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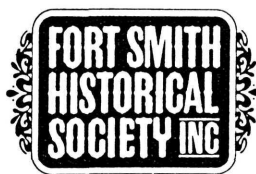
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Raisin' Hell on the Border

Drinking, Gambling, Prostitution and General Mayhem in Fort Smith at the End of the Nineteenth Century

by Janice Bufford Eddleman

From the time of its founding in 1817, Fort Smith and the surrounding area often suffered the sometimes deserved reputation of being a "wild and wooly" place. Van Buren residents often claimed that all the "decent" people lived there. In 1875, when Judge Isaac Parker arrived in Fort Smith, it was described as "a town of the second class."¹ There were no paved streets, no sidewalks, no street lights, no factories, no decent hotels or public schools, and no bridges across either the Poteau or the Arkansas Rivers. Miss Agnes Oglesby, who moved to Fort Smith in the 1880's, in an oral interview later in her life, said of her first impressions of the city, "I thought that Fort Smith was the most terrible place on earth and I never wanted to live here. I lived in Mississippi and I thought that this was the end of the world."² Basically, this reputation was the result of several factors.

First, from its beginnings as a fort, Fort Smith was a military town, and the recklessness of lonely soldiers away from the scrutiny of family, neighbors, and friends is legendary. Saloons, brothels, gambling houses, and other "dens of iniquity" often rapidly develop in areas around military installations for this reason, and Fort Smith was no exception.

Secondly, when the United States Congress created the Indian Territory on Fort Smith's back door step, they created a law enforcement officer's worst nightmare — a sort of, to borrow from the game of hide and seek, "Polly, Polly, in free" zone. The various Indian nations in Indian Territory were considered to be just that ... foreign nations. As such, no United States court had jurisdiction in the Nations. At the same time, no Indian court had jurisdiction over any white man or woman, which created an area of immunity for outlaws. You could rob a bank in Arkansas, cross the Arkansas River, and thumb your nose at the law.

The Civil War worsened the situation, generally disrupting the lives of everyone. James H. Sparks in an editorial entitled "The Extravagance of the Times" in the *Fort Smith Herald* of January 13, 1872, had this to say about the situation:

The war has engendered a spirit of restlessness and discontent among the people, a feverish desire to become suddenly wealthy, without labor of exertion, which will result disastrously to the morals of society and become a dangerous element to republican institutions. Men have deserted the legitimate pursuits of life, and abandoned themselves to wild speculation. The former leads too slowly to wealth and opulence; by the latter sudden fortunes are acquired or ruin produced. The country is deserted, the farming interests neglected, and the cities crowded with young men, seeking an easy place, where money can be made without much labor. They have a contempt for labor and the toils of a farmer's life, and would prefer to loaf around street corners, become ward politicians, and pick up some crumb which might fall from the public crib, "waiting" like Micawber, "for something to turn up," by which they may make their fortune, than to lead the independent, but laborious, life of a farmer, and by the sweat of their brow slowly but surely accumulate a competency or a fortune. They have been dazzled by the fickle and false lights of speculation; have seen the display made by those who have in a year or so escaped from poverty to great riches; have watched the smirks and smiles of those who pay court to them because of their wealth, for God knows, they have nothing else to commend them to the consideration of mankind; have noticed their gaudy equipages, their servants in livery, their magnificent residences, and costly dinings and suppers, their sparkling diamonds and jewelry, and the brilliantcy (sic) and richness of every thing which surrounds them; and knowing that but a short time since these same men were toiling for a mere support, and that their opulence was gained by speculation, or the spoils of office, are unwilling to wait for the tardy results of honest toil and labor. They never stop to consider the means by which this great wealth is acquired, the speculation and rascality practiced, and the effect produced upon the heart and life of the person, whom they envy for his great success. The human

mind seems to have become crazed, every energy is bent to the acquisition of wealth with which to make a gaudy and brilliant play. Shoddyism is ruling the country and controlling the views and prejudices of society.

The young men have forgotten ... (Section torn away) ... placed, certain laxity of morals and a morbid thirst for sudden wealth, the natural fruit of which is corruption, bankruptcy and crime? Is it a natural result of the war, or does it naturally follow our form of government, or are the people only imitating those who hold high and important positions? Grant receives gifts, formerly termed bribes, from those who are applicants for lucrative offices. Not long since he was not rich, now is worth hundreds of thousands, besides being the owner of the Seneca stone quarry, and probably a few thousand acres in Santa Domingo, should he succeed in his annexation scheme, not mentioning a few minor speculations in which he has a finger. There is a certain pious senator from Iowa, who has suddenly and mysteriously grown enormously wealthy. We need not go out of Arkansas for instances of Radical corruption and peculation (sic) in office.

A certain gent about six years since came to this state the owner of scarcely anything except an old sow and several pigs, afterwards held a high office in the state, and is to-day worth a few hundred thousand dollars. We can not call to mind a single radical state official, who did not enter his office in limited circumstances, and who has not feathered his nest abundantly. What good can we expect to come out of a country, where not only those who hold high and honorable positions in the state, but those who rule the nation prostitute their offices for private gain! How long, O Lord, shall this state of affairs last! Let the people remove those leeches, who are fattening upon the blood and life of the nation, and we will see a different state of affairs, profligacy, extravagance in the private walks of society, corruption in office, bankruptcy and crime, will be scarcely known among us, but will be confined alone to the shoddyists, who estimate a man's worth by his bank account, instead of his honesty and true manhood.³

Some of those young people whose lives had been changed by the Civil War turned to lives of violence and crime in search of the quick and easy wealth. This was especially true of a group who had been associated with the semi-military Confederate group known as Quantrill's

Raiders, such as the James brothers, the Youngers (some of whom served as deputies in Parker's court until the desire for wealth beckoned), and Belle Starr. The Nations were a perfect hide-out for these people who lived either outside of or on the fringes of the law.

To combat this situation, the United States created the Court of the Western District of Arkansas, which also had jurisdiction in Indian Territory. William Story was appointed as the first judge of the court, and the first prosecuting attorney was Newton J. Temple. However, Story and Temple were the stereotyped "Carpetbaggers" spoken of by James Sparks in the previously quoted editorial, and by the spring of 1874, graft and corruption in the court sparked a Congressional investigation. "Bills were introduced to abolish it, and in the face of this investigation and to avoid impeachment, Story and his attorney Newton J. Temple resigned."⁴ In their places came two of Fort Smith's legendary citizens — Judge Isaac Parker and Prosecuting Attorney William Henry Harrison Clayton, brother of Arkansas' Reconstruction Governor Powell Clayton. These two set out to clean up the situation in the Nations, but even the business of the court seemed to promote the wild side of life in Fort Smith as witnesses and onlookers flocked to the town for the court sessions which went on almost everyday. "Naturally, this swarm of witnesses promoted such industries as saloons and houses of ill-fame, and cheap boarding houses."⁵

Aside from real crimes such as robbery and murder, Fort Smith seems to have flourished in the areas of drinking, gambling, and prostitution, with drinking being, perhaps, the worst or most well-known problem. Indian Territory was "dry," and anyone who wished a drink had to come to "Whiskey Smith"⁶ to purchase it.

Even Sam Houston in his days in the Cherokee Nation before he went to Texas (ca. 1835) often traveled to Fort Smith to purchase his supply of liquor which must have been a considerable amount since the Cherokee began to call him "The Big Drunk" rather than his official Cherokee name of "The Raven." An unsubstantiated family legend told to me by a person who wishes to remain anonymous tells of Sam Houston riding to Fort Smith from his trading post at Three Forks to get his liquor supply one rainy fall day. While in town, Houston not only acquired a supply to carry home with him, but also drank a goodly amount. He started home, but he was so drunk that in the

Braden Bottoms he fell off his horse and landed face down in a mud puddle. He was about to drown when a great-grandfather of the current storyteller happened along, rolled him out of the water, tied him to his horse and sent him on home to his Cherokee wife Talahina.

Although the number may vary, most accounts to the era agree that there were large numbers of saloons in Fort Smith. The centennial issue of the *Southwest Times Record* sets the number of saloons at fifty-nine. Other resources vary the number from thirty⁷ to thirty-seven⁸ to fifty in the ten block stretch at the lower end of Garrison Avenue.⁹ Life-long resident, Ruth Mapes, described the area thusly, "Beginning at Ninth Street on Garrison and going up the Avenue, saloons and billiard halls occupied most of the stores to Towson Avenue and then turned the corner and occupied another block on Towson."¹⁰ Ms. Mapes also said that, "Fort Smith had so many saloons that the citizens could have bragged about the distinction, and they did. They bragged about what a terrible situation it was — and cited the case of the little nine-year-old boy who was found drunk on the river bank. Fort Smith had more saloons than other towns its size in the country."¹¹

These saloons varied in degrees of elegance and rowdiness and often sported colorful names such as Dora Gaston's Bloody Bucket. In the basement of the American National Bank, reached by an elegant New Orleans type iron staircase and railing was the House of Lords. The Silver Dollar Saloon a little further down the street sported mirrors in back of the long bar surrounded by life-sized female figures hand-

carved in wood and imported from Switzerland. One of the most notorious spots was a three-story frame building painted boxcar red and called the Red Onion. "Knife and pistol fights, wild parties, and drunken brawls were the order of the evening almost every night at the Red Onion."¹² Further out — about twelve blocks on Towson Avenue — was John Hare's Last Chance Saloon, which was literally the last chance to buy liquor before a traveler crossed either into Indian Territory or into the "dry" areas of Arkansas. "The frame building housing the store was just across the street from the wagon yard where farmers and other travelers spent the night in their wagons. The weary transients could buy their bottle at Hare's,"¹³ and one issue of the *Fort Smith Herald* reported that the "Youngers celebrated with Scotch Ale on Draft and in bottle at Messlers on Washington Street in Fort Smith."¹⁴ Mike Brogan's City Saloon advertised the purest liquors and had cigars as a specialty.¹⁵ The March 9, 1881 issue of the *New Era* reported that, "Messrs Tucker & Rouse of Memphis, Tenn. have rented the fine building of E. C. Brogan on Garrison Avenue, and are fitting it up for a first class saloon and billiard hall"¹⁶ and in 1882 Frank Freer's new saloon was doing a land office business."¹⁷ Other liquor dealers and saloon keepers mentioned in the newspapers of the day included Tom O'Leary, Taylor & Powell, John Haupt & John Sharron, C. R. Jones, J. K. Jones,¹⁸ John Barber,¹⁹ Jack Hayes,²⁰ William Taylor,²¹ Patrick Reilly,²² and Vogel & Nevill.²³

Although some of the saloons had a "wine room" for the ladies, apparently Belle Starr was the only woman to ever get away with drinking in the open saloons.²⁴ "During the times she was in Fort Smith, Belle would drop into the various saloons and sometimes play the piano for hours, often playing accompaniment to male



Interior reportedly of Pearl Starr's Saloon. Courtesy of Old Fort Museum.

soloists or quartets.”²⁵ But always she wore a brace of heavy revolvers hanging around her waist. Sometimes too, when the mood struck her, Belle thought nothing of riding her horse on the sidewalks.

There is no doubt that she did this at times out of general cussedness, and at other times just to draw attention and to add to her countless story-making incidents. As long as she “kept ‘em talking,” Belle was pleased. It may have been one of her sidewalk escapades that ran her up against Constable Jim Frizzle in front of Brogan’s Saloon, between Third and Fourth Street on Garrison, one day. Anyhow, the late Henry Buskamp, who was a general delivery clerk at the postoffice at the time recalled seeing Belle and Frizzle tangle.

“Belle called Frizzle a name,” said Buskamp, “and Frizzle reached up and slapped her face. She was sitting on her horse at the time, and she had her guns strapped on her.”

“What did Belle do then?” the writer asked Buskamp.

*“She didn’t do anything,” Buskamp chuckled, “Frizzle was wearing a gun too.”*²⁶

Belle Starr was not the only one to get in trouble after drinking. The following story appeared in the Fort Smith paper in 1878:

*On last Thursday evening, near Bradbury’s saloon, Capt. Thos. H. Scott and Mr. Maidt indulged in an altercation, originating from a game of “Pedro,” which terminated by Scott stabbing Maidt in the abdomen with a pocket knife, inflicting a very severe though not dangerous wound. Maidt was immediately conveyed to his residence and attended by Dr. Bailey, while Scott made himself scarce for a time, to await the result of Maidt’s wounds, but came in on Sunday and gave himself up, after learning, we suppose, that they were not serious. He was released on his own recognisance, and his examination set for Tuesday. As we go to press the trial is progressing before Judge Grey. Too much whiskey, we learn, was the cause of the trouble.*²⁷

Too much whiskey, or at least illegal whiskey, was often the cause of the trouble. It was illegal to sell liquor in Indian Territory or for the Indians to buy or possess liquor. In February of 1872, United States deputy marshals Owens and Johnson had come in from Indian Territory with twelve prisoners and two wagon loads of tobacco and whiskey contraband that had been smuggled into the Nations in coffins. The *Herald* reported that the deputies had “brought the corpse to light and have the chief mourners now before United States Commissioner

Brooks.”²⁸ Between 1875 and 1885, ninety-seven men were arrested for moonshining (the illegal manufacturer of liquor) and 1,190 were arrested for illegally selling liquor.²⁹ Among those arrested for bootlegging (illegally selling liquor) was Ed Reed, the son of Belle Starr. “He was once more in Judge Parker’s court and received a seven year sentence in the Federal Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio.”³⁰

However, not all Fort Smithians were hard-drinkers. As early as 1872, James Sparks was humorously attacking the “demon rum” when he published the following story on the editorial page of the *Herald*:

THE RUMSELLER

Every individual in society is expected to contribute something to its advancement and interest. We remember to have read many years ago of a company of tradesmen who unified themselves into a mutual benefit society and each one had to contribute to its support.

First, the blacksmith came forward and said:

“Gentlemen, I wish to become a member of your association.”

“Well, what can you do?”

“Oh! I can iron your carriages, shoe your horses, and make all kinds of implements.”

“Very well, come in, Mr. Blacksmith.”

The mason applied for admission into the society.

“And what can you do, sir?”

“I can build your barns, houses, stables, and bridges.”

“Very well, come in; we cannot do without you.”

Along comes the shoemaker, and says, “I wish to become a member of your society.”

“Well, what can you do?”

“I can make boots and shoes for you.”

“Come in, Mr. Shoemaker; we must have you.”

In turn all the different trades and professions applied, till at last an individual came in who wanted to become a member.

“And what are you?”

“I am a rumseller.”

“A rumseller! And what can you do?”

“I can build jails and prisons and poor houses.”

“And is that all?”

“No; I can fill them. I can fill your jails with criminals, your prisons with convicts, and your poor houses with paupers.”

“And what else can you do?”

"I can bring the gray hairs of the aged to the grave with sorrow; I can break the heart of the wife, and blast the prospects of the friends of talent, and fill the land with more than the plagues of Egypt."

"Is that all you can do?"

*"Good heavens!" cried the rumseller, "is not that enough?"*³¹

In 1878, the Murphy Temperance Movement came to Fort Smith, and on April 17 the paper reported the following:

*... Meetings were held in the Christian Chapel last week, but the increased attendance made it necessary to procure larger and more convenient quarters, and Adelaide Hall has been secured during the present week. Mr. Wilson thoroughly understands his business and is earnest in his endeavors to reclaim the fallen and to throw around the young and wayward a protecting influence that may prevent them, in an unguarded moment, from yielding to the blandishments of unthinking youth or the seductive charms of society and fashion, which may blast their bright hopes and prospects for the future and leave them as stranded wrecks upon the sea of human life, and curse to themselves, a reproach to those that love them, and a blot upon the bright disk of honorable manhood. The meetings are nightly growing in interest, and many are donning the badge that proclaims to the world their total abstinence principles. About 175 have already signed the pledge.*³²

Evidently, the Temperance Movement had some effect because the February 1, 1883, issue of the *Weekly New Era* contained the news flash that the "liquor saloon of Jno. W. Miller, familiarly known as the Nickel Saloon, closed its doors yesterday afternoon, an attachment having been served upon the proprietors by Deputy Sheriff Sanders. The liabilities are about \$1500."³³ Business was not helped when the city "fathers" raised the liquor license fees in January of 1884 which caused several saloons to fail, "most of them selling out their stock to those who are to continue in the business. The names of those who have sold out are as follows: Fred Truschel, Benedict Stebler, Charles Mueller, Kennedy & Lane, Riverside, Brown & Co., and Keeting & McCauley. The saloon keepers held a meeting at the Senate Club rooms to decide whether the price of drinks should be raised or not, and after lengthy debate it was decided to let the prices continue the same as before." However, that must not have been a totally successful decision

because in May of 1885, the saloon keepers petitioned the city council to "reduce their license during the dull season."³⁵

Gambling, while rampant in Fort Smith in the "Hell on the Border Era," was evidently not viewed with the same concern as the saloons and drinking by the citizens, because less was and has been written about it. There are several indications that almost every saloon had a gambling hall on the floor above it, and there are several complaints registered by the citizens about card-playing going on in one building while next door church services were under way. *The New Era* complained in its February 14, 1884 edition that, "The gambling houses in this town are carried on with the most shameless publicity. Who is to blame?"³⁶ Cock-fights and dog-fights were common place male amusements, as was poker-playing. However, again it seems that Belle Starr was the only woman allowed to play poker in the gambling halls.³⁷ There were at least some crap games going on. In May of 1889, "Constables Meek and McBride raided a 'crap' den on the lower part of the Avenue and pulled 26 'sports' whom they caught in the very act. Six of those arrested gave bond for trial, four were fined \$20 each and the remainder placed in jail to await trial. The houses in which the 'shooters' were arrested was kept by Tucker & Davis."³⁸ The next reported raid of a "crap dive" was in September of 1890 when the Republican candidate for Justice of the Peace was arrested.³⁹ (Bet that lost him the election.)

The *Weekly New Era* reported in December of 1877 that there was a "rumor of a horse race on the reservation race track on New Year's Day. Single mile dash for \$1000 a side."⁴⁰ But, horse racing became a city sponsored affair with a public race track located on what is now Jenny Lind where Ramsey Junior High School stands. In fact, it was reported that at the fair in October of 1880, "a goodly amount of money was won and lost on the races"⁴¹ and the Fifth Annual Fair in October of 1884 advertised, "Trotting and Running Races every day. The finest half mile in the West."⁴² Men, women, and children from all social levels came to watch the "ponies run," and gambling was not illegal in Fort Smith until after the turn of the century.

For that matter, neither was prostitution. It was legal throughout the city until 1916 when it was limited to the two block stretch of Front Street called the "Row," and was not made illegal until 1924.⁴³ One good thing about the "Row" was that it located all the "Houses" in one section of town, on the river bank, away from



***Some of
Miss Laura's Social Club
"Girls"***

Photos from Goff Collection



the rest of the commercial area. Edwin Hicks described the area in the 1890's as being, "a flourishing part of the rough, border town ... Practically all of the "red light" houses were of frame and were two stories high. A couple of the houses were of brick."⁴⁴ Most of the houses faced east and stood on the banks of the Arkansas River, starting about a block north of the present Garrison Avenue bridge. Judge Parker's court was only about three blocks away, and to "read the Row," one had to cross the maze of railroad tracks at the switching yard.

