatures were those of persons who represented estates, such as guardians, administrators, etc. Attention was called in these matters some time ago and to quiet all doubts were laid before Clendening and Reed of this city, who give an opinion in accordance with the above facts.

It is a matter of great regret that this hitch should occur just at the commencement of the contemplated work. Its only result, however, will be to delay operation until all the preliminaries of the business are gone through again.

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#### REWARD FOR PISTOL

One 45 calibre Colt pistol, pearl handle, gold plated and finely engraved. A reward of \$5 will be paid for the delivery of the pistol at the *Elevator* office or to T.O. Overstreet, Short Mountain, I.T.

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Eva Snider, a girl of easy verture, on Wednesday evening last swore out a warrant for the arrest of Belle Mitchell, a girl of like character, charging her with assault with intent to kill, claiming that Belle tried to carve her up with a knife while under the influence of liquor.

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#### LOST HIS GRIP

Paul Johnson, a foreigner, who had for some time past been living at Tahlequah, arrived here late Saturday evening, and put up at Mrs. Mary Miller's, leaving his valise behind the bar. Monday morning when he called for it, it could not be found. He claims that it contained \$280 in greenbacks, an open faced silver watch, double action bull-dog pistol, and a nice broadcloth coat and vest. Mrs. Miller was under the impression that he carried the grip to his room on Saturday night, but he claims he did not. In either case someone who was aware Mr. Johnson had the money must have stolen it, and the police are endeavoring to get a clue to the thief. If Mr. Johnson had told the landlady the value of the grip and its contents, as he should have done, the money would have been deposited in the safe, where it belonged. We hope the money and property will be recovered.

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**March 23, 1888**

Mr. Thomas Markham is all smiles this week owing to the arrival of a plump little visitor in the shape of a girl, who is likely to claim her share of his bank account and the right of protection for sometime to come.

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**March 30, 1888**

#### THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

Pursuant to the call of the executive committee of the democratic party of Fort Smith, the democrats met at the different precincts Tuesday night for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Aldermanic offices to be voted for next Tuesday.

The Fourth Ward democrats turned out in full force. They remained in session but a short time and adjourned after nominating Col. B.T. DuVal.

The attendance in the Third ward, though light, consisted of representative citizens. Mr. P.J.M. MacGrevy received the nomination.

Owing to the light attendance in the Second ward, the meeting was adjourned until last evening.

The proceedings in the First ward were a perfect farce. There was but slight attendance, and nobody seeming anxious to assume the honors of a nomination the few present resolved themselves into a "citizens" meeting and selected J.K. Barnes, an utter republican, as nominee. This being a total subversion of the purposes for which the meeting was called, its proceedings will be ignored.

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#### U.S. COURT NOTES

##### Miscellaneous Notes

Jeff Helderbrand, one of the men sentenced to be hung on the 27th of next month, is confined to his bed with consumption, and is not able to leave his cell. He has been in jail for two years, three months and sixteen days to date.

The case of Sarah Blakely and her son Robert E. Blakely against the Frisco Railroad is now at trial. The plaintiffs sued for \$5000 damages for the loss of husband and father, who was killed by the cars at LaFlore, C.N. a few months since.

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**April 6, 1888**

#### IN HIS NEW BUILDING

J.M. Sparks has removed his drug store to his new three story building opposite the Elevator office, where he will be prepared to carry a much larger stock of drugs, chemicals, patent medicines, fancy goods, toilet articles, etc. than ever before, thus increasing both his wholesale and retail facilities. He proposes to fill his entire building from the first to the third story with fresh, pure goods. Country merchants should not fail to call on him for prices.

— • —

#### THE SEWER CONTRACT

The sewer commissioners last week awarded the contract for building the sewer to W.A. Doyle, of Kalamazoo, Mich. for \$155,240. Mr. Doyle has gone east to file his bond, which he will do without difficulty. Mr. Doyle was the second lowest bidder when the contract was let sometime ago.

— • —

The plans for the Missouri Pacific railroad bridge to be built across the Arkansas River at this place have been forwarded to the war department for approval. The bridge will contain 13 spans, eight of which will be 165 feet in length, one 136 feet and two 256 feet. The two draw spans will be 185 each. The cost of the structure will be about \$500,000 and it will be about 50 feet above high water mark.

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Miss Alice McNabb, daughter of Rev. Mr. McNabb, died at the residence of her father near Enterprise on the 29th.

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**April 13, 1888**

Col. Fishback is in the race for governor, purely and simply. We make this observation for the benefit of those disinterested — followers of Fletcher and Hughes who suggest that his ability entitles him to a higher honor.

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Mrs. Thos. Rogers, mother of Mr. Thos. Rogers of this city, died at her home at Randolph, Sebastian County, on the 11th inst., after a long illness.

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#### COURT NEWS

Henry Tyler was jailed Friday for bigamy by Deputy Tyson. He was released, however, on exaltation before the commissioner.