The 1900 census lists six houses with thirty-nine women living in them who list their occupations as prostitutes. However, most of these women were not Fort Smith natives. In fact, only four list their birthplaces as Arkansas. One was from Washington, D.C.; one from California; three from Illinois; one from Nebraska; two from Colorado; three from Wisconsin; two from Ohio; four from Kansas; six from Missouri; one from Pennsylvania; one from Texas; one from Tennessee; one from Mississippi; one from Vermont; one from Kentucky; one from Florida; two from Indian Territory; and two from France.⁴⁵ All of which seems to confirm the statement made by an older resident that, "You could find any kind of woman in the world down there. Some would be educated; some wouldn't."⁴⁶ Another patron of the area observed, "Some of the finest, prettiest women that you ever saw were down there — nice women. They weren't permitted to tell dirty stories, and they weren't allowed to drink on the premises. Oh, you could get beer, but not whiskey. No drunks were tolerated."⁴⁷

At the time, the terms house of prostitution, house of ill repute, or red-light house were not used. Instead the houses were called "social clubs," and were the fore-runners of men's private clubs. Customers played cards, drank champagne or beer (which was sold at fancy parties of up to twenty-five cents), danced and conversed with the girls, as well as making choices in the selection room for more private past-times. Food was available in most of the houses, and almost all of them had a player piano.

In his book *Belle Starr and Her Pearl*, Edwin Hicks described life on the "Row" very well when he wrote, "The girls in those early days sold themselves for a fee of two dollars — or five dollars for a night. At first the charging was not on a percentage basis. The girls got all the money they made, but in return they paid what would have been considered an otherwise

exorbitant fee at the time for their board and room and for the clothes they wore. Later the fee was raised to three dollars, and a higher price was charged for spending the night in the house. Later still, a percentage of the 'take' was instituted in the houses. But in the early days, 'it was like one big happy family, with all the girls and the madams eating at one table,' as one Fort Smithian put it. Sometimes, indeed, the houses were referred to, most politely, as 'hotels for girls.'⁴⁸

Since the "girls" were generally discouraged by society from being on the streets during business hours, business often came to them. Salesmen from all the leading stores in town would visit the "Row" on a regular schedule, and the madam and the "girls" would assemble around the salesman and "buy dresses and hats and shoes and silken gowns and underthings enthusiastically. When the girls had made their selections, the madam would pay for it all — cash." Generally, the salesman received courteous treatment from the ladies. One of them said, "It was strictly business with them, what they were and what they were doing. If you wanted a date with them, you could have it during their dating hours, but they never embarrassed you when you were down there on business."⁵⁰

No chances were taken with "social diseases" either for the "girls" or the customers. The "girls" in the "Row" were inspected by physicians regularly, sometimes as often as three times per week.⁵¹ Generally, the health cards were considered "union cards" and were prominently displayed. Any girl without a current health card was "off the line" until she had been treated and cured.

Perhaps Fort Smith's most famous madame was Pearl Starr, the daughter of outlaw Belle Starr. Pearl got her start in prostitution at the age of eighteen when she went to work in a "house" in Van Buren. (Remember those folks who said all the "decent" people lived there?) In three short months, Pearl had worked hard enough and had been frugal enough to lease her own house in Fort Smith at 25 Water Street (later Front Street and later still North First Street) from its original owner and operator Maude McGrath.⁵² It was at this time that Pearl changed her name from her father's name, Reed, to her mother's second husband's name Starr. After all, Belle had made the name notorious, and Pearl might as well capitalize upon it. She promptly put a large red star, draped in a white string of pearls, and outlined in electric lights on the front of her new

business. She set the tone for her business by insisting upon pretty girls who looked innocent and by flaunting her wealth at social functions. "When Pearl Starr attended the plays (at the Opera House), she sat with her girls and the other madames and their girls high up in the gallery, with the people who didn't have the money to pay for tickets downstairs. That was one of the town's regulations for fast ladies. They could not sit downstairs with the best folks. So the women of the Row bought season's passes for the gallery and made a show of their own out of attending a show. They dressed in their most brilliant gowns, usually far out-shining the other women and girls, and they came to the Opera House in fancy carriages, strode in to the gaily lighted place as if they owned it, climbed the flight of stairs and then paraded down the steps to their seats in the gallery. It was a lot of fun to them — especially when they looked down and saw the 'good women' stealing looks up at them from below, eyeing their fine clothes and flashing jewelry, covertly — but enviously just the same."⁵³

Even better known to modern day Fort Smithians is the house known as "Miss Laura's" at 123 Front Street. Construction on this very elegant brothel began in 1899 and the grand opening was held in 1901.⁵⁴ (Note: The 1900 census lists Miss Laura Ziegler at this address with five women boarders who list their occupations as prostitutes.) This was perhaps the largest of the "Row" businesses with its four parlors and two dining rooms downstairs and nine bedrooms and a bath upstairs. (Most of the houses had two parlors, one dining room, four bedrooms, and a bath.) Miss Laura required her "girls" to be fully clothed downstairs and gave away souvenirs to her customers with the name of the house imprinted upon them. Ed Stephens recalled the following story about Miss Laura's in its heyday. Andy Carr, a local policeman, got a call that two men had taken over Laura Ziegler's place and run all of the girls out. Mr. Stephens borrowed a pistol and went with Mr. Carr to see what the trouble was. When they arrived at Miss Laura's, all the girls and the customers were outside, shivering in various states of dress and undress. Inside, Stephens and Carr found two very drunk men, one of whom was banging on the piano while the other threw up in a potted plant. Both of the men were holding onto loaded pistols. Stephens and Carr talked the men into giving them their pistols and hauled the men off to the city jail. Whereupon, business as usual resumed at Miss Laura's.⁵⁵



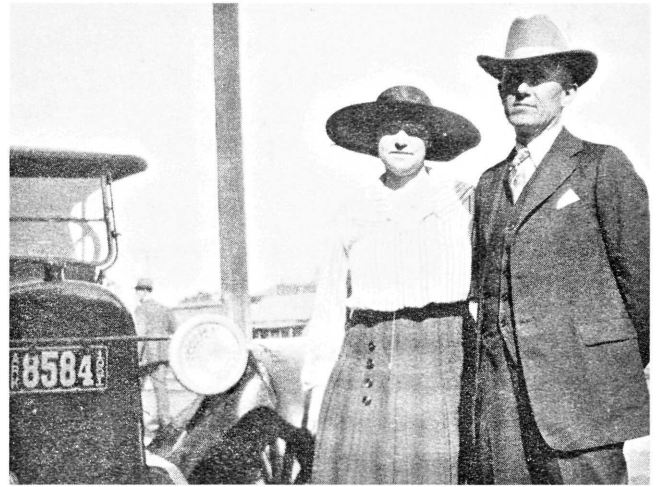
Caretaker at vacant Miss Laura's House.

Edwin Hicks in his book *Belle Starr and Her Pearl* quotes a local resident as saying about the "girls," "They would fight worse than a man and were very jealous," and "once they fell for you, they were hard to get rid of."⁵⁶ This description certainly fits the unproven story told to me in 1963 by the old Cherokee man (whose name I failed to record and no longer remember) who was the caretaker at the then vacant Miss Laura's and claimed to have been her bodyguard. It seems that Miss Laura had a unique girl working for her — Big Bertha Smith, who weighed about three hundred pounds. Bertha had a lover about whom she was crazy and whom she supported. However, the lover was less than faithful, and Big Bertha discovered him arm in arm with a saloon girl on Garrison Avenue. She was so angry that she tackled her man and promptly stomped him to death with her high heel shoes.⁵⁷ A true example of the "girls" fights is found in the March 9, 1888, issue of the *Elevator* when "Eva Snider, a girl of easy verture (sic),...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 with a knife while under the influence of liquor."⁵⁸ At least one girl killed herself over a quarrel with her lover. Clara Bradley, "of 'Sporting' proclivities, suicided ... on the Morphine route"⁵⁹ in October of 1890.

Although prostitution was not to be made illegal in Fort Smith for many more years, some of the citizens were beginning to resent the presence of the "ladies of the evening" as is evidenced by the following article.



Bertha Gale/Dean, madam who bought Miss Laura's house from Laura Ziegler. Photo courtesy of Goff Collection.



Bertha and husband Mack Dean. Mack operated a saloon and was the brother of Pink Dean, Fort Smith fire chief. Photo courtesy of Goff Collection.



**Entrance to Bertha Gale's House.
Courtesy Goff Collection.**

THE "PEA GREEN" MUST GO

There is a house of ill fame, built and owned for that purpose by a wretched woman, right in the midst of as respectable a set of people as this or any other city can boast of. Yet this house with its degraded and accursed inmates has been a constant source of great annoyance and danger to the people of blocks around and of great injury to the property owners of all that part of this city. The families in the immediate vicinity of this pest hole are compelled to keep their rooms darkened and the doors and front gates locked, to save themselves from violence. A large petition, signed by such people as Postmaster Barnes, Mrs. General Bonnevillie, Casper Reutzel, John Guler, Anthony Neis, August Reicher, Joe Ferrari, Mr. Manning, Thos. Halliburton, J. T. Hendry, W. D. Sharp, and many others, all heads of families and large property owners and taxpayers, was presented to the Mayor and Council last December. This demand for relief was ignored on the ground that the house itself was not complained of in the petition, but only its VISITORS. What wretched sophistry or still more wretched stupidity!

We read in the Scriptures that the presence of a fly spoiled the jar of precious ointment. If a fly drops into your cup of coffee as you raise it to your lips, you turn from it with loathing and pour it out. That pea green house and others of like character are the flies in the ointment. They must and shall go.⁶⁰

There is a little evidence of drug use in the era. In March of 1872 on the outskirts of town (Knox Street), "a row took place between some Negroes, who we learn were influenced by benzine, resulting in the instant killing of George Johnson by Jim Dodge,⁶¹ and in January of 1885, "Mal. Hendry, son of J.R.A. Hendry, took an overdose of laudanum ..., but his life was saved by prompt medical attention.⁶²

Other opportunities for "raisin' hell" and general mayhem were also present. In 1878, the *Weekly New Era* complained that, "Fort Smith has a full share of worthless characters, male and female, white and black. The rips have again become a great nuisance, and there are about eight or ten white boys, with perhaps as many blacks, who are inevitably gravitating toward the penitentiary, if not the gallows. The former are almost without exception the sons of respectable parents and well connected, and if they do not adopt a radical change of life, certain to bring shame upon themselves and their connections."⁶³

In January of 1881 the *New Era* reported that "while the performance of the Norton Troupe was in progress at Brogan's Hall, some of the 'boys', probably not thinking they were getting an equivalent for their money, started a little matinee in which pistols played the leading part. As the trouble commenced near the door of egress, the audience made for the stage and dressing room, but before anything like panic was created the disturbers were arrested and removed.⁶⁴ Later that same month, "some one just for the fun of the thing, and possibly just to see how much of a crowd he could draw, discharged a pistol on the Avenue just in front of P.R. Davis' store. In five minutes full 300 citizens were asking each other who was shot and Mayor Brizzolara was trying to give somebody ten dollars to point out the shooter."⁶⁵

Guns were not the only weapons of choice. In February of 1882, "The firm of Bell & Jackson had a little unpleasantness between themselves ... which resulted in the former receiving a pretty severe pummeling. The courts will adjust the matter as soon as Mr. B. is able to be out."⁶⁶ On September 25, 1885, the *Elevator* reported that, "In an altercation on Tuesday evening last, James Howell struck J. S. Seward with a fence paling, breaking his arm."⁶⁷

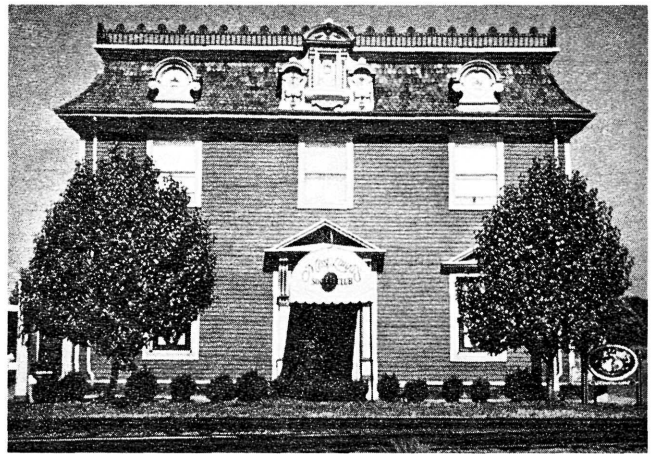
The *New Era* complained about the behavior of those attending picnics in August of 1883 when the editor wrote, "Picnics are becoming to be nuisances from the fact that on almost every occasion of the kind rowdyism, stimulated by bad whiskey, mars the pleasure of the day, and frequently, what was meant as a time of innocent enjoyment and relaxation, ends in scenes of strife, if not bloodshed. People occasionally need recreation and a throwing off of the everyday life drudgery. They should mingle in pleasant intercourse and a friendly interchange of those experiences, gay and grave, pleasant and sad, that go to make up the average lifetime. But there is too often at these gatherings so much of the rude and boisterous, so much of the artificially stimulated hilarity, that mischief ensues. What our people need, especially the young, is better training, more self control and respect for the rights of others.⁶⁸ The editor of the *Elevator* was still complaining about the young people in 1889 when he wrote, "Fort Smith, we believe, can muster up more bad, unruly, impudent boys of school age than any city of her size we know of ...⁶⁹. Their solution to the problem was to give teachers the "privilege of using good stout switches instead of their hands."⁷⁰

However, the best story of general mayhem has to be the following:

ED PRINCE IN A DRUNKEN FRENZY CUTS HIS THROAT

On Wednesday afternoon Dr. Kelleam was called in to attend a man who had cut his own throat in the suburbs of the city. He proceeded to the scene and found the would be cutter lying where he had fell with a fearful gash across his throat extending almost from ear to ear. He was not dead, and after being revived, was able to walk to a hack, in which he was conveyed to St. John's Hospital, where his wound was dressed and sewed up. He now stands a fair chance of recovery. His name is Ed Prince and recently came from St. Louis in company with his nephew, James Prince, and a man named Clark. They had been spreeing around here for several days, and on Wednesday afternoon started to walk to Van Buren. It appears he became involved in a drunken quarrel with his nephew and would have hurt him had Clark not interfered. He suddenly drew a razor and said: "See what I'm going to do" and throwing his head back he brought the sharp instrument across his throat before he could be stopped. They were railroad men and came out here expecting to get work on the Wagoner branch of the Valley route.⁷¹

In 1872, the *Herald* had made the comment that, "The old saying, be virtuous and you will be happy is now obsolete, and Ben Atkinson says the way to be happy is to pay up."⁷² But, civilization was fast catching up to the frontier town that had been Fort Smith and it was becoming a city. When prostitution was made illegal in Fort Smith, Miss Laura's became the Commercial Hotel. As the area and the building declined, it became the Riverfront Hotel, and finally became a vacant building until the 1970's when it became a restaurant. Recently, it has become the home of the Fort Smith Visitor's and Tourist Bureau. It is the last of the "Row" houses standing and has the distinction of being the only brothel in the United States on the National Register of Historic Places. Other opportunities for "raisin' hell" also slowed down as the city grew up. Gambling became illegal and the race track was shut down. Drinking was outlawed by the prohibition amendment to the United States Constitution. The Indian Territory was cleaned up by Judge Parker's court and it became the state of Oklahoma with normal judicial and law enforcement procedures. As Judge Isaac Parker said a short time before his death, "Crime in a general way has decreased in the last twenty years."⁷³



**Fort Smith Visitor's and Tourist Bureau,
formerly "Miss Laura's."**

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Bill Doolin: Arkansas' Last Outlaw on Horseback

by Russell Bearden

Photographs courtesy of Western History Collection, Norman, Oklahoma.

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Early in the afternoon of August 26, 1896, a straw-filled, canvas covered wagon rolled slowly down the dirt streets of Guthrie, Oklahoma. The wagon stopped briefly on Oklahoma Avenue just in front of Rhodes Furniture and Undertaking Business and then proceeded around the building to the back entrance. At the back door, a blood-soaked body was removed from the wagon, taken inside, and heaved onto the undertaker's table. Almost immediately the undertaker and other local gawkers recognized the bullet-ridden body, and in no time word began to spread up and down the quiet streets of Guthrie.¹

For positive identification purposes, a government appointed physician by the name of Smith was summoned to examine the body. He, too, recognized the pale, somewhat emaciated corpse lying upon the table. Just six months before in Guthrie's federal prison, Smith had examined and treated the same aged man. Drawing closer to the thin body, the doctor counted twenty shotgun pellets and one rifle slug embedded in the upper torsal. Just to be sure his initial identification was correct Smith turned the man's head, and pushing the grayish, auburn colored hair aside, surgically extracted from the left temple a buck shot pellet — one, he knew, had been lodged there more than two years ago. To satisfy the curiosity of the large crowd which had gathered outside the business, the body was put on display in the front store window for all to see and for all to know for certain that William "Bill" Doolin, "King of the Oklahoma Outlaws," was finally dead.²

Born in 1858 somewhere in northeast Johnson County, Arkansas, Bill was the son of Artemina and Michael Doolin. Bill's father was a poor sharecropper who, with a family of six children (four from a previous marriage), bought and farmed a forty acre piece of land near Big Piney River about thirty-five miles northeast of Clarksville, Arkansas. On the Arkansas homestead, young Bill grew to be a



William "Bill" Doolin with fatal buckshot wounds. He was buried in the Summit View Cemetery at Guthrie, Oklahoma on August 28, 1896.

fine young man — six feet two inches tall, slender in frame, tough but mild tempered, many said, and from hunting the Ozark forests, a crack shot with a rifle.³

In 1881, young Doolin, then twenty-three years old, struck out from his Arkansas home and soon thereafter found himself in the Oklahoma Territory, working for Oscar D. Halsell, a rancher in Logan County. From all accounts, he became a good, hardworking cowhand, and after Halsell taught him how to read and figure, Bill became one of his boss' top hands.⁴ While on the Halsell Ranch, however, the young Arkansan came into contact and under the influence of some pretty rough cowhands, many of whom were and would

become some of the most famous outlaws in the Oklahoma territory.⁵

Sometime after 1889, after working from ranch to ranch, Bill had his first run-in with the law during a Fourth of July celebration near Coffeyville, Kansas. He and some other cowpokes were swigging beer in a remote spot near town when approached by two deputy sheriffs. Since Kansas was a dry state, the law officers proceeded to confiscate the illegal beer, but both were shot in the process. No one knows for sure who fired the shots, but Doolin, the leader of the group, was held responsible by Kansas authorities.⁶ He fled from Kansas as a fugitive from the law.

Unlike many outlaws of the Old West, Bill Doolin was thrust into a life of lawlessness more as a result of bad environment, poor judgment, and just plain bad luck than anything else. He was not a desperate, blood thirsty killer who possessed a lightening quick draw. But, like most cowhands of the day, he was a good marksman, an excellent horseman, and a keen judge of good horse flesh. To be a successful outlaw, one needed a great deal of raw courage, knowledge of the terrain, and a good stock of horses to outrun the law. Doolin possessed all of these.

The Oklahoma Territory in the late nineteenth century was an outlaw's dream haven. It was a raw, rugged country, a vast plain extending over 70,000 square miles, full of forests, hidden caves, restless Indians, and as one writer declared, "was a refuge for riff-raff of all creation."⁷ Most people agreed with the often quoted remark, "there is no Sunday west of St. Louis — no God west of Fort Smith."⁸ It came as no surprise that a few lawmen and their posses, paid only for miles traveled and certified capture of outlaws, cared to pursue desperados for very long in such a hostile environment.

After some restless drifting, selling liquor to the Indians here and there, Doolin joined the Oklahoma based Dalton Gang. This wild bunch was led by Robert "Bob" Dalton with his brothers Gratton (Grat) and Emmett, and, at various times, gang members Charley "Black Faced" Bryant (His face was blackened by a powder burn), William "Narrow-Gauged Kid" McElheney (born in Arkansas), Charlie "Race Horse" Pierce, Richard "Texas Jack" Broadwell, Bill Powers (Alias Tom or Joe Evans), and George "Bitter Creek" Newcomb.⁹ The Daltons were all born in Missouri and were related, they liked to brag, to the infamous Younger Brothers who rode with Jesse James. For a time they worked as deputy marshals in and around Ft.

Smith, Arkansas, but they soon grew contemptuous of the law and took up the more profitable and somewhat safer line of crime. Wrapped in myth and western novel legend as the "ferocious Dalton" and labeled as the "most cold-blooded robbers in the West," the Daltons were actually in the outlaw business, with limited success, for less than eighteen months.¹⁰ Their lives came to a very abrupt and tragic end on the streets of Coffeyville, Kansas.

While riding with the Daltons, Doolin was in on the Santa Fe Texas Express Train robbery at Perry (then Wharton), Oklahoma on May 8, 1891. There, the gang escaped, uninjured, with less than \$1,800, but a young telegraph operator was killed during the heist. On September 15, of that same year, the gang hit the Missouri, Kansas and Texas (KATY) Train at Lillietta, Oklahoma, hauling off, they claimed, \$19,000. At the Santa Fe's Red Rock, Oklahoma station on June 1, 1892, the Daltons fired more than sixty rounds through the train's express car door before the shell shocked guard opened the door and gave them the safe; they galloped off with a reported \$3,000.¹¹ Their train heist at Adair, Oklahoma on July 14, was the most daring and resulted in a gun battle with train guards and the local townspeople. In the exchange of gun fire, which only lasted a few minutes, three guards were wounded, and one local physician, standing in a store, was killed from a stray bullet. The Daltons escaped unharmed with an estimated \$10,000.¹² After the heists, and years later, gang members, like all outlaws, always tended to exaggerate the dollar amount of their hauls. If the shipments were insured, the railway companies were inclined to agree with the outlaws for obvious reasons. But, more likely than not, the takes reported by the outlaws were greatly inflated.

At Coffeyville, the Daltons decided, unluckily for them, to outdo their famous Younger kinfolk and rob two banks at once. On the morning of October 5, 1892, Bill Powers, Richard Broadwell, and Bob, Grat, and Emmett Dalton entered, in divided groups, the First National and Condon Banks. Within minutes after their break from the banks, all the outlaws were gunned down by the well-armed townspeople of Coffeyville. Bill Powers, Bob, and Grat Dalton lay dead on the streets; Broadwell, bleeding profusely, died on his horse a mile out of town. Shot twice and pelted in the back with buckshot, Emmett somehow survived his wounds and the determined plans of a lynch mob. He later served fifteen years in the Kansas State Prison. When paroled, the last of the

Daltons went to California and became something of a Hollywood celebrity; he died in 1937 at the age of sixty-six with the exploits of the Daltons firmly sealed in print and film legend.¹³

Some historians claimed that Doolin missed the Coffeyville heist as a result of his horse going lame. But a more rational explanation, one that takes into account motives and personalities, exists that Doolin, being a level-headed man, no doubt saw the overwhelming danger in such a deed and opted to quit the gang before the raid.¹⁴ Nevertheless, sometime after the Coffeyville fiasco, Doolin began to organize his own gang — one soon destined to outdo the exploits of the Daltons and any other outlaw band that operated before or since in the Oklahoma Territory.

Under his tutelage came the likes of William "Bill" Dalton who was living in California and had returned to Oklahoma just before his brothers were killed at Coffeyville. Bill Dalton had never ridden with his brother's gang in Oklahoma, but on several occasions, he had been a spy for the group. With his brothers dead and one in prison, he followed Doolin into a life of crime. From the old Dalton gang came Bitter Creek Newcomb and Charlie Pierce. New recruits were George "Red Buck" Weightman (unliked and considered by all to be homicidal), Roy "Arkansas Tom" Daugherty (Although he liked to tell people he was from Arkansas, he was really born and raised in Missouri.), William Raidler, Jack "Tulsa Jack" Blake, Daniel "Dynamite Dick" Clifton (said to have put a few grains of dynamite in his bullets), and less regulars were Ollie (Ol) Yantis, Richard West, and Bee and Bill Dunn.¹⁵

For four years, the Doolin gang terrorized southern Kansas and the Oklahoma Territory, robbing trains, banks, and stagecoaches at every affordable opportunity. Nearly all these ruffians would meet violent deaths in the years to come, but not before the gang amassed over \$165,000 in loot from their robberies and horse thieving.¹⁶

By late 1892, the more prominent law abiding citizens of Oklahoma were growing tired of the lawlessness that gripped the land, and they petitioned President Grover Cleveland to appoint a new federal marshal who could clean-up the crime ridden territory. Judge Issac Parker, the "Hanging Judge," was executing the law and, to be sure, criminals in Fort Smith, but his jurisdiction and the range of his deputies had been limited by law in the Oklahoma territory.¹⁷ On July 1, 1893, Evett Dumas Nix, an inexperienced but well respected Guthrie based

businessman, was appointed United States Marshal. Nix quickly brought together an impressive array of over one-hundred field deputies. The best and soon to be the most successful were Heck Thomas, Chris Madsen, and Bill Tilghman, known in Oklahoma history as the "Three Guardsmen."¹⁸ Thereafter, warrants were issued for outlaws "dead or alive."

Sometime in early July, 1893, Bill Doolin and his gang drifted into the small, remote town of Ingalls, Oklahoma. Ingalls, located thirty-five miles northeast of Guthrie and ten miles east of Stillwater, was a familiar haunt for the outlaws. There, among family, friends, and people who liked their money, the outlaws could drink, gamble, and blow off steam with little concern of their whereabouts being divulged to U.S. marshals. During the day, most of the outlaws who were in town would hole up in Ransom's make do saloon, playing cards and drinking rye whiskey at 15¢ a shot. It was in Ingalls that Bill met his wife Edith Ellsworth, daughter of a part-time minister and town official. She worked at the O.K. Hotel while waiting for Bill to return from his frequent trips.¹⁹

Late in August, Marshal Nix found out that the Doolin gang was in Ingalls, and with Heck Thomas and Chris Madsen already assigned to different cases, and with Bill Thomas laid up with a broken ankle, he dispatched Deputy Marshal John Hixon and a posse of thirteen to the town.²⁰

Early on the morning of September 1, the marshals dropped one-by-one from covered wagons, as not to attract too much attention, and took up positions in and around the town. Inside Ransom's Saloon that day and totally unsuspecting were Bitter Creek Newcomb, Tulsa Jack Blake, Dynamite Dick Clifton, Red Buck Weightman, Bill Dalton, and Doolin. Arkansas Tom was sick in bed upstairs in the town's O.K. Hotel. The shooting began as Bitter Creek left the saloon to visit a lady friend who lived by the hotel. Dick Speed, a city marshal from Perkins, Oklahoma was hidden near the livery stable and hit Bitter Creek with the first shot as the outlaw rode up the street. The bullet entered Newcomb's right groin, but he was able to return fire, and he dropped the marshal with a .45 slug to the chest. Bitter Creek, his saddle covered with blood, raced out of town during the early minutes of the shoot out.²¹

As the marshals opened fire on the saloon, the outlaws ducked behind tables and chairs and returned the same. Seeing what was developing on the streets below, Arkansas Tom took-up his rifle and started firing from the

upstairs window of the hotel. After a few minutes of intense gunfire, Marshal Hixon shouted at Doolin to give up the useless fight and surrender. "Go to Hell," replied Doolin. After that response, the posse poured more shells into the small framed building, and as the barrage became more intense, the outlaws decided to make a run for it out the side door of the saloon to the livery stable located next door. Doolin cleared the door first, followed by Dalton and Red Buck. A few moments later Tulsa Jack and Dynamite Dick followed. All the time Arkansas Tom was providing the gang with needed cover from his high position in the hotel window. Once inside the stable, the gang members took turns covering each other while others saddled the horses. Doolin and Dynamite Dick dashed out the rear door of the barn and escaped to the southwest. Dalton, Red Buck, and Tulsa Jack, for some reason, rushed out the front door of the stable. Although Dalton was thrown from his wounded horse, he, as well as the others, was somehow able to escape in the hail of bullets.²²

The Ingalls' raid was considered the most deadly gun battle between outlaws and U.S. Marshals in the history of the Southwest. After the half-hour fight, six men lay dead or wounded on the streets. United States Marshals Dick Speed, Tom Hueston, and Lafe Shadley, and two citizens of Ingalls, Dal Simmons and N.A. Walker were killed. Only Arkansas Tom, later surrounded by reinforcement possemen from Stillwater, was taken prisoner. The rest of the outlaws had escaped the clutches of the law.²³

After the Ingalls' shoot out, most of the gang began to split up, but growing desperate for funds, Doolin and one of his pals robbed the postmaster in Payne County, Oklahoma on January 5, 1894. Later that month, Doolin, Bitter Creek Newcomb, now recovered from his wound, and Tulsa Jack Blake robbed the Farmers and Citizens Bank in Pawnee, Oklahoma. On March 13, Doolin and Bill Dalton looted \$6,540 from the U.S. Army Paymaster's office at Woodward, Oklahoma, and most of the gang together hit the Southwest City Bank in McDonald County, Missouri on May 10, 1894. As the gang made their getaway from the bank in Missouri, they were peppered with shotgun and rifle fire. Two townspeople were wounded and one killed when the outlaws returned fire. Only Doolin, struck in the temple by a buckshot pellet, was wounded in the break from town.²⁴

In April 1894, Judge Frank Dale of Stillwater sentenced Arkansas Tom to fifty years in the federal prison at Lansing, Kansas. After the trial, the judge summoned Marshal Nix to his office

and stated bluntly, "Marshal, this is serious (the situation with the outlaws)! I have reached the conclusion that the only good outlaw is a dead one. I hope you will instruct your deputies in the future to bring them in dead."²⁵

Determined to bring the outlaws in at any cost, Marshal Nix directed his Three Guardsmen and their deputies to scour the Southwest for the outlaws. One by one the outlaws were unrelentingly pursued. On June 8, 1894, Bill Dalton, the last Dalton brother in crime, was killed by deputies near Elk, Oklahoma as he attempted to escape by jumping through a farm house window. After their robbery of the Rock Island Train at Dover, Oklahoma on April 3, 1895, Doolin's gang was chased by Chris Madsen and his posse to Hail Creek near Ames. There, Tulsa Jack was killed by deputies during an exchange of gun fire. On the night of May 1, 1895, Charlie Pierce and Bitter Creek Newcomb were killed in their sleep on the Bee Dunn farm near Ingalls. With thoughts of \$10,000 in reward money, John and Bee Dunn decided to kill their outlaw guests in their beds. William Raidler was blasted with a load of buckshot while resisting arrest and was taken prisoner by Bill Tilghman at Moore Ranch near Elgin, Kansas on September 6, 1895.²⁶

With six of his best men eliminated from the gang (Red Buck would also be killed by federal marshals in an ambush on March 4, 1896, near Taloga, Texas), Doolin decided to lay low for awhile. He left his wife and newborn son at Lawson, Oklahoma, and in early January, 1896, headed for Eureka Springs, Arkansas to nurse his wounds and take the healing powers of the baths.

From various sources, Bill Tilghman soon learned that Doolin had fled to Eureka Springs, and on Tuesday, January 14, he boarded the Santa Fe Express for the spa city. Upon arriving in town the next day, Tilghman discovered that the outlaw was staying at the Davy Hotel under the assumed name of Tom Wilson. That morning, the marshal walked up the steps of the local bath house. What follows next is, no doubt, one of the most undramatic and least exciting arrests of an outlaw in western history. It is perhaps told best and, more accurately, by Tilghman himself.

"When I opened the door to step into the gentlemen's waiting room of the bath house who should I see but Bill Doolin sitting on a lounge in the further corner of the room reading a paper. He looked up sharply as I entered and it seemed to me for a second that he recognized me but I walked briskly through the room and into the bath at once. Once inside the door I turned so I



United States Marshal William Tilghman. He was shot to death on November 1, 1924, while attempting to arrest a drunk at Cromwell, Oklahoma.

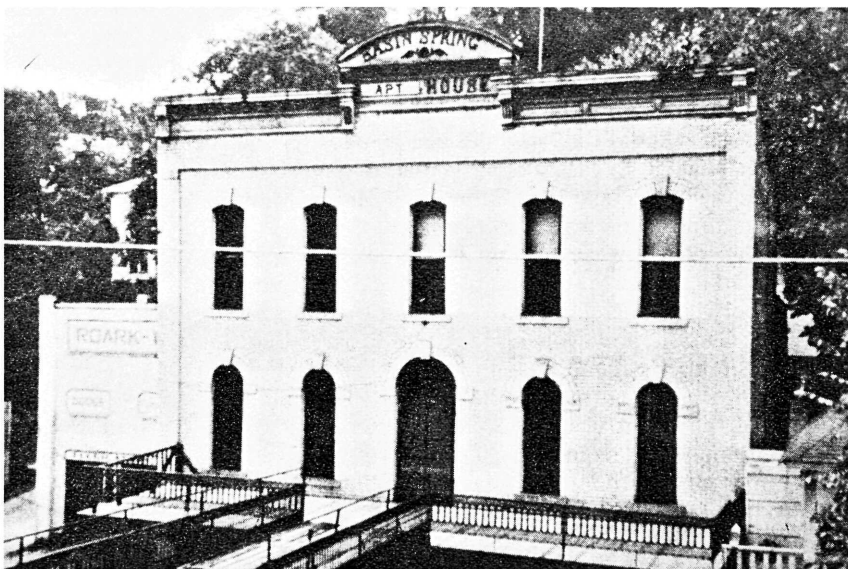
*could watch him but his view of me was shut off by the stove. With my gun in my hand I slipped quietly into the room up to the stove then jumping around the stove to the position immediately in front of Doolin and told him to throw up his hands and surrender. He got up saying 'What do you mean, I have done nothing,' but I grabbed his right wrist with my left hand as he raised it to get his gun and with the revolver in my right hand leveled at his head ordered him to throw up his left hand. He put it up part way and then made a pass toward his gun but I told him I would shoot if he made another move."*²⁷

Later that day Tilghman telegraphed Marshal Nix in Guthrie with the simple message: "I have him. Will be home tomorrow. Tilghman."²⁸

The marshal and his celebrated captive arrived at the train depot in Guthrie to a crowd of several hundred people. Marshal Nix,

Heck Thomas, and John Hale were waiting at the station to safely escort the shackled prisoner through the large crowd to jail. After a few pictures and some comments to reporters, the marshals drove the outlaw to the federal prison at Noble Avenue and Second Street. Doolin was glad in a way that the chase was finally over, and he told a Guthrie reporter: "I have felt like coming in and giving myself up often and showing how much I had been maligned but so much had been charged against me that I was afraid I would be killed without being given a chance."²⁹ A state capital newspaperman, however, could not help but notice that the outlaw was somewhat bothered when pressed with the fact that he had been captured by just one man. As Doolin told the reporter,

*"I knew the marshals were after me, but since I lived so long on a farm in Kansas last summer without being disturbed, I got kind of careless. I had concluded that nobody would be looking for me in a place like Eureka. Did I know Tilghman? I did not know him very well. When he came into the bath house, I thought I had seen him somewhere, but he brushed past me so fast and called for a bath in such an unconcerned way that I just went on reading my paper and paid no more attention to him. The next I knew he was standing four feet away from me and I was looking straight into his gun. I did not get my hands clear up at the first order. I knew then that it was Bill Tilghman. I looked squarely in his eyes, and I saw in a second that he had the nerve (Tilghman supposedly told the outlaw, "Bill, don't make me kill you!"). If it had been anyone else I would not have hesitated to pull my gun. I saw at once that if I made a move he would kill me so I put up my hands. The barber then disarmed me. Bill shackled me and we went to the hotel."*³⁰



Bathhouse at Eureka Springs, Arkansas where William Tilghman captured Bill Doolin on January 15, 1896.

It had taken nearly six years, thousands of dollars, and the lives of several law officers to put Doolin in prison.³¹ He was not, however, to stay long.

As soon as Doolin reached jail, he found his old riding mate Bill Raidler there also. Both men were in poor health, especially Raidler who was suffering from the shotgun wound, and were treated by a government physician. Raidler was later transferred to Kingfisher, Oklahoma to stand trial for robbery. He was sentenced to ten years in prison at Columbus, Ohio, but was later released, suffering from Locomotor Ataxia. He died a few years after his release.

On May 1, 1896, Doolin was taken to Stillwater where he was indicted for murder as a result of the Ingalls' shootout. The U.S. District Attorney offered the celebrated outlaw fifty years in prison in exchange for a plea of guilty. Instead, Doolin entered a not guilty plea telling a surprised Bill Tilghman later that fifty years was too long to stay in prison.³² That June, Dynamite Dick Clifton was transferred to the Guthrie federal prison from Paris, Texas where he was serving time for violation of a liquor ordinance. Within no time, the two began hatching plans for a break.