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#### HE MUST HANG

In the case of Owens, D. Hill, who murdered his wife, the President declines to interfere and Owens must hang on the 27th of this month.

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**April 20, 1888**

Within the past six years J.L. Martin has killed 300 turkeys, 75 deer, 27 wolves, 3 bears, 1 panther; found 16 bee trees and cleared 40 acres of land within fifteen miles of Huntsville.

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Natural gas was discovered on Saturday last at Fayetteville in a well being bored on the college grounds, at a depth of 275 feet. This discovery caused real estate to go up a notch or two.

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#### COURT NEWS

Owens, D. Hill, one of the men to be executed on the 27th, was hospitalized on Saturday last, and appears to be in excellent spirits for a man in his condition.

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**April 27, 1888**

**MAD STONE**

Mrs. F.M. Ward of this city recently showed us two mad stones which have been in her possession for some time with which she recently treated two cases. She used one mad stone for 15 years and during that time wore it out in applying it in the cases that were brought to her for treatment. She is a well-known mad stone physician and has effected many cures.

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**May 4, 1888**

**PICNIC by the A.O.U.W.**

Border City Lodge No. 21 will give a picnic at the Scheutzen Park Wednesday, May 9, 1888. There will be a dance at night. Everything will be done to make the picnic a success. Eloquent Orators will address the audience and no pains or expense will be spared to secure first class accommodations, and the public will be treated to the grandest ball of the season. The committees will be announced hereinafter: P.E. Hileman, Morrie Levi, James Neece, committee.

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**FORT SMITH TO PRESS CONVENTION**

At a special meeting of the City Council Monday afternoon the following resolution was laid before the Council and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The State Press Association of the State of Arkansas is soon to meet at Texarkana, and before its adjournment will fix the time and place of meeting of said association for the year 1889.

Therefore it is resolved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, that a cordial invitation be extended said association on the part of this city to hold its annual meeting for the year 1889 at Fort Smith.

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**May 11, 1888**

The bill for the construction of a bridge across the Arkansas River at Fort Smith is before the committee on Commerce and Congressman Rogers is endeavoring to push it through at an early day. The bill provides for the construction of a bridge to be used by railroads, wagons and foot passengers at a reasonable rate of toll. The grant to the company building the bridge will become void unless begun in one year and completed in three.

— • —

**VARIETY THEATRE**

Mr. F.T. Cochrane, formerly of Sioux City, Iowa, has located in Fort Smith, and has rented a large room in the rear of Frank Barling's Saloon which he is busy converting into a play house or room for variety theatre. The theatre will be arranged to seat about 100 people and will contain 14 boxes. Mr. Cochrane promises that his theatre shall be conducted in first-class style, and he will spare neither pains nor expense in securing for it the best talent in that line. The performances will be strictly legitimate, and nothing of an immoral character will be permitted in connection with them. Saturday

afternoon will be devoted to matinees for ladies and children and on these occasions the saloon in front will be closed. The establishment will doubtless receive good patronage.

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Last Sunday while Joe Shockley, a young man 20 years of age, was walking along the banks of the Poteau about 2 miles above the city he slipped on 1 loose stone overhanging the verge of the cliff and fell a distance of 60 feet, sustaining injuries from which he died in about an hour. Shockley is spoken of as having been an industrious young fellow of good habits and strict integrity.

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**May 18, 1888**

**MARRIAGES**

**Stevenson-Bard**

Mr. Isaac Stevenson and Miss Ida Bard, daughter of the late Sam Bard, were married on Sunday evening last at the residence of Col. W.M. Cravens, Rev. Mr. Spindler, of the Christian Church, officiating. We congratulate our friend Ike in being so fortunate as to secure for a life partner so amiable and accomplished young lady as Miss Ida, and trust that misfortunes may be few and far between along their pathway through life. The young couple have scores of friends who with the *Elevator* wish them a long, bright, and prosperous future.

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**May 25, 1888**

**NEW BEER AGENCY**

The Fred Helm Brewing Company of Kansas City, Mo. have established a permanent agency here, and appointed W.A. Cross as their agent. They have a large ice house and cooler on 9th street extension, filled up at considerable expense. The beer is pronounced first class by those who indulge in the use of it, and Mr. Cross says he is building up a good trade.

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**FRISCO LINE — CITY TICKET OFFICE**

520 GARRISON AVE., in Dr. Morton's drug store. For rates and all information relative to tickets and rates, address: Chas. Hall, J.R. Dunn, Ticket Agents.

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**June 1, 1888**

Clarksville was visited by a cyclone last Monday which blew down many fences and trees and unroofed the canning factory. At Patterson's Bluff four houses were felled and two children seriously injured.

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**June 8, 1888**

**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION**

As we go to press the National democratic convention is in session at St. Louis. President Cleveland was renominated to acclamation Tuesday. So far the nomination for vice president has not been made, but the indications are that the choice will fall on Thurman of Ohio.



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## NOTES:

li - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait.  
por - a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.  
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