On Sunday night, July 5, Joe Miller, the night guard, entered the bull pen of the jail, unarmed, to check the interior cells. J.T. Tull, another guard, had opened the pen to allow Miller to pass through. As Miller made his way to the back cells, George Lane, a mixed race Cherokee prisoner, asked that his water can be refilled for the night. Miller asked Tull, who was closer, to get the Indian some water. As Tull opened Lane's cell (the water can could not be passed through the bars), the Indian sprang forward and pinned the guard to the bars while the other prisoners relieved him of his revolver. Within seconds, Doolin dashed from the cell and got Miller's gun which was kept inside a wooden box just outside the bull pen. Then, at gun-point, he forced Tull to unlock the remaining cells to free the other prisoners. Most of the prisoners, however, chose not to escape jail, but Doolin, Dynamite Dick and fourteen others fled into the night. Outside of town, Doolin commandeered a horse and buggy from a couple driving into Guthrie.³³

Heck Thomas formed a posse within an hour after the jail break and sped after the escapees but found no one in the vast darkness of early morning. With Dynamite Dick in tow, Doolin made his way eastward over the Cimarron Brakes toward Lawson where his wife and son were staying with her father. At Morrison,

Oklahoma, the two robbed a bartender at Owen's Saloon, taking with them fifty dollars and a few provisions.³⁴

Tilghman and Heck Thomas were two marshals not easily denied the success nor rewards of their profession. They kept their deputies hot on the trail of the outlaws, surrounding Lawson with spies and officers armed to the teeth. Thomas even approached Bee Dunn for information and support in trapping, at least, Doolin in Lawson. But it was Tom Noble, a local blacksmith later made deputy to be eligible for the reward money, who informed the marshal that Doolin was riding in undetected on occasions to visit his family.³⁵

On the night of August 24, Doolin again rode up to his father-in-law's house. He stayed the night and all the next day not leaving the house at all. Upon learning that the outlaw was at the Ellsworth's place, Thomas and nine deputies rushed to the farm, took up concealed positions near the house, and cautiously waited for their prize catch to emerge. Heck Thomas remembers best the events of that fateful night:

"We waited a long time without seeing anyone, although there was considerable stir about the store and dugout. We learned afterwards that Doolin's wife had told him that some of the neighborhood boys had been spying around there too much and that someone was around that night. Finally, he (Doolin) came out of the stable and to our great surprise, started down the lane coming west, you know how the store is situated on the high prairie. If he had wanted to have made his escape he could have had open roads, north, south, east, northeast, southeast, or northwest, through the pasture to those high hills that you have seen many times. Well, he came right down the lane, leading his horse by the tip ends of the bridle reins, walking slow in the bright moonlight, Winchester in both hands, well out in front of him, nearly in position to shoot. He was walking slow, looking first on one side and then the other. He was sure on the prowl and was looking for the neighborhood boys who had been spying on him ... Then I hollered to him and had one of the other boys on the other side of the road to holler to him ... He shot at me and the bullet passed between me and Bill Dunn. I had let one of the boys have my Winchester and I had an old No. 8 shotgun. It was too long in the breech and I couldn't handle it quick so he got another shot with his Winchester and as he dropped his Winchester from glancing shot, he jerked his pistol and some of the boys thought he shot once with it and the others twice and about that time I got the

shotgun to work and the fight was over. (*The fatal shotgun blasts were said to come from Bee and Bill Dunn's guns.*)³⁶

Hearing the shots from the house, Edith Doolin ran screaming toward her fallen husband, but it was too late. Thomas would not allow the family immediate access to the body; it was property of the marshals until the death could be certified in the nearest town. An old wagon, filled with straw and draped with a torn wagon sheet, was borrowed from John Hoke's place.³⁷ The wagon with Oklahoma's most famous outlaw headed toward Guthrie.

FOOTNOTES

1. Bailey C. Hanes, *Bill Doolin, Outlaw* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1968), pp. 181-184; *Langston City Herald* (Langston, Oklahoma), September 26, 1896; *Fort Smith Elevator* (Fort Smith, Arkansas), September 4, 1896.
2. Hanes, *Bill Doolin, Outlaw*, p. 182.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 11.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 15.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 17. Letter from Russell Adams to Zoe A. Tilghman, March 18, 1955. William H. and Zoe A. Tilghman Collection, Box 1, Folder 1. (Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma Libraries).
6. Interview with Jim Williams, August 20, 1937, *Indian-Pioneer History, Foreman Collection*, Interview No. 8482, Vol. 49, p. 522. (Oklahoma Historical Society).
7. S.W. Harmon, *Hell on the Border* (Fort Smith, Arkansas: Phoenix Publishing Co., 1898); J. Fred Patton, "History of Fort Smith, Arkansas," Unpublished Thesis, University of Arkansas, 1936. pp. 163-181. See only the last chapter in Edward Bearss' *Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969).
8. Harmon, *Hell on the Border*, p. 2.
9. Dorothy M. Johnson, *Western Badmen* (New York: Dodd, Mead, & Co., 1970) pp. 110-112.
10. Ramon F. Adams, *More Burs Under the Saddle: Books and Histories of the West* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979). Frank Dalton became a deputy marshal for "Hanging Judge" Issac C. Parker of Fort Smith, Arkansas and was killed in the line of duty in 1887. The Daltons came from a family of twelve, but only Bob, Grat, Emmett, and later Bill turned to a life of crime.
11. Harry S. Drago, *Outlaws On Horseback* (New York: Dodd, Mead, & Co., 1964), pp. 209-215.
12. Hanes, *Bill Doolin, Outlaw*, p. 52.
13. Drago, *Outlaws on Horseback*, pp. 229-230.
14. Observations made by Ramon F. Adams, *More Burs Under the Saddle*, pp. 17-216.
15. Johnson, *Western Badmen*, p. 119.
16. Drago, *Outlaws On Horseback*, p. 231.
17. In 1889, federal courts were established in Paris, Texas, Muskogee and Guthrie, Oklahoma. On March 3, 1891, the Supreme Court granted appeals from the Parker court. The last outlaw hanged by the judge on July 30, 1896. See Byron Dobbs, "A Lawyer's Appraisal of the Parker Court," *Fort Smith Historical Society Journal*, Vol. III, No. 1 (April, 1979), pp. 27-29.
18. Evett Dumas Nix, *Oklahombres, Particularly the Wilder Ones* (St. Louis, Missouri, 1929), pp. 213-220; William MacLeod Raine, *Famous Sheriffs and Western Outlaws* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran, and Company, Inc., 1929) pp. 201-216; Glen Shirley, *Heck Thomas, Frontier Marshal* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981), pp. 188-195; Carl Breihan, *Great Lawmen of the West* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1963), pp. 161-179. Nix replaced the moderately successful but not forceful William Grimes as United States Marshal.
19. Leslie McRill, "Old Ingalls: The Story of a Town That Will Not Die," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. 36, (Winter, 1958), pp. 429-445.
20. Drago, *Outlaws On Horseback*, p. 242; Leola Lehman, "A Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Territories," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. 43, (Autumn, 1965), pp. 289-296.
21. Various accounts have been given for the raid at Ingalls with, of course, eyewitness statements all varying in some detail. This writer has chosen to stay within the most acceptable guidelines of the story. For all details of the incident with the eyewitness' statements published see Glen Shirley's *West of Hell's Fringe: Crime Criminals, and the Federal Peace Officer in Oklahoma Territory, 1889-1907* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978), pp. 149-170. For other writer's accounts see Hanes' *Bill Doolin, Outlaw*, pp. 98-122 and Drago's *Outlaws On Horseback*, pp. 242-250. Most of the major Oklahoma newspapers carried stories of the gun battle, and in later years, many of the survivors published their accounts.
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. Shirley, *West of Hell's Fringe*, pp. 195-308.
25. Nix, *Oklahombres*, p. 113. A few years after his parole on November 29, 1910, Roy "Arkansas Tom" Daugherty robbed a bank in Neosho, Missouri. When released from prison after serving just five years for this offense, he again robbed a bank in Asbury, Missouri. While resisting arrest, he was shot to death by Joplin police on August 16, 1924. Arkansas Tom was the last Bill Doolin's gang to die.
26. Shirley, *West Of Hell's Fringe*, pp. 260-307.
27. *Ibid.*, p. 326. *Guthrie Daily Leader*, January 17, 1896.
28. *Ibid.*, p. 325. Zoe A. Tilghman, *Outlaw Days: A True History of Early Oklahoma Characters, Revised and Enlarged From the Records of William Tilghman* (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Harlow Publishing Co., 1926). Bill Tilghman has been considered one of the greatest frontier marshals. For nearly fifty years, he was a U.S. Marshal, and he made more arrests, broke-up more outlaw gangs, and sent more outlaws to prison than any other lawman west of the Mississippi. He was shot to death on November 1, 1924 by a drunken prohibition officer while trying to arrest him in front of a saloon at Cromwell, Oklahoma. Tilghman's gun was still in the scabbard.
29. *Guthrie Daily Leader*, January 17, 1896.
30. *Ibid.*
31. Hanes, *Bill Doolin, Outlaw*, p. 163.
32. Shirley, *West of Hell's Fringe*, p. 351.
33. Hanes, *Bill Doolin, Outlaw*, p. 171.
34. *Ibid.*, p. 172.
35. *Ibid.*, p. 175-176.
36. Letter from Heck Thomas to Bill Tilghman, September 3, 1896. William H. and Zoe Tilghman Collection, Box 2, Folder 15. (Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma Libraries).
37. *Ibid.* Daniel "Dynamite Dick" Clifton was killed by U.S. Marshals on November 7, 1897 near Checotah, Oklahoma.

Steamboat Captain Hugh L. Rogers 1812-1893

by Alberta Johnson Blackburn

Captain Hugh L. Rogers was born in County Armagh, Ireland in 1812, being one of ten children. His parents, James and Alice (Cassly) Rogers brought their family to America in 1824 locating in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Captain Hugh L. was educated in Pennsylvania learning the engineers trade. He was the

owner of four steamboats, the Raritan, Bertrand, General Shields and the Osprey. It was on the Osprey that he took the Mormons across the Mississippi River when they were forced to leave Nauvoo, Illinois in 1846. He traveled the Ohio, Mississippi and Arkansas rivers.

Captain Hugh L. married Matilda Lowe who was born in Kentucky. He owned blooded race horses and Kentucky is a race horse state. Captain Hugh L. and Matilda had a son Edward James, born in Kentucky January 11, 1845, then a second son, James Patrick, born in 1850 in Cincinnati, Ohio. (This James Patrick is my great grandfather.)

Captain John Rogers was one of the first settlers in Ft. Smith, coming to Ft. Smith in 1819. He came to Fort Smith from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as did Captain Hugh L. In 1850 Captain Hugh L. was in Fort Smith lodging at Captain John Rogers hotel at North 2nd and "A" Streets. He was listed as a steamboat captain worth \$25,000.

Captain Hugh L. had a number of slaves that he sold, as well as stock. The Civil War came along. He had helped his brother build railroads — the same railroad being torn up by General Sherman in his march to the sea. Matilda died during the war, and Captain Hugh L. brought his sons to Fort Smith in 1863.

This picture shows James Patrick while attending Catholic school at the age of 13. He is dressed in the school uniform and has the priest marriage ring on his left hand.

Eliza Dagg came from Ireland in 1853 and attended St. Anne's Academy. She later married Captain Hugh L. She was 25 years younger than he, and 15 years older than James Patrick.

James Patrick left home at a very early age. In 1870 he was in the Mississippi Twp. Sugar Loaf P.O. in Sebastian County married to Polly Turnbow.



James Patrick Rogers, age 13, in Fort Smith Catholic ICU Church. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1850. His father, Capt. Hugh L. Rogers, brought him to Fort Smith during the Civil War.

He lived in the home of his mother-in-law Martha Turnbow. Polly had two sons from a previous marriage and they later had seven more children. They made their home in Sans Bois, Indian Territory. James Patrick died of consumption March 29, 1897. The night he died in the home of my grandmother (his daughter Emma Lutitia) in one bedroom, my father, Hugh L. was born in the other bedroom.

Captain Hugh L. was very successful in real estate holdings, owning lots of land in Fort Smith. He was generous toward the church with his wealth. He died October 18, 1893. Eliza had the huge stained glass window over the north entrance to the Immaculate Conception Church done in Captain Hugh L.'s memory. The engraving reads: Donated by Eliza Rogers In Loving Memory of her husband Captain Hugh L. Rogers Who died October 18, 1893. R.I.P.



Window placed in Immaculate church by Mrs. Eliza Rogers in memory of her husband, Capt. Hugh L. Rogers. Inscription on the window says, "In Loving Memory of her husband, Capt. Hugh L. Rogers who died October 18, 1893, R.I.P."

Submitted by:
 Alberta Johnson Blackburn
 305 N. Hillcrest
 Ada, OK 74820
 (405) 332-3915

If you who read this article know of any of Edward James Rogers' descendents, please write or call me. I feel that his grandchildren Edward W. or Clairene, who moved to Dallas, TX, or Kate Burn's descendants, could help me if I knew how to contact them.

RECORD OF REPORT OF DEATHS FILED WITH CITY OF FT. SMITH Death date: Oct. 18, 1893										THE VAN BUREN PRESS Sat. Oct. 21, 1893																
Name	Age	F/M	Race	Status	Birth	Res.?	Illness	Physician	Burial Place	Capt. Hugh L. Rogers, one of Ft. Smith's oldest citizens died Wednesday, at his home in that city.																
Hugh L. Rogers	81	Male	White	Married	Ire. 45 yr	FS	8 mos.	D.T. Johnson	Catholic Cemetery																	
Birnie Bros. Funeral Home Records at the Ft. Smith Library																										
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>No. 846 <i>October 19th 1893</i></p> <p>Mr. <i>Hugh L. Rogers Estate</i></p> <p>Address <i>7th St</i></p> <p>To Casket <i>30 Walnut</i> <i>6-3</i> Case <i>1500 350 200 250 25-20 5-20</i></p> <p>Interse <i>Bar, widower fluid, Cuffs & Gloves. Gate valon Cuffs. Robe (Evening)</i></p> <p>Deceased <i>Hugh L. Rogers</i> Age <i>81 Years</i></p> <p>Died <i>October 18th 1893</i> Buried <i>October 20th 1893</i></p> <p>Disce <i>Engaving Plate 5⁰⁰ Shod 2⁵⁰ Illusion 2⁵⁰</i></p> </div> <div> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>120 00</td> <td>Get 30-93</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>54 00</td> <td>By Cash</td> <td>199 00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>199 00</td> <td></td> <td>199 00</td> </tr> </table> </div> </div>												120 00	Get 30-93		54 00	By Cash	199 00	15 00			10 00			199 00		199 00
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Come and Gone

MIDNIGHT — 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1894

The old year is just passing away forever. In review it passes with its burden before us. Wars, droughts, floods, fire, railroad disaster, suicides, assassinations, lynchings, hangings, robberies, strikes, poverty, tramps, political differences, new parties, coalitions, disintegrations of parties, financial distresses. The masses like branches of the trees are swayed by every political breeze. Cranks, demagogues, pseudo-reformers and theoretical economics augment the unrest. The old year carries as her burden, tears, sorrows, sufferings, deferred resolves, broken promises. Misplaced confidence, noble impulses crushed, virtuous resolutions abandoned, reformatations procrastinated, heartaches, farewells to loved ones, separation of friends. Also the noble efforts of grand men and women in behalf of suffering and fallen humanity. So passes like a meteor dark in 1894. One more link in the endless chain of the eternal cycles.

It is clear and frosty. The Pleiades look down with pity. See, she comes — a magnificent ship — her mottoes and banners gleaming. All aboard, it is the New Year. HAPPY NEW YEAR. Now she sweeps through infinite space — and trembles in the undulations of Ether. She curves toward the great central Orb — and speeds on her way at the rate of a thousand miles a minute.

Brothers, sisters — we can't afford to be idle a minute. Don't you see time don't wait. Don't you see how we are hurrying on. Let us now resolve never again to procrastinate a good deed, nor strangle a noble impulse. Do good. Do right. If we cannot relieve by charity the distressed we can sympathize and speak kindly. A happy and prosperous New Year — to all.

Dr. W.R. Bachelor, Pauline, Arkansas

*The foregoing article, contributed by Clayton Russell, appeared in the Fort Smith Elevator Newspaper. Dr. W.R. Bachelor was the father of Dr. James N. Bachelor whose biography was included in **Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, 1817-1926**, compiled by Amelia Martin, 1977.*

Dr. Bachelor is also the great-grandfather of Clayton Russell of Fort Smith. He was an early resident of Franklin County, Arkansas, in the Cecil community, and died there in 1903.

DR. W.R. BACHELOR

*(Father of Dr. James H. Bachelor,
Central City, Seb. Co. AR.)*

Dr. W.R. Bachelor, of Franklin County, was born November 29, 1827, in Lawrence County, Tenn., and is a son of W.R. and Alice (Odom) Bachelor, natives of North Carolina. The father was a farmer by occupation and located upon a farm in Nash County after his marriage, whence he removed to Tennessee in an early day, where he continued farming until his death, which occurred in Hardin County in 1858.

He was the father of six children, four sons and two daughters, three of whom are living, viz.: Dr. W.R., William S. and Sarah, the latter now living with our subject. The mother died in 1848, having been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. W.R. Bachelor was reared and educated in Hardin County, Tenn., and for several years in his early manhood engaged in teaching, during which time he was studying medicine. He began active practice of the medical profession in Hardin County in 1859, where he remained until 1863, and then went to Kentucky. In 1866 he returned to Hardin County, Tenn., and was employed by the Government as Physician in charge of the men engaged in building the National Cemetery at Pittsburg Landing. In 1870 he purchased and moved to his present fine farm of 250 acres in Franklin County, Ark., which is well improved and stocked.

In 1848 Dr. Bachelor married Sarah Tankersly, daughter of Roling Tankersly, of Hardin County, Tenn. To this union have been born nine children, viz.: Leander M., Dr. James H., of Central City; John Y.L., Wilson R., Jr., Victor H., Nancy J., Alice D., wife of Dr. S.R. Russell; Lulu, now Mrs. William Harris, and Pauline G.

Dr. Bachelor is one of the leading Liberalists in Western Arkansas, and is the author of a work on free thought, called "Fiat-Flux." As a doctor he is well and favorably known, and has a good practice. Politically he is a Republican.

Mrs. Bachelor is a member of the Baptist Church.

(The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas, published in 1889, page 1223).

Tribute to a Fort Smith Couple

Edwin "Eddie" and Evelyn Elzora Hicks

by Claire Flynn

Eddie and Evelyn Hicks were a very, very special couple, devoted to each other, their professions and their community. They were a close team for 54 years, enjoying life and spreading joy and goodwill wherever they went, in some way touching and bringing pleasure to the lives of all who knew them, either personally or through their writing and work in the community. It was a pleasure just to know them, and a privilege to be their friend.

Edwin Prentice "Eddie" Hicks was born March 22, 1905 in Krebs, part of the Indian Territory, was raised in the Greenwood, Arkansas area and died in Fort Smith in 1985.

A 1926 graduate of the University of Arkansas, his first two articles were published by *American Magazine* while he was still at the university.

After graduation, he was editor and then publisher of the *Greenwood Democrat*. He was a reporter and feature writer for the *Southwest American* and *Fort Smith Times Record* from 1929 until 1943. He managed the Fayetteville bureau for the two newspapers from 1935 until 1938.

He published over 75 articles in national and regional magazines and had more than 50 short stories featured in various publications. He also wrote two books and four movies. The books were *Fort Smith and Her Pearl*, and *Fort Smith Story: Fort Smith Nation*. His story *Capital Offense* was bought by MGM and made into the movie *Hot Summer Night*. *The Jaywalker* was an animated feature which was nominated for best short subject Academy Award in 1957. He was a prolific writer.

Evelyn Elzora Gambrel was born in Ozark, AR, August 28, 1905. As a teenager she worked on an Ozark newspaper and attended the University of Arkansas where she met Eddie Hicks. Evelyn taught school at Altus and began law practice in 1926. She was the first woman admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Arkansas. Later, admitted before the bar of the Supreme Court, she served as a deputy prosecuting attorney under Floyd Barker in the 1940's. She also served as Sebastian County Probation officer; and was a city social worker under Mayor Jack Pace.



Eddie and Evelyn Hicks, November 1977 at their 2312 South L Street home in Fort Smith, AR.

After retirement in 1960, she joined her husband in traveling and researching material for stories. Evelyn drove and edited; Eddie dreamed and wrote. They were both partners in Eddie's 60-Plus writing classes at Westark Community College, and in the writing and editing of the *Golden Times* and *Rear View Mirror*. Evelyn died May 3, 1994.

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HENNESSEY FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION

Many thanks to the Hennessey Foundation for its \$2,500 contribution to the Fort Smith Historical Society. We appreciate this generous support of our work in locating, identifying, preserving and publishing written and oral history of the Fort Smith area for the benefit of today's readers and generations of readers yet to come.

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The Happy Year

The Diary of M. E. Jeter, 1908

Edited by Marguerite Gilstrap

All photographs, letter and family group sheet courtesy of C. Victor Jeter

(Continued from April Issue of *The Journal*)

(PART 2)

(In this portion of his diary, Mayo E. Jeter continues the story of his residence in Fort Smith, telling of the activities of his family, business and ever widening circle of acquaintances from July 4, 1908 thru January, 1909.)

He noted their widening circle of acquaintances in Fort Smith. July 4, "Wife and I went to Electric Park at 4:30. Saw a balloon ascension. Rode the electric coaster. Saw many acquaintances — Mrs. Golden and husband and others." (The Golden's were neighbors.) He enjoyed seeing friends and acquaintances from St. Paul and Fayetteville.

July 9. "At depot, I met several St. Paul boys. They had been in Dyer, sawing at (illegible)'s mill. Bill Hutchens, Van Brunt, Lester, Abner, and one other man I didn't know."

July 21. "Bought some logs from Fred (illegible). He used to live on Fleming's Creek, near St. Paul. I hadn't seen him for 14 years. He now lives near Electric Park."

July 29. "Maggie Hall from Fayetteville ate supper with us. Her friend, a Miss Hamilton, called to see us in the evening."

August 8. "Wife and I went up town after supper. Saw so many people we know. Joe Montgomery of Fayetteville, Lee Elliot, Mr. Morton, J. R. Gentry, Mr. Donaghue and wife, and several others."

August 11. "Lee Elliot came home with me in the evening, thought our house so nice."

August 19. "Maggie Hall here yesterday looking after a new house she has rented. Told wife about Dr. Pharr being dead." Dr. Pharr practiced in St. Paul.

The diarist continued to delight in his horse, Charlie, and during the summer noted interests and investments in the maintenance of a horse and buggy. June 30. "I drove up town to get our clock, looked at a set of harness I think I will buy."

July 11. "Wife and I went for a drive and then on the Avenue. Bought dishpan and dishes and a large spoon. Coming home our horse cut up some didoes and we came home flying. Had a big laugh on our arrival." July 13. "Took buggy to Mr. Gilmore to have rubber tires and washers

on the wheels put on and shoes on the horse in front." July 20. "I had shoe put on horse. He pulled one off." July 22. "My buggy shaft came down today and I liked to have had a run-away but never got hurt."

July 23. "I liked to have had a run-away with Charlie today. He was feeling good. I rather enjoy his fuss."

August 15. "I drove off a bridge at Dyke Brothers lumber yard and broke the shaft on my buggy. Had a man help me put it together, bought some molding and brought it home, went to the mill and then to the box factory, got my check and paid off men. Went to a blacksmith and left buggy to be fixed. At 6 p.m. drove back for buggy, putting in shaft cost \$1.50. Drove home, paid carpenter, ate supper. Wife and I drove up Garrison Ave. While I was in barber shop being shaved, wife drove Mr. Nelms out to see his girl. We had ice cream."

August 17. "Came home at 5:30 and painted my buggy shaft." August 18. "We went for a drive on Sixth Street. I was giving a man a race and wife got excited and commenced to holler, fearing we would run into someone's buggy. So I turned around and came home, mad because she would not let Charlie beat the other horse."

"We are always glad when our children come," the diarist wrote. The visits he recorded in the summer of 1908 began July 8, "Worked at sawmill until dinner, went home and found Ed Jeter in parlor. So glad to see him. Walter Gilstrap had been there but went to the farm with his father. Sorry not to see him."

"Ed went to mill with me. At 5:30, Ed and I took a 10 mile drive. Back home to supper and then took Mrs. Jeter to Park. Took in a show of trained dogs and a tragedy. Had a nice time. Arrived home at midnight. Ed brought his letter and some notes I had in St. Paul. Expense .90."

July 9. "Ed went after dinner with me to mill, then went uptown. After supper Ed and Mama



Rear: Maude and Nell, daughters of Mayo Jeter. Front: Wife of Mayo, Mary Catherine Summerville Jeter.

went in buggy to depot. I went on street car. A fine visit with Ed."

July 30. "When I came home in the evening I found Maude and children there. So glad. We are always delighted when our children come."

July 31. "Wife, Maude and children and I went on streetcar to Lyric. Couldn't get in first show. Went up town and had ice cream and waited for second show at 9:30. We enjoyed it. Came home at 11 o'clock." August 1. "Wife and Maude Gill called on Mrs. Casey. Bought some dishes. Sam Gill at the house when they got home. We all went to the Park. Saw a good show. Children rode the merry-go-round. Had a fine time."

August 2. "Rode street car to the LeFlore hotel. Had a fine dinner. Had a team and surrey brought to the hotel, drove out to the new county hospital and then to the Electric Park. Children rode the merry-go-round. It began to rain hard when we got home. We phoned for someone to come get the team. I paid \$5 for the use of the team four hours but we had a fine time."

Outside Glendale Hotel, St. Paul, Arkansas, 1906. Mary C. (Mrs. Mayo) Jeter, Nell Jeter Gilstrap (daughter) and Walter Gilstrap (grandson).



"Sam and I took the suitcase and little trunk and Marie to the depot. Found the train one hour late. Wife, Maude and Melba came about 6:30. We kissed them goodbye and took the streetcar home. Expense \$7."

The diarist recorded news about the grandchildren in the letters they received from their children. July 3. "Letter from Maude. Marie cried all day when she found we had left. So sorry. Lonesome without her. Going to write Bert tonight. I guess I will surprise him."

July 6. "Had a long letter from Burt. It was so interesting. So many funny things about the children and we did appreciate it."

July 21. "We received a fine letter from Nellie, were so glad to hear that Marguerite is better."

July 26. "Wrote a letter to Mrs. Richmond for wife. Wife wrote Nellie Gilstrap." August 5. "Letter from Maude. They got home with their canned peaches. Never broke a one."

August 12. "Letter from Maude. Sorry to hear she was sick. Wife wrote her. Also received a letter from Mrs. Richmond in Dakota. Glad to hear from her." August 19. "Had a letter from Nellie yesterday. So glad to hear from her as we always are." August 25. "Letters from Maude and Nellie. Nellie said she now pulls the scales at 126. We would like to see all of them so much."

August 27. "Letter from Charles Henson in Haskell, Okla. One from Bert in Barrow, Okla. Interesting and funny. Cecil peeling a cat." September 1. "Wife received card — picture of White river bridge — from Nellie."

September 3. "Nice letter from Nellie saying Walter has bought the hotel." This was the Glendale. Nellie was three when the Jeters

assumed management of the 22-room hotel built by the Frisco railroad in 1888. Later they bought and remodeled it. She and Walter were married there on her sixteenth birthday, November 6, 1901. They bought the hotel from Walter's parents, Jesse and Fanny Gilstrap, who bought it, 18 months before, from the Jeters.

"Had a fine day" or "had a fine time," sprinkled through entries in July and August, were beginning to add up to what would be "the happiest year since I can remember." In most instances, the events he noted as enjoyable were with his wife, their children, and friends.

On Sundays, his only day off, they usually read the Bible, had a good meal at home or went to the hotel, took a drive, sometimes went to church in the evening. July 12. "We rested until 5:30 p.m., reading papers, sleeping. We had a fine dinner, fried spring chicken and vegetables. After dinner we had a phone call from Mr. Haden to go driving and look over some bargains. We went. It didn't look good to us. Too far out. We drove out on Seventh street. Think it is a beautiful street. Made drive to Park from the new site. It is a beautiful place. Came home at 9:30 p.m."

July 17. "Got up at 7 a.m. Read Bible while wife prepared breakfast. Later "wife read the New Testament. Wife prepared a fine dinner, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and fresh peaches. Wife and I had some fun watching boy throw a rope around an old cow's horns. It rained most of the evening and very cool. We slept under two blankets."

July 24. "Sunday. Clear and warm all day, cool at night. We went to the Iron Mountain depot to meet George Riley, talked with him awhile and then drove to the LeFlore hotel for dinner, took a nap, at 4:30 drove to call on Mr. and Mrs. Spinks. Spent a very pleasant hour, then to the Caseys. We went to the Presbyterian church, heard an excellent sermon by Mr. Coats. The text — the unpardonable."

July 25. "Wife and I drove up town and heard the Baptist minister preach on the streets. Took a drive and bought a watermelon and basket of grapes. Cut melon at home. Good. Grapes not good and I feel angry about it."

July 26. "We went for a drive at 6:30, mailed our letters at the LeFlore hotel. Spent a pleasant evening driving until 10:30 p.m." August 16. Fine drive. Back at 10 p.m. I bought grapes, plums, chicken and we had a feast when we got home. We had some lemonade to complete our lunch. After reading awhile and getting cool, we retired."

August 23. Sunday. "Rose early. Had breakfast at 7 a.m. Had a bath. Put on one of my new shirts. Read New Testament, morning paper, had two hours fine sleep. Wife had an excellent dinner. Then I did my writing while she took a nap. After supper we went for a pleasant drive but didn't go far because it looked like rain and was sprinkling when we came home and retired. Refreshed by our ride."

The fruits of the season were a great pleasure and kept the Jeters busy. He wrote: July 14. "Wife bought 11 bushels of peaches at 75 cents per bushel and when I came home I bought a bushel for 50 cents. Wife canned 16 quarts after 5 p.m. and they did look fine. She will have a fine lot when she gets through. I ate the finest supper tonight. Good old mush and milk. Nothing better."

July 15. "I peeled peaches one hour this morning, commencing at 5 p.m. Wife has 32 quarts of peaches and three quarts of tomato preserves."

July 18. "George Riley came to mill for an hour's talk. He had expressed me a crate of fine peaches. On the way home I went by the express office to get them."

August 8. "I went to depot and got a sack of potatoes, onions, and beets Maude sent us."

There were mishaps in the summer of 1908, some of them, the diarist thought were funny, but not the one he noted July 10. "I had Mr. Longshire cash a check and he showed four checks he cashed that day that I went to protest. The same fellow that helped steal my grip and cut it open. Some of them will pay him."

July 25. "I went to barber shop. After trying to walk through a plate glass I found the door and went in for a shave."

August 17. "I was going to the oil mill to phone when lightening came and shocked me fearfully. Joe Patrick, Mr. Spinks and Mr. Duncan hurt real bad. When I came to myself and saw Joe Patrick, his hand on his head, and then looking at it for blood, I had to laugh. He looked so funny. And then I went to Duncan for he was hurt worse than any of us, recovered in about an hour."

August 28. "I nearly had a collision with the KCS passenger train. One second would have mashed me and the horse, the horse broke his belly band. Joe Patrick and I had a good laugh when it was over."

His inability to see the plate glass, perhaps the train, signaled failing eyesight, today's ophthalmologist would diagnose as *macular degeneration*.

October 1. "A lovely day. We did a good day's work, stacking and cutting several thousand feet and a general clean up. Mr. Spinks is hauling flagging rock to floor the lower part of the ware room. Mrs. Spinks, Mrs. Brown, Miss Ella Spinks to the factory this afternoon. Miss Ella thought everything so nice."

October 2. "Went to mill early. Had the saw buzzing on time, made a good day's run and commenced loading a car for Ballman and getting it about loaded. Mrs. Mattie Williams of Fayetteville came to see wife and liked our new home. I drove to depot to see her and stayed until Annie and the little girls, Juanita and Bernadine, came on the 9:40 train."

October 3. "Finished loading a car of cottonwood for Ballman furniture by 2 o'clock. Then went to the factory and sent some walnut to the United Walnut Company Yard. Wife brought me back to factory after dinner and then took Annie and the children for a drive. She came back to the factory at 5:30. I went back to town for a shave and to buy Annie some hamburger. She didn't like it as well as she thought she would. Had a nice visit."

October 4. "After breakfast, read four chapters in the Bible, played with the children. Then at 11 took Annie in the buggy to meet Ed. They took the buggy. I visited with Bob Yount, bought some barbecued meat, bread and bananas and took the street car home. Ed has rheumatism. We stayed home except to walk around a little after supper."

October 5. "Ed went to the mill with me and then we went to the factory and he helped me with the walnut. Then we drove up on the Avenue to get some medicine. He was feeling better at dinner. He took me to the factory and took the buggy back so Mama and Annie could drive around. He brought the buggy for me in the evening. We had a nice drive. Came by Joe Patrick's and got two pounds of butter. Mr. Spinks bought a fine line shaft for the new building."

October 6. "Ed went with me to the mill. We stacked lumber and sawed some sycamore logs. At 2:30 he drove home so wife could take Annie for a ride. He stayed with the children. At 6, he came for me and we drove over the north part of the city for an hour and a half. Greer Brothers barn on north 10 burned last night with five horses. No insurance on them. Some on the building."

October 7. "Had three Negroes finish stacking lumber. Drove up at 8:30 and met Ed and we went to the Rim and Bow company where I

collected \$15 then we drove over the city until Ed said he had enough and we went home to get ready to go to the LeFlore hotel for dinner. Wife, Annie and children went on the streetcar. Ed and I drove up town where he bought a pair of shoes and then to the depot where they took the train for Fayetteville."

October 8. "Mr. Convery left on the 11:20 train for Kansas City, well pleased with the building and looks of everything in general. George Riley came out to the plant and stayed until evening. Had a long talk about the future. He's going to send Mr. Spinks and me some turnips. I drove him up town. Paid our electric bill, 60 cents; phone \$1.50; sanitary bill, 25 cents. At home I did some painting and fixed the fence by the house. Letter from the Bank of St. Paul with a check for \$11.55, payment on J.H. Nickens' note."

October 9. "Drove up town for nails and hinges. Built a fence on each side of my house. Made a gate. Put windows on cellar. Then drove to United Walnut. Mr. Evans not there. Went to mill until noon. Then drove up town and bought paint and painted until 9 p.m. by light of a lamp. Wife ironed. She had several callers. Reverend Steel rode up to the Avenue with me, telling me about meeting a couple of Bohemians. Funny."

October 10. "Went to factory early. We ran mill all day. Put in a new saw. It does fine work, true cut. We cut a few cottonwood logs into lumber. At 8:30, wife phoned Nellie would be in on 9:30 a.m. train. She met her and they came back on streetcar. Marguerite is so sweet. At 7:30 we went up town. I was shaved. I went up on street car, wife and Nellie in buggy. We went to the Lyric theatre. Two little boys, fine acrobats. Had a fine time. I bought three dog hot tamales, a basket of grapes, and a pair of gloves."

October 11. "Sunday. Beautiful day. Read awhile. At 11:30, went to LeFlore hotel for dinner then walked down Avenue, looking at displays. Went on street car to Arkoma to see the new town. Mr. Guering and Mr. Golden called on me to see our cellar upstairs. Thought it fine. I had a fine time with Marguerite. She is just as cute as she can be. Spent a fine day."

October 12. "I went to mill in the morning. Stayed home after dinner and painted. Wife and Nellie went up town to see dentist, have Nellie's teeth crowned. Mrs. Fisher called on wife. Mr. Fisher told me to save plenty of water. The water company is disconnecting the well, while they let down a pipe. I didn't get through painting.

Wife and Nellie returned at six. Had barbecued beef, potatoes and soup for supper and did justice to it."

October 13. "Painted porch, smokehouse and upstairs and finished smokehouse and cellar. Water cut off all day. Marguerite is having a fine time. She came and lay on the bed and talked so cute. We enjoyed her so much. Nellie went back to Dr. Green's to have her teeth fixed. I bought a gallon of linseed oil and feed for the horse."

October 14. "Very cool. Went to plant early, driving around by the Avenue to water the horse. Then to United Walnut to scale some ash. Came home at 11:30 and after dinner took Nellie and the baby for a drive over some of south Fort Smith and then to depot where wife had come by streetcar. Put Nellie and baby on train to Fayetteville. I went back to scaling lumber. When I came home I met I.B. Jones of Atlantic, Iowa. I hadn't seen him in 51 years. So glad to see him. After summer we talked to a late hour.

October 15. "I took Cousin I.B. Jones for a drive over the north part of the city then back to United Walnut where I scaled some ash and bought some more stuff from them. At 11 p.m., we drove up to our factory and met Joe Patrick and Mr. Spinks and I showed Cousin Jones the plant. Home for dinner and then for a two-hour drive where we met Dr. Crundle, Mr. Donaghue, and Mr. Reeves, the Star Brand Shoe salesman. Then to the Frisco depot where we met Mr. Ward, conductor on the Missouri Valley railroad. He talked Cousin into going with him to Muskogee, stay all night, and go to Oklahoma City in the morning."

October 16. "Worked at home until 9 a.m., painting upstairs, then to United Walnut to scale oak, then to factory. Home for dinner and painting upstairs. Then to walnut mill. Talked awhile with Mr. Thompson, got a lot of timber deeds to look over, loaded up lumber to bring home. Got home late. Fine supper, fried apples, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, peaches, jellies, light rolls, meat, cookies, coffee and ice water."

October 17. "Saturday. Worked at home most all day, painting upstairs and putting in a walk. Spent about two hours in the morning and an hour in the afternoon at the factory. One of the Searles children turned over a can of black paint on our stair steps. I was never more aggravated and what I said was plenty. Went up on avenue for a shave. Had to wait a long time. Mr. Helms gave me his turn. Didn't get home until 7:20. Wife was out at the barn with a lecture for me, staying out so late."

October 18. "Sunday. Need rain. Went to factory. Met Spinks at the office. We drove to Lane and White lumber yard, looked over some oak and walnut. Back at office to look over timber deeds. After dinner I took a nap. Then went for a drive in the north part of city. Met the Spinks and we drove out looking for per-simmons. Found some fine ones. Drove around by the county hospital."

October 19. "At United Walnut tried to do some trading with Mr. Thomsen on timber contracts. Will have the answer in a few days. Then to Fort Smith Wagon company for prices on wagon material such as we want to make. Very low at present. Back to factory to talk trades over with Spinks. Home for dinner and painted awhile. Then back to plant. We received a letter from Nellie. All well."

October 20. "Did some painting at home. Went to factory at 10 and worked until noon. Then drove up the avenue. Mr. Gardener, the cashier of the Arkansas Valley Trust company, rode with me. After dinner went back to the factory and helped with the building. Got along nicely considering the rainy day. Felt bad all day. Seemed like every bone in my body ached. Rheumatism. Loaned our bookkeeper a dollar. Found out afterwards he wanted to get drunk. Then I was sore."

October 21. "Barnum and Bailey show today. Went to the factory early, stayed until 11:30. Went up to the Avenue to see the parade. Then wife and I drove to the show grounds. Charlie was frightened by the elephants. Home to dinner. Then wife and I met Bert and family at the Main hotel. Bert came with me. Olivia and children went home with wife. We went to the show at night. The children, Cecil, Mary, and Nellie, enjoyed it and were as good as could be. A long wait for the streetcar but made it all right."

October 22. "Bert and I drove to the factory early. Bert took horse and buggy and drove to Rim and Bow factory. Brought Cecil when he came to take me home to dinner. He took me back to factory and then he and Olivia went for a drive. I had some sawing done for the building. Raised the smoke stack over the second boiler. Bert came for me at 3:30. We went to Spiro this evening."

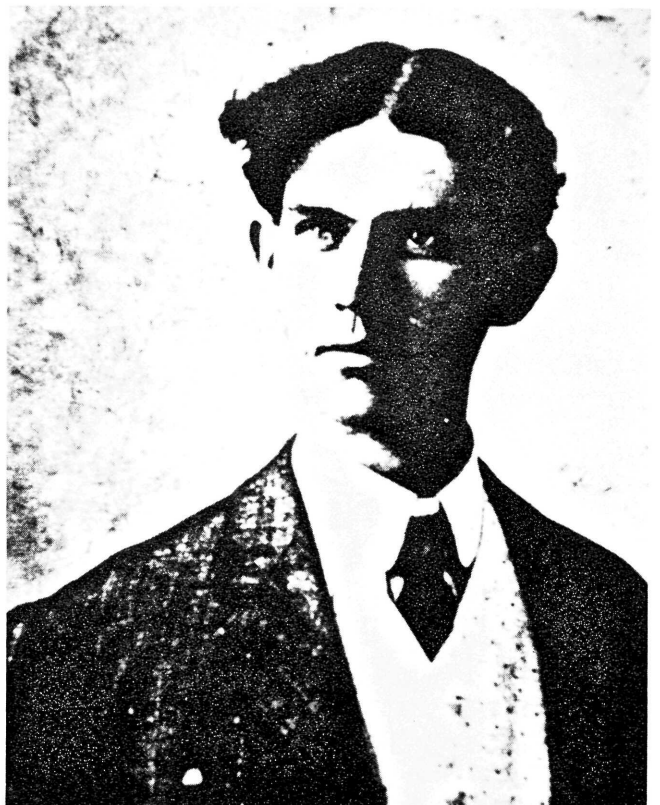
October 23. "Raining. We only worked three hours because of the weather. After dinner at home we took buggy to blacksmith shop. Joe Patrick wanted me to go up town with him to deposit \$800. He paid me the \$50 he owed me. I lost \$10 before we came back. Couldn't find it. I led my horse home and then came back to town."



Mayo E. Jeter's grandchildren, L. to R.: Back row, Marguerite Gilstrap, Cecil Jeter, Bernadine Jeter, Nellie Jeter. Front row: Mary Jeter, Marie Gill, Jerome Gill, Juanita Jeter and Melba Jeter.



Mayo E. Jeter and grandson Cecil V. Jeter.



John (Johnny) Jeter, Mayo E. Jeter's nephew.

Bought two heating stoves, two kitchen chairs, a little table and rocker. Price \$19. The Towson avenue streetcar went off the track and I took Little Rock car and walked four blocks. Did more walking than any time for a month. Wife sick."

October 24. "Worked at home all day. At five, harnessed horse and took him to the blacksmith shop. Buggy wasn't quite ready. I waited and then drove to the factory. Received my check. Talked with Mr. Spinks for awhile and then drove down town to get medicine for wife. At 7, Bert called and wanted to know if we had eaten. He came out and ate supper and then took Olivia and the children to the Lyric theatre, returning at 10:30. Wife resting better so I bought her some hot tamales."

October 25. "Sunday. After breakfast, Bert and I drove out by the gas works and over some of the fine drives of the city. After dinner, I took Cecil and Mary to the Frisco depot. Bert and Olivia and Nellie went on the streetcar. Olivia and the children went to Fayetteville. Bert and I had a fine drive, getting home at 4:30. Mrs. Spinks visited Mrs. Jeter. Bert thought she was such a fine lady. After supper, Bert, wife and I went to Presbyterian church to hear the Reverend Bass from Ozark. We enjoyed ourselves. Splendid. Bert left on the train for Oklahoma."

October 26. "Went to factory early. Started mill at 10:30 with Fred Harmon sawing. Came home at 3:30 and wife and I went on street car to depot to take the Iron Mountain to Sallisaw. Couldn't make our connection until midnight so we went to the Oklahoma hotel for supper and waited until midnight. Borrowed a lantern from Mrs. Adair to take with us to Redland. We certainly needed it to find our way to the hotel, an awful place to go over."

October 27. "Wife and I stayed at the Kelly hotel and had a fine breakfast. Went out and looked over some walnut logs at a sawmill, also at the railroad. At 8 a.m. boarded the local for Sallisaw. The Iron Mountain to Fort Smith was two hours late so we took the Kanas City Southern by way of Spiro. I bought our lunches at Spiro. We arrived in Fort Smith at 1:10 p.m. Walked over to Towson avenue and bought a quart of linseed oil, then took the Arkoma streetcar to the junction, found we were on the wrong car. Walked home. Letter from Nellie."

October 28. "Went to factory early. Began laying floor for lumber carts. Worked on that until dinner time. Then began sawing. Cut several prime poles for our building. Spinks landed two large rafts. The river has been up.

Heavy rains on the Canadian river. The Missouri Valley railroad bridge washed out. We caught a good deal of it in the mouth of the Poteau river. My sawyer cut into a huge spike with the saw. Didn't hurt the saw much. My wife had a suit of clothes cleaned for me today."

October 29. "Went to mill early, ran saw all day, making great lumber and lots of it. Stubblefield hauled logs from the Poteau river, 5,000 feet after dinner. The men are getting along nicely with the building. Received three bushels of turnips from George Riley. They are fine and we certainly appreciate them."

"Wife bought some fine apples. Letter from Maude. Sorry to hear Marie burned her hand. A message from Brother Will in Trenton, Mo. He can't make trip to St. Paul. I wrote all of our children to come to Fort Smith to meet him. He leaves Monday. We hope to have a fine time."

October 30. "Had the mill running all day. Cut about 10,000 feet of lumber, good lumber with even thickness. Have been busy today, keeping lumber of different yards separated. I hired a new ratchet setter. He is doing well so far. The men have the roof over two-thirds of the building and most of the machines ready to run. Received orders for a car of egg crates and a car of macaroni boxes. We can fill both of them."

October 31. "River began falling today. We have about 200 cottonwood logs caught in the last rise of the river. Some very fine ones. Sawyer ran saw into large spike breaking the points off all the teeth. Our bookkeeper fell off the ladder at the factory, skinning his teeth and hurt his arm. The carpenter made good headway on the building. Our planer and saws are doing fine work. Very satisfactory to Mr. Spinks. I drove up on the Avenue and bought two dozen hot tamales. Wife and I had a feast for supper. Mr. S.S. Fisher, dressed as a witch, and Mr. Ballinger, as a ghost, came to see us in their Halloween costumes. They certainly looked funny."

November 1, Sunday. "I just received a letter special delivery from Brother Will. He is in Kansas City, starts to Fort Smith this eve. Wife and I drove to town, bought oranges, candy, grapes, celery, chicken. Made arrangements to meet Brother Will and wife. I sent telegrams to: W.T. Jeter, Baltimore Hotel, Kansas City, Ed Jeter, Pettigrew, Walter Gilstrap, St. Paul, and phoned S.L. Gill, Fayetteville. Maude said she would not be able to come. We are so sorry. A busy day for us, getting ready to receive company and so short a time to prepare. Expenses \$2."

Brother Will and his wife were on their way home from Washington, D.C. where on October 20, 1908, he was admitted to practice in Supreme Court.

November 2. "I went to the factory and arranged to visit brother two days, then drove up town, bought a shirt, tie, and basket of grapes. Then home and changed clothes, drove to livery barn and hired a two-seated buggy and then to depot at 9:30. The first one I met was Melba Gill. I was so glad to see them all. Brother Will and wife, whom we had never met. We were happily surprised to see the Gills. Melba and Marie rode in the buggy with Brother Will, his wife, and me. Sam and Maude came on the streetcar. Another happy meeting when we arrived home and wife met them with hugs. We had a fine dinner, then S.L. Gill and Brother Will and his wife had a two-hour drive. At 6:20 the Gills returned to Fayetteville. We met Vol Walker at the depot. Bert came at 8 p.m. Had a pleasant day. Expenses \$5."

November 3. "We slept late giving Brother Will and wife time to rest. Bert met them before we ate breakfast at 7:30 a.m. At 9:30 Brother and wife and I went for a drive, going by the Burke Brick plant and the gas fields, coming back through the best residential part of the city, arriving home at 11:30. I put up the horse and all of us went to the Main hotel. After partaking of a nice dinner and Brother Will and I calling to mind many funny things that happened in our boyhood days and having plenty of fun, we went to the Electric Park, then called on Mrs. Spinks where we spent an hour, pleasantly, then to the depot where brother and wife left on the 4:20 p.m. on the Frisco to Mansfield, then on the Rock Island to Oklahoma City.

"This being election day, I drove over and voted. Wife and Bert going along. We changed buggies, came home and ate supper. Received telegram from Ed stating his regrets that he couldn't meet his uncle, and a letter from Nellie, just heart broken that she couldn't be here. I was so sorry for them for we wanted them to meet Will and wife so much. At 8 p.m. Bert, wife and I went up on the avenue to get the election results. Bert was tickled tremendously when he heard Taft was elected. We came home at 10 p.m. and had a good night's rest. Expenses \$6."

November 4. "Much pleased with the results of the election. Phoned wife the good news. At 8 a.m. went to work straightening the mill yard, clearing up. Had everything in good shape by 5:30. Wife lonesome all day. Received a postal card from Sister Mattie that she would start to Fayetteville the 7th. So we will have her with us.

Wife made me a stew and had me bathe my feet for a very bad cold. I think I will have a good rest."

November 5. "Though I have a bad cold and heavy cough I went to the mill at the usual time. We ran the saw until 10:30 when we cut all the logs we had on the skids and I had my Negroes stacking lumber. All green hands. Did better in the afternoon. I felt splendid over the results of the election. A Republican elected Governor of Missouri. Three Congressmen and 25 representatives in Oklahoma. Good news to me. Crawford County, Arkansas went for Taft."

November 6. "Went to factory at 6:30 after getting mill to running. Mr. Spinks glad Missouri went for Taft. Turned out some fine lumber today. I hired a man to begin stacking in the morning. Loaded a car of bridge material for the Missouri Valley railroad after 6 o'clock. Have been on my feet so much today I am very tired and one of my heels hurts so very bad I can hardly walk."

November 7. "It's like spring today. This afternoon we cut ash ready for re-saw. Sold some cull lumber also some first class lumber to Burke Brick plant for \$25 per thousand feet. Every department of our factory made a good showing today. Mrs. Spinks and my wife drove down to plant and complimented us on everything. After supper, wife and I drove up town. I got a shave. She shopped. Then to Kress store where I bought two mouse traps and a toaster. On way back we met Jim Campbell and wife and visited a few minutes. Drove home and ate tomatoes. Expenses 80 cents."

November 9. "Mr. Spinks contracted 100,000 feet of cottonwood to a folding bed company today. My fireman quit and I hired two more. I came by the M.C. Greenhouse and bought 100 plants of privet hedge for Joe Patrick, paying \$4.50. Wife received postal from Sister Mattie. She will be here tomorrow. A funny thing happened to me this morning that I will always recall."

November 10. "Mattie Keester and son, Willie, of Chillecothe, MO, and Jessie and Jennie Summerville of Butler, PA, arrived at 4 p.m. So glad to see them, meet the Summerville girls, very handsome. Wife had a fine supper and we enjoyed it. Willie Keester and the girls went up town to the Lyric."

November 11. "Wife and I ate breakfast early and I went to the factory. Willie went with me after dinner, then took the horse and buggy and drove around town. Then wife and Mattie drove out to the factory, then home. Willie came for me. We drove over a small portion of the city.

Had a letter from Bert rejoicing over the election. It did me good to read it."

November 12. "Hired a new engineer. Also hired two Negroes. Got all the shed done but putting on the roof. A very bad cold and cough. Willie Keester came to the factory after dinner with some cough medicine, took my horse and had him shod and brought him back to the factory. I met Mr. Bowers today. He was collector in the Choctaw nation when I was railroading in 1895. Our fruit trees came and look very nice."

November 13. "Early breakfast of French toast. Good time visiting before dinner. Then Willie and the Misses Summerville came in. They had been looking through the stores and over the city. Well pleased. They went up in the city tonight. I still have a cold and didn't feel like going."

November 14. "Wife and I ate breakfast at six. Ran the sawmill until noon. Four of my men helped run the re-saw at the factory. After supper, wife, Mrs. Keester and son and Misses Summerville went up town. I got a shave. We took in the Olympic moving picture show, went to the LeFlore hotel, bought four dozen tamales, bananas and nuts. Came home by streetcar. Had lunch, pleasant evening, retired at a late hour."

November 15. "Beautiful day. Late breakfast. I took Willie for a drive around the gas fields and a few good places. Then he and Jessie went driving. We had dinner at 1:30. Then Mrs. Jeter took Mattie for a drive, returning at 5. We ate supper at 7. Then wife, Mattie, Willie, and Misses Summerville went to the Central Presbyterian church. Pleased with the sermon."

November 16. "Went to work feeling quite bad with cold and fearful cough. Changed engines at 10 and had better results. Went home at 11:30 for early dinner. Then Mattie, son and nieces went to train, going to Fayetteville and then to St. Paul to see our children. We enjoyed them so much."

November 17. "John Parker came to Mill to collect \$45.75 for fruit trees. Paid Bruce Brothers collection \$3.35 for putting in our water pipe. Mr. Brown collected \$3 for sand to build out smoke house. Wife and I set out 11 fruit trees after dark. Letter from Ed."

November 18. "Very warm for this time of year and smoky like Indian summer. Went to work at 6:30. We took one dry pile of lumber and walnut. New friction did well but belts got loose. Bothered us. Nice letter from Nellie and nice postal from Maude with the children's picture.

We think it's just fine. One of my men, Mr. Center, mashed one of his fingers."

November 19. "Letters from Maude and Willie Keester, who wrote from St. Paul, said he was having a good time. Maude wants us to spend Thanksgiving with them, which we certainly would enjoy, would like to see them so much.

"Wife served fine beef liver for supper and I did justice to it and three glasses of buttermilk. One of the men at the mill broke the large planer."

November 20. "Spring-like day. The fire department called to put out several fires caused by people burning leaves in their yards and vacant lots. Wind very high. Got our cut-off saw to running and did very well. Unloaded two cars of logs and cut most of them up. One of the Negroes cut his hand on the saw. Not serious. Broken box in planer will cause two days delay. Still have a bad cold. Wife bought a bottle of malt and I think it has done me some good."

November 21. "Fine run at the mill in every department. Machinery is in good order and we're turning out a fine grade of lumber. Will soon have our building complete and ready for the fine trade we have promised. Have received letters from business firms assuring confidence in trade since the election. Looks good for next year. After supper, wife and I drove up town. I got a shave at Carrigan's and she got a baking pan at Kresses."

November 22. "Rain. River rose five feet in 10 hours. Wife and I stayed home until 6 p.m. when we called on Mr. Guerning for a few minutes. Had a pleasant time. I wrote letters to Ed E. Jeter, J.B. Jones, J.B. Jackson, J.H. Nickens, William E. Keester, and postal cards to Marie Gill, Melba Gill, and Marguerite Gilstrap. Wife wrote Maude and Nellie. Wife prepared a fine dinner of roast pork, fried doughnuts, pie and coffee. We ate at 3 o'clock. My cold is better."

November 23. "At mill, belts broke several times on account of rainy weather. Hired two men today, fired one. Changed route to plant, now going on Dodson avenue. Much better drive. My corns hurt fearful, also my rheumatism. Going to be bad weather. Wife bought feed for horse, \$1.40, paid electric bill, 95 cents."

November 24. "Unloaded and cut a car of gum logs. I hired and fired Tom White of Mulberry today. Our ratchet setter was sick. My cold still stays with me."

November 23. "Heavy rain at 8:30. We continued working during the storm. Mr. McGraw rode with me to the plant at 6:30. Wife and I went up town after supper. I got a shave. A

A fire was reported and we went to look at it. Thought it was the box factory. We drove hard to see it. Was the cotton oil mill, a great fire, also Kelly's lumber company. Both cars looked fearful. Four cars loaded with cotton seed were burned. We stayed until danger to box factory was over."

November 26. "Thanksgiving. Ate breakfast at 5:30. Wife attended Thanksgiving service at Central Baptist church at 7 a.m. I went to box factory and put men to work until dinner. I scaled butter tub stuff in the morning. Met wife at the Spinks' where we had dinner. Table loaded. Fine, large, well-cooked turkey. Everything in first class style. At 1:30 we went to the plant where I finished scaling lumber. Then Mr. Spinks and I drove back to his house for another hour. Wife and I drove home. Bought sausage and butter."

November 27. "We started our ditch — six feet deep by 150 feet long — for a sawdust pit. Quite a job. Received several cottonwood logs out of the river, a car of walnut from Charleston, AR... My cold is still very bad. Cough wearying. Sometimes I get out of breath while coughing."

November 28. "Finished our ditch. Put in tiling but didn't get it covered. Had car of walnut logs unloaded and cut most of them into lumber. Finished stacking ash lumber and butter tubs. On way home, my horse got in a big hurry and made record time and mud covered me and the buggy."

November 29. "Raining very hard. When I went to feed horse this morning found wife hadn't put feed in his box last night, so I startled him. Had a fearful coughing spell last night. The worst I've had. Read papers and the Bible. Ate dinner at two o'clock. River rising. Record rainfall in Tulsa."

November 30. "Phoned George Riley of Mulberry to go to Arbuckle Island and raft logs across the river. Mr. Spinks is catching logs at the Poteau river. I sold several loads of wood and cull lumber and we completed covering the ditch for the sawdust pit. It is keeping the pit dry. I had a strong threat of paralysis this afternoon for 10 minutes. Felt bad all evening but had a good night's rest. John Madison, one of my Negroes, was put in jail, Sunday. I hired a man in his place. We finished sawing the car of walnut. It did not make good lumber. We got six good logs to hew for export stuff."

December 1. "My cough much better. Finished unloading a car of ash and cut most of it. Logs turned out considerably clear three and four-inch planks. Letters from daughters and first one from Marie. River 29 feet at noon."

December 2. "Cloudy and damp. Ran the mill most of the day. Unloaded car of ash. Had a time getting out the log that fell between the car and the skids. Letter from St. Paul bank with check for \$10. Balance due on Nickens' account. Letter from Willie Keester. I wrote Ed and Marie."

December 3. "Misty. Fine day to catch cold. Fine day's run at the mill, making very good lumber. Cut several thousand feet. Everyone doing good work except bookkeeper who kept going up town to get whiskey. I gave a man a lift for two blocks. Thought it was one of our neighbors. Found he was a section hand on the Missouri Pacific. It was dark and his walk and talk fooled me but he never knew it. Guess he thought me very kind."

December 4. "We carried some stocks of lumber to factory to work into boxes. Unloaded two cars of logs. Didn't saw much. Two of the carpenters had words. One of them a preacher. Laughable to hear Joe Patrick tell it. Had several loads of wood delivered by a new hauler. Engine at box factory gave us trouble, stopping work all afternoon. Mrs. Spinks came by streetcar to visit wife this afternoon. They had a nice time."

December 5. "The Holland and Boles contest for the Senate growing warmer. Senator Clark said in a speech to the Waterways Commission yesterday the Arkansas river was a scapegoat and ought to go dry, had only sent floods to wash out Arkansas fame."

"Fine run at the mill. A man came from Kansas City to work on stave business. Wife and I went to the Avenue on streetcar. I got a shave, cashed my check and we came home."

December 6. "After breakfast, I read Talmadge on the Holy Land, the Bible and newspaper. Took bath at 11:30 a.m. Dressed my corn. After writing in this book, wrote Brother John. After dinner, wife and I drove down to see the river and then to livery stable to see a buggy and harness on sale. Then out to 200 Grand avenue where wife went in to see Mrs. Hughes. Saw several new homes just about completed."

December 7. "George Riley came to see me, told of rafting logs off Arkbuckle island. Arranged with Joe Patrick for a hunt next week. Mr. Purdy came home with me for dinner, told of losing a horse and wanting a job. I didn't have anything for him. We did some quarter sawing. Everything went smoothly. I sold \$10 worth of wood. Kept up with the lumber stacking. Card from Marie."

December 8. "Had fine run at the mill, some fine figured quarter oak, four to six inches thick."

Fired a Negro. Two little girls rode to school with me and were very polite in thanking me when they got out."

December 9. "Sawed up all the logs in the yard and cut some very fine ash. Sold some cull and a clear 72 feet plank for \$5. We are getting ready to load cars tomorrow. Letters from Nellie and Bert. We thought it so nice to hear from our older son and daughter yesterday, our younger ones today. Will answer first two tonight. Old Albert Myers came to see me and wanted money to get back to St. Paul. I sent him out home and wife gave him \$3.50."

December 10. "No sawing today. We cut posts, prepared to load two cars but the inspector never came. My sawyer hammered some band saws for Scottie Stocker. My cold is worse. Talked with Mr. Harding, this morning, about a buggy I'm about to buy."

December 11. "We began loading two cars of ash at 9 o'clock and finished at 5:30, loading 15,687 feet. Fine, considering how many ends we had to saw off. Only four men and a boy working. I sold two loads of wood and a little cull lumber and 12 clear 2x4x12 for coupling poles to a Mr. Lunsford on South 6th street. Began stacking cottonwood for bed company. Wife cleaned back yard. Looks fine. Cold is some better but my bones ache."

December 12. "We cleaned up yard. Didn't run mill. I went up town at 4:30 and looked at a buggy. After supper, wife and I went back to town. She bought a pair of shoes, some soup plates, a collar and muff for Marie. I bought hot tamales and ham. A man chasing another man hit him on the head and knocked him against my buggy. It was a sight to see that fellow run. Back home I found a coat in the back of the buggy. Don't know where it came from. Received letter and check for \$3.50 from Albert Myers."

December 13. "Read the Bible and papers. Wrote Bert in Bacon, Okla. Wife prepared a nice dinner. Then we went for a drive to the new addition, North Fort Smith, then around to where Lee Elliot used to live. Wife went to the door, opened it, said 'Anyone home?' The woman who came to the door is a stranger, said the Elliots have moved. Wife felt cheap. We drove over to 6th street. No one there. Then to Frisco to wait for the train. Then to the J.C. Caseys. They were not home, so we drove home. Saw Maggie Hall on the Avenue."

December 14. "Went to the factory as usual. Hired an engineer. He worked more than three hours and never raised steam so I turned him off and hired another one. We re-stacked some

lumber and began to extend our platform for lumber. Saved some 27 feet of prime for a house boat. Hired four new hands. Noticed in MOUNTAIN AIR see changes in the Glendale hotel. W.C. Gilstrap renting it to a Mr. Young. Joe McGallaird very low with stomach trouble."

December 15. "Had pancakes for breakfast. I'm feeling much better. The mill ran all right until noon when one engine got out of fix. I had all the engineers at the factory work on it. Didn't find what was wrong. Will try again tomorrow. Received some large logs today, 900 to 1242 feet. Joe Patrick and some of his Negroes had a fight. No serious damage. Wife had backbones for dinner but both of us off our feed. Didn't want them."

December 16. "I was sick all night. Went to the factory but returned home at 9 a.m. Went to bed and stayed there all day. Wife baked me an apple and made potato soup and I began to feel better. At the mill I had three of the men examine the engine again. Found one of the key seals broken and blown out through the exhaust pipe. I had them take the engine to the foundry. Couldn't get it back until Saturday so I let part of my men work for Joe Patrick and part in the box department. Mr. Spinks said he never received a cent from the yard today. When I was there he would get from \$5 to \$8 a day so he missed me."

December 17. "Felt some better today so went to mill early. Put my men to cleaning up and getting lumber ready to re-saw. Mr. Spinks was looking for partner of his firm from Kansas City and wanted to get everything in good shape. All machines running. We kept everything moving and man from Kansas City real pleased. Left on 6 p.m. train. Wife had a fine dinner and I ate heartily for a sick man. Received a letter from Marie that was such a treat I felt better after reading. Maude sent a letter from Julie Summerville wanting to meet her in Fayetteville the 24th. I answered Marie's letter."

December 18. "I couldn't sleep and got up at 2 a.m. and wrote in this diary and started a letter to Nellie. Wife got up too. Felt much better this morning. Went to mill early. Nothing to do so I let some of my men off and put them to work in the box department. We carried 12,000 feet of lumber to re-saw. Went down to our veneer plant to see the drag saw. It did fine, will save money. One man does the work of five. Wife sent overcoat to cleaners. I got chilled in the evening and took more cold."

December 19. "Temperature dropped 40 degrees in 12 hours. I worked only five men.

Engine didn't come back from foundry until 5 p.m. We didn't get much done toward putting it together. My wood sale was light. We received some very nice walnut logs. So many men applied for work. Some of them nice looking fellows. We had no jobs. My wife shopped on the Avenue and called on Mrs. Spinks. She bought a few presents. I went with her at 7. Never saw such a crowd. The clerks couldn't wait on them. We bought a china chocolate set for Maude."

December 20. "Up at 7 and ate a hearty breakfast of pancakes and syrup. The pickled herring we ate last night gave us a good appetite. Read paper and Bible. After dinner went for a drive over north and south Fort Smith. At 5 p.m. heard fire alarm and went back and found a hay barn close to vinegar factory. Quite a fire and close to several large oil tanks. People came from all directions to see it."

December 21. "Sold \$12 worth of wood, our largest sale of wood in some days. Put engine down and started sawing at 10. Got along nicely until 3 p.m. when a friction pulley gave out and shut us down. I had to send for friction paper and will finish pulley in the morning. Wife went to town and bought Marie a black cloak at Mowren and Johnson, \$6. Mr. Golden bought us a nice bucket of cream and arranged for wife to milk their cow for two weeks."

December 22. "We finished our friction wheel and went to sawing at 9 o'clock. We cut up a huge log and began on smaller ones. I had some of my men unloading a car of oak. We are re-sawing for Mr. Honsburger. It is slow work, cutting parquet floors. Letter from Brother John. He has three new grandchildren. Glad to hear from our baby, Nellie, sorry Marguerite is feeling so bad. Joe McGallaird died December 12, 1908. Wife bought Christmas presents for the children today."

December 23. "I came home for early dinner and took wife to depot. She left on 12:30 train. Letter from Marie dictated to Santa Claus. So cute and well written."

"Every hand at factory expecting a great Christmas. George Samuels leaves tomorrow for Kingfisher, Okla. He gave Mr. Spinks a watch fob. I look after his men. Miss wife. Mrs. Searles left her children with me while she shopped until 10 p.m."

December 24. "Got up at 4:30. Fixed breakfast. Wrote letters to wife in Fayetteville and Albert Myers in St. Paul and was ready to go to work at 6. First one there. Began unloading a car for Honsberger. Didn't get through until 1 o'clock. Came home and fixed dinner. Back at

mill we had trouble with hotbox and had to babbitt it, which took most of evening. We quit work at 4:30. Paid off and treated all to cigars, drove downtown and had a haircut and shave, then home, got supper, went to bed at 7:30. Had a fearful time coughing. At 10 p.m. phone rang. A mistake."

December 25. "Got up at 7, got my breakfast, washed the dishes, swept the house, made bed and went to cutting wood. Mrs. Guering invited me to dinner with them. Also Mrs. Fisher and son invited me. Later, Mr. Guering came over just as I got through bathing and I went home with him for dinner ... Had everything heart could desire. I did justice to my part of dinner. After dinner went to depot to meet wife. Train was an hour-and-a-half late. I came home and cut wood, went back at 5 and met wife and Marie and Melba. We came home on the street car. I hitched my horse to buggy and went back after children's trunk and many good things to eat Maude had sent me."

December 26. "At mill I put three men to work overhauling our feed pulley, looking over engine, clearing up and putting some boards on side of shed to keep the dust from blowing off the log skids. After dinner I went up town with wife and little girls to exchange some Christmas presents. Melba went with me to the mill. She had been frightened when we went up in the elevator at Johnston's store. She said she didn't want to go in the cage with that Negro again. And when we came back she said she wasn't going up in that alligator with that Negro and that is a cinch. I thought her remarks funny. We bought dishes and dolls for the children. I wrote a letter to Maude."

December 27. "I had a fearful cough when I got up. While we were reading the paper, a boy came with a telegram from S.L. Gill announcing the arrival of a son at 5 in the morning. So glad they had a boy. Mother and baby doing well. I wrote a letter of congratulations and also wrote Nellie. At 2, we went for a drive and I bought bananas for the children. The Western Grain company had a fire at 5:30. We came home and wife milked the Golden's cow."

December 28. "Didn't do much sawing. One of the belts gave us a lot of trouble and we finally had to send for new belt. I hired two extra men, one of them to stack lumber. Both good workers. Sold \$5.75 of wood and looked after the box department. Mrs. Spinks visited wife. Melba had a fine time."

December 29. "Fine run at the mill this morning but after dinner the saw ran into something that just ruined it. We couldn't find

out what. The sawyer went to hammering the saw and I took my crew to unloading a car of logs. I was mad all afternoon but when I came home I was all right. Melba and Marie ready for a show so wife and I took them to the Lyric. They saw Santa Claus in one of the display windows on the Avenue. Had a fine time at the show but Melba was frightened by one of the performers and caused Mama Jeter lots of trouble. Received a nice rug from Ed and Annie."

December 30. "Good run at mill. Unloading a car of logs had a time getting two out of car. One scaled 932 feet. Sold \$9 worth of wood. Letters from Maude and Nellie. Maude doesn't have any help and wants Mama to bring the children. Nellie wants us to come to St. Paul but we are too busy. Jim Gilstrap got one of his eyes hurt, may lose it entirely. We're sorry for him. Mama is making dresses for the dolls, getting ready for the trip to Fayetteville. I will pack their trunk while they are asleep. They had a great time with two little Fort Smith girls."

December 31. "We rose early. Wife had to get Marie and Melba ready to go home today. We ate breakfast at a quarter of six. She had some nice pancakes for us. She went to barn and helped hitch up horse and buggy for me to drive to the factory. Mr. McGrew rode part of the way with me. We finished unloading a car of logs, then ran saw until dinner, commenced to unload another car finished by working overtime.

"But came home for early dinner which wife had ready. Marie and I took trunk to the depot in the buggy. Wife and Melba went on street car. It was cloudy and cool, 40 degrees. I stopped and bought some barbecued beef to send Maude and Sam. Just had time to buy a ticket and check trunk before train started, then forgot to give wife check and drove two blocks when I remembered and drove back. I didn't cook anything for supper. Just warmed coffee and ate a cold supper. I was lonesome. Wife always meets me at the barn and Marie and Melba had been there and the last night of the old year. I was alone and no one but me can tell how I felt. But we can expect these things to come and buck up. One thing I do feel proud of. I have spent this year better than any year of my life since I can remember and I'm going to try to improve more each year I live ... I thank God for His many blessings and the great opportunities I have had and the financial success and the health of myself, our children, and grandchildren. And as I close this book with the year, I pray we may all have a great spiritual blessing poured out and the Great Creator sees that we

need and helps us prepare our hearts for the Great Day that is coming. May we make the world glad that we are in it and our light ever shine, proving we are what we profess to be is my prayer." So ends this book of events of 1908.

LATER ENTRIES IN DIARY

1. *House burns, August 15, 1909*
2. *Holiday in Corpus Chrsi, December 1910*
3. *Christmas dinner, 1912*
4. *Last week at Factory, January 1913*

August 15, 1909. "Our house caught fire when the Searls' house burned to the ground. Also, Mrs. Williams' house just south of the Searls' burned down. Total loss of our house and furniture, \$1200. Don't know what we will get from insurance. Marie was with us, frightened almost to death. Everyone worked like heroes to save our house and furniture. Must have been 500 people there. So many people made so many kind offers. We accepted the offer of Mr. Bledsoe to stay at their house for one night. Now we are trying to get along at home. Mr. Spinks sent four Negroes to carry what was left of our furniture back in our house. We were taking supper and breakfast at the LeFlore hotel when the Spinks came after us to go home with them. We couldn't write our children because Nellie was in the hospital with a baby four days old. Didn't want to get her excited. Thermometer registered 108 degrees the 16th and 17th. I received a phone call from wife our house was on fire and drove a little over a mile in four minutes."

HOLIDAY IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

December 24, 1910. "Weather fine. Warm. Bought two tickets to Corpus Christi, Tx. Round trip \$57.50. Left at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Arrived in Paris, TX at 5:30 p.m. over the Frisco railroad. At 8 p.m. arrived in Dallas over the Santa Fe. Arrived in Houston at 7:30 a.m. over the Houston-Central railroad. Missed connections by being at breakfast too long. Stayed in Houston, Sunday. Wife and I rode all over the streetcar lines, viewing the city from every side. Stopped at the Brazios hotel at noon for dinner. Ate at the table with Mr. and Mrs. Pratt of Sterling, IL. Fine company. Mr. Pratt wanted me to go to (illegible) to look at land for investment. They wanted to visit an orange orchard at Alvin. Our dinner cost \$2.00. We find Houston a good city, full of business. Population, 78,000.

"After spending the day and having a pleasant time, we left at 7:30 p.m. on the Brownsville and Mexico railroad for Corpus Christi, arriving at 6:10 a.m. I found a lady's purse with two small pocketbooks, one contained \$1.20 in silver, the

other, brown leather, 50 cents and a \$5 bill #B59280515, and a card with the name, Miss Agnes McGregory. The purse was a clouded brown color with initials in silver block.

"When we got off the train we met Mr. Craig and rode with him in his automobile to his house and engaged a room without board. We went down town and had an order of fish and coffee for lunch. I asked Mr. Craig if he knew a Mr. Bishop. He said he was taking some people out to Mr. Bishop's little town if there was room he would take Mrs. Jeter and me. There was and we went with Mr. Cohn and his wife. He's a merchant and a capitalist.

"There was another automobile with six people. One was Mr. McMillian, editor of the *Corpus Christi Call* and his wife. We drove 30 miles in two hours, arriving at Bishop at 10:30 a.m. where we met Mr. Bishop and many others. After looking over his water power and electric lights, four of us took a ride in an automobile to see his garden, deer park and other parks. As we drove along a wolf jumped up and Mr. Bishop, a fine shot, took an automatic 32 Winchester and hit it the first shot. They put it in the auto and brought it to the hotel. Mr. Bishop had some Mexicans skin it and gave me the hide.

"At noon, we were seated at table of 28 people and the finest table we had ever seen. The cost of dinner \$2.00. All of us were greatly surprised at such a dinner in a town only six months old. Electric lights and water works, and a table decorated with the splendor of the Waldorf of New York. After partaking of so many good things to eat, we again went out for automobile rides, leaving Bishop's hotel at 4:30 p.m. and arriving in Corpus Christi at 6. Then Mrs. Jeter and I went to the Pavilion on the Bay and ate supper. After strolling along to see the ships coming in and the electric lights, we went to a moving picture show and then to our boarding house. Next morning we left on the ? and Aransas Pass railroad, took dinner at the Hotel Green on the famous Cha-Taft ranch. After dinner, the manager took us through the hotel, showing us the President's room when he visited his brother. Everything elaborate and up-to-date. We returned to Corpus at 3:05 p.m."

CHRISTMAS DINNER 1912

December 25, 1912. "Breakfast at home, dinner at Royal Cafe, Fort Smith. Plenty of turkey. Not many at dinner. Most everybody taking dinner at home. Went for a drive. At 4 p.m., thought we would get some fresh oysters but all butcher shops closed, Mrs. Jeter made French toast. We ate in the sitting room off a chair. Held family prayer. Retired."

LAST WEEK AT FACTORY, JANUARY 1913

January 1, 1913. Wednesday. "Worked at factory all day. Not having very good success. Clell Hazlett ran sawmill. Did very well, cutting 100 cords and sawing 2,000 feet of logs."

January 2. "Worked at factory all day, having good success."

January 3. "Worked at factory. Engine couldn't hold steam. Didn't do any good."

January 4. "Worked at factory all day. Didn't do much good. Sawmill closed down and I quit the factory for good."

PORTION OF LETTER FROM WILLIAM T. JETER TO HIS BROTHER MAYO E. JETER, 10/6/1925:

Uncle Thomas Jeter, our father's oldest brother, lived in Lincoln, California, when I came west in 1876, and until his death many years after. He wrote quite a long letter to me January 11, 1880, giving bits of family history as told to him by his grandfather ... Our grandfather's first name was Thomas; he had but one brother whose name was William, and one sister, Elizabeth. The origin of the name in America is traced to two brothers who came from Wales in the Colonial period, and settled on the James River near Richmond, Virginia. Our ... grandfather came from the descendants of the brother who remained in Virginia. The other brother removed from Virginia to South Carolina ...

Our grandfather's family, all born in Jefferson County, Kentucky, near Louisville, was Thomas Horatio, William Griffin our father (born Sept. 20, 1807), Obadiah, Ambrose Elijah, Anne America, James Madison, John Dabney, Sarah Ann, Mahaley Jane, and Elizabeth Frances. Our grandmother was the daughter of Samuel Benfield, of English birth; he was a soldier in General Washington's command through the Revolutionary War. Grandmother Jeter was a native of Annapolis, Maryland.

Mother's ancestors on grandfather's side were from Ireland to Virginia; her mother's name was Anna Weir, or Wier (am not sure which way it was spelled), of either the English or Scotch race. Both grandfather, Samuel Berry, and grandmother Berry were natives of Virginia. Mother's maiden name was Elizabeth McCutchen Berry; she was born Oct. 3, 1812, at Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee; removed with her father's family to Illinois when she was thirteen years old; married father in 1832; removed to Livingston County, Missouri, 1857, where we all grew up and lived to the time of her death March 31, 1876.

Family of Mayo Emmett and Mary Catherine Somerville Jeter

10>-Mayo Emmett JETER -----

- b. 6-15-1853 in Menard Co. Ill., near New Salem.
- m. 12-25-1873 to Mary Catherine SOMERVILLE at Chillicothe, Missouri.
- l. Grew up in Livingston, Co., Mo., then moved to St. Paul, AR in 1887. Owned and operated hardwood lumber mills. Rep., Presbyterian. Blind last 15 years of life.
- d. 3-14-1932 Monday, 1am at home in St. Paul of heart failure. Interred at Brashears Cemetery (Was 6'4" tall, 200 lbs.).

15>-Mary Catherine (Mollie)

SOMERVILLE (SUMMERVILLE) -----

- b. 3-29-1855 Kittaning, Pa (Armstrong Co.) *(About 1868 travelled with parents by riverboat Allegheny, Ohio Mississippi, Missouri Rivers and overland to Caldwell Co., Missouri, then a year later to Livingston Co. Owned and operated the Glendale Hotel in St. Paul, Arkansas.)*
- d. 1-8-1936 Memphis, TN. Interred at Brashears Cemetery. *(Was 5'5" tall, 120 lbs., blue eyes and soft voice.)*

(Mayo and Mollie Also lived at 904 S. 22nd in Fort Smith from 1907 to 1913 in Keota, Stigler County Oklahoma from 1913 to 1920 and finally in Combs, Arkansas near St. Paul until Mayo's death in 1932. Mayo kept a diary for the year 1908, "The Happy Year".

Harry Albert JETER ----->18

- b. 12-28-1878 near Chillicothe, Mo.
- m. 4-6-1898 Olevia KIMBALL; ch: Mayo E., Cecil V., Mary I., Nellie L., Wm. T., Norris K., Max A., Harry A., Olevia Theresa.
- l. Missouri, Arkansas
- d. 3-28-1963, Norman, AR.

William T. JETER -----]

- b. 9-20-1874.
- d. 7-22-1877 (CVJr has letter written by Uncle Will to his nephew from Virginia City, Nev. on July 20th, 1876.

Edward Elton JETER ----->29

- b. 10-8-1876.
- m. 9-18-1901 to Annie MILLER ch: Mary Eva (Bill), Juanita, Bernadine.
- l. Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma.
- d. 12-10-1937, Interred at Roselawn Cemetery, Fort Smith, AR.

Maude Myrtle JETER ----->27

- b. 3-15-1883.
- m. 8-7-1901 Samuel L. Gill ch: Marie Vivian, Melba, Jerome Howard, Helen Doris, Samuel Lankford, Jr.
- l. Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee.
- d. 10-19-1974, Interred at Forest Park Cemetery, Shreveport, LA.

Nell JETER ----->28

- b. 11-6-1885.
- m. 11-6-1901 Walter C. GILSTRAP ch: Walter, Jr., Virginia Grace, Marguerite, Kathryn, J.M. (Dick).
- l. Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas.
- d. - -1974.

Jack / Jacob S. Gregg, M.D.

By Amelia Martin

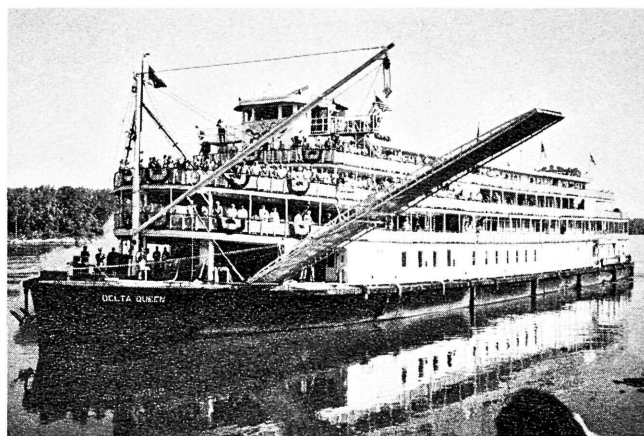
Dr. J.S. Gregg, who practiced medicine in Fort Smith was the family doctor for the Jeter family. He was born in West Alexandria, Ohio, in 1885. There is some confusion about his first name because the Centennial History of Arkansas, page 626 and the Fort Smith Telephone Directory show his name to be Jack S. The 1942 American Medical Directory showed him to be Jacob S. The funeral home record of his death and the newspaper obituary both say Jacob Smith Gregg. Perhaps all three are right and Jack was a nickname.

Whether Jack or Jacob, he was born in West Alexandria, Ohio, September 12, 1886 (this 1886 date is also questionable, because another source says 1885). His parents were William and Katherine (Smith) Gregg. The father was a soldier in the Union Army in the Civil War.

Dr. Gregg's boyhood and youth were spent in Ohio; he attended the Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, graduating in 1904 with a degree in pharmacy; and graduated in 1908 from the Miami Medical School, a department of the University of Cincinnati. In 1910 he graduated from the Eclectic Medical College, and began active practice of medicine in Thomas, West Virginia, remaining there through 1912. He practiced in Pine bluff, Arkansas, 1913-1919, and in May 1919, moved to Fort Smith to do general practice, limited to some extent to gynecology and pediatrics.

Dr. Gregg was married in 1913 to Miss Bessie Robertson. He was a thirty-second degree Mason, a mystic Shriner, a member of the First Christian Church, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, Sebastian County Medical Society and the Arkansas State Medical Society.

When Dr. Gregg died March 21, 1948 in his home at 416 Lecta, he was survived by his wife, two brothers, Clarence and N.O., both of West Alexandria, and one sister, Mrs. William Burnette of West Alexandria. His funeral was held in the Fentress Mortuary with burial in the Forest Park Cemetery.



DELTA QUEEN ARRIVES

The first steamboat passenger service to Fort Smith in over 80 years began July 28 when the Delta Queen from Memphis, under the command of Capt. Gabe Chengery, landed at Harry E. Kelley Park at the foot of Garrison Avenue with 80 crew members and 150 passengers aboard.

Built in 1926, the Delta Queen is a three-tiered steamboat which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark.

Four trips to Fort Smith are scheduled this year, and six in 1995. (Photo by Dr. Art Martin)

Annual Business Sponsors

Baldor Electric Company

P.O. Box 2400
Fort Smith, AR 72902

Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

3600 Phoenix
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Taliano's Restaurant

201 North 14th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901

City of Fort Smith

623 Garrison Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Holt-Krock Clinic

P.O. Box 2418
Fort Smith, AR 72902-2418

Edwards Fentress Funeral Homes, Inc.

201 North 12th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901

City National Bank

1222 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Spiro State Bank

Spiro
Oklahoma 74959

Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Center

2 North B Street • Fort Smith, AR 72901

Inquiries and Letters

Inquiries and letters are printed free as space allows, but must have some connection to Fort Smith or be submitted by a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society. Effective inquiries must contain full names, dates, places and submitter's name and address. Don't laugh!!! Some people do fail to give an address where they hope to receive an answer to their communication.

* * * * *

ROGERS — Searching for any of Captain Hugh L. Rogers descendants. He had two sons, Edward James and James Patrick who lived in Fort Smith. Children of Edward James and Ella Blanch Merriman were Minnie b. 1875, Catherine "Kate" b. 1876, W. Howard b. 1879, Emma b. 1888 died young. Edward James' obituary shows that Kate married Will Burns who was a salesman for a clothing store. W. Howard and Rose's children were Edward W., Clairene, and W. Howard, Jr. Will Burns had a brother Charlie. Charlie and Katherine's children were Mollie b. 1819, Kate and Leo b. 1881. Charlie worked for the Elevator Con P. O. and was the City Recorder. Edward James son, W. Howard moved to Dallas, TX. Minnie married J. E. McConnell and moved to Oklahoma City. Edward W. and Clairene also lived in Dallas, TX when Edward James died in 1923. — Alberta Johnson Blackburn, 305 North Hillcrest, Ada, OK 74820. PH: (405) 332-3915.

* * * * *

HOLLAND — Seeking information on Nathan M. Holland b. 1853 in MS, wife Mary Ann (Holt) Holland b. 1855 GA, married ca 1878-1880 Little Rock, AR, son William A. b. 1883 Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. — David Holland, P.O. Box 191, Vader, WA 98593. PH: (206) 295-3808.

* * * * *

REDDING/HODGE/HARMAR — Looking for following families: Isaac Redding b. 1818 North Carolina and Elizabeth Hodge b. 1816 TN; Nancy P. Redding b. 1840 AL and William Henry Harmar b. 1831 in England; J.W. Harmar b. 1858 Johnson Co., AR and Magrete ? Harmar b. 1862 AR. J.W. and Magrete had 7 children listed on the 1910 census living in Fort Smith AR: William K. 31, Mollie 28, Lillie 25, Martha 22, Johnnie 17, Arthur 9. 1920 census shows them in Van Buren, AR, Crawford Co. — Dianne Pepper, 7501 N.W. 9 Hwy, Kansas City, MO. 64151. PH: (816) 741-0506.

* * * * *

DOUGLAS — Trying to locate Benjamin F. Douglas (Serial Number 0811181) from Fort Smith who was co-pilot of a B-24 aircrew during World War II flying out of England while bombing Germany. If information is available call (210) 655-5935 collect or write to Ralph S. Saunders, 8714 Pintail Point, San Antonio, TX 78239-2742.

* * * * *

PELLY/WILKERSON — Need any information on Pelly family which was prominent in Fort Smith during the 1800s, particularly Lydia Ann Pelly who married John Wesley Wilkerson. — Kathy Reed, 224 West Grand, Gardner KS 66030. PH: (913) 856-4012.

* * * * *

WHITE — Looking for information on Harmon Cleveland White, b. 14 April 1886, and Charles Edward "Charley" White, b. 25 Sept. 1866, sons of Rev. Elijah Francis White and Sarah Susannah Jane Neal. Charley resident of Fort Smith in 1930/40/50, where he married. — Ms. M. "Jane" White Price, P.O. Box 106, Webb City, MO 64870-0106.

* * * * *

SULLIVAN — Wilford or Will Sullivan, b. Nov. 1885 in Montague County, TX. Lived in Fort Smith at one time. — Robert V. Drennan, 3009 Medina Dr., Garland, TX 75041-3350.

* * * * *

MARSHALL — Need death date on McKinley (Mac) or Kenerly Marshall, died and buried in Fort Smith about 1845—1855. Parents' names were D.L. (Loomis) Marshall and Dora Anderson. Deceased born ca Oct. 1897 in Logan Co. KY — Mrs. Anita (Marshall) Holt, 4626 Rambo Lane, Toledo, Ohio 43623-3930. PH: (419) 474-2658.

* * * * *

MALEDON/EATON — Preparing manuscript for publication on George Maledon, who served as hangman for Judge Parker. Need any information and photos. Also need information on Frank Eaton who claimed he rode for Judge Parker. — Jerry A. Parker, 15150 Kleberg Road, Lot 57, Dallas TX 75253-5312.

* * * * *

LONG — Searching for information on George Long. Wife, Sara(h), d. ca 1907. Five children, Bill, Asby, Arrie, Hattie and Robert Lee (my grandfather). George was a stone mason. Any information appreciated. — Ron Long, 1105 South Stockton, Ada, OK 74820.

* * * * *

Genealogy

Choices ... The American Civil War in Arkansas

The Arkansas American Civil War Association is planning to publish in the Spring of 1995 a new two-volume history entitled *Choices ... The American Civil War in Arkansas*.

Volume one of the set will contain an in-depth study of the forty-eight months of Arkansas history. Volume two of the set will contain biographical sketches and photographs of Arkansas Civil War Veterans.

For an information packet with instructions for preparing your ancestors story, write to Jim Lair, Director, Arkansas American Civil War Association, P.O. Box 312, Green Forest, AR 72638-0312.

—●—

The **Guide to Family Associations and Newsletters** is a publication which lists surnames represented by an association and the address of

each association. It is published in three volumes, A-F, G-N, and O-Z, and can be ordered from the publisher. The Fort Smith Historical Society has received a review copy of volume 2, but did not receive cost. For more information write to Claudette Maerz, P.O. Box 31010, Bloomington, MN 55431.

—●—

We also received a copy of Volume I of **The Guide to Research Helpers & Helps** which is a listing of research aids and the names and addresses of persons to contact for help in research. Two volumes are available, approximately 50 pages each, names of 400 helpers in each volume. Cost of each volume is \$10.00 plus \$1.50 shipping. Order from Debra Koeppel, 10925 Ewing Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431.

Book Notes

The Fort Smith Historical Society reviews books on Arkansas or Genealogy, and others written by a member of the Society, when a copy of the book is received for that purpose. After review, the book is placed in the Arkansas Room at the Fort Smith Public Library, designated a gift of the author and the Society.

* * * * *

A FAREWELL TO FAMINE

by Jim Rees

174 pages, paperback. Price \$19.95. Available in Fort Smith through Vivian's Bookstore, 400 North Greenwood Ave., 72901 or Chestnut Books, 2801 Old Greenwood Road 72903.

In October 1850 over 800 people emigrated to America led by their parish priest, a Father Hore. A *Farewell to Famine* follows the group's progress from Fr. Hore's urging them to leave their homes to their settling in regions as far apart as New Orleans and Iowa, which included Fort Smith, Arkansas. The group left Liverpool in three ships — the "Ticonderoga," the "Loodianah" and the "Chasca." The passenger lists of all three vessels have been found in New Orleans and are published in this book. Ages, family relationships, and, in several cases, where they settled in America are listed.

This book, which contains many photographs reproduced for the first time, was written from in-depth research of archives in Ireland, Britain and the United States and from family papers now in the possession of descendant families in America.

Reviewed by Amelia Martin

JOHN SEBASTIAN LITTLE, THE GREAT COMMONER, STATE OF ARKANSAS

by Freed Sebastian Little

63 pages, 8-1/2 x 11, indexed. Price \$10.95 plus \$2.05 shipping and handling. Available from Freed S. Little, 5644 Westheimer, Suite 203, Houston, TX 77056.

John Sebastian "Bass" Little, born March 15, 1851, was the grandson of Eaton Tatum in whose house the meeting was held to form Sebastian County and was the first child born in the new county of Sebastian. He became an educator; lawyer; prosecuting attorney; state legislator; circuit judge; chairman of the State Judicial Convention of 1893; U.S. Congressman, Western District of Arkansas 1893-1907 and Governor of Arkansas, 1907. In addition to the above, Gov. Little served his community, county and state in many many ways beyond his call of duty. This well documented biography, written by Gov. Little's grandson, is the most in-depth biography of Gov. Little which has been published. In a very readable way, the book tells the story of his life, his family back through his grandparents, and his public service, mentioning other citizens of Sebastian county and Arkansas that he worked with through the years. In addition to libraries, Arkansas history teachers, and history scholars, this book will be of special interest to members of the Tatum, Little, and Irwin families as well as other connecting families. One of his father's brothers married a sister of Daniel Boone.

Reviewed by Amelia Martin

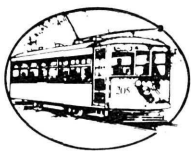
News and Opportunities

FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Except for life members, it is time to renew your membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society.

When renewing your membership, why not remember someone else with a membership?

1994-95 officers and board members of the Fort Smith Historical Society are:

Robert Taylor, President
Jan Eddleman, Vice-President and Associate Editor
Joanne Swafford, Treasurer
Cynthia Bedell, Recording Secretary
Jo Tillery, Membership Secretary
Virginia Bruce, Corresponding Secretary
Amelia Martin, Editor
Sarah Fitzgerald McCullough, Assoc. Editor
Eddell Wortz
Harry Blackman
Ben Core
Helen Harper
David Olive
Betty Roebuck
Frances "Chee" Berry
Larry Tennant
Dorothy Williams
Thelma Wray
Mary Lou Jacobsen
David Harris
Mardell Plainfeather



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Exciting things are happening at the Trolley Museum.

Fort Smith Light and Traction car #224 has been named to the National Register of Historical Places. This is a deserved honor for the many who have worked hard to restore the car to operating condition. To date nearly 50,000 riders have ridden the restored trolley and heard the history of trolley transportation that was an important factor in the growth of cities in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The 50,000th rider will receive a weekend night for two at Fort Smith's Holiday Inn Civic Center and a gift certificate from the Catfish Cove restaurant.

It is regrettable that the old LeFlore Hotel has had to be torn down, but because of its

demolition the Trolley Museum has the opportunity to extend its track across Rogers Avenue and stop at the curb on Garrison Avenue. This will not only increase the length of the ride on the trolley, but will increase exposure to traffic on Garrison Avenue. The help and encouragement of the Downtown Merchants Association is appreciated in making this important one block extension possible.

The planned extension of the track alongside the National Cemetery is progressing. All of the track is in place, but part needs rebuilding. Metal poles have been installed to hold the overhead wire. It is hoped that both of these projects can be completed this season.

There is a continued need for people to operate the trolley. If you are interested, call 783-1237. No prior trolley operation experience needed, operators will be trained.

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NEWS CHRONOLOGY **JANUARY 1994 — JULY 6, 1994**

Sources for the compilation are the *Fort Smith Southwest times Record*, *Window on Westark* and *Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce*.

JANUARY 1994

3rd — Mary Copeland, successful engineer and drafting instructor at Westark Community College, retired after 22 years. She received her education in engineering in the 1940s, when women were not supposed to "make it" in the field usually reserved for men.

7th — The United Way of Fort Smith Area, Inc., surpassed its \$1.5 million fund-raising goal with \$1,558,000 total in pledges, according to campaign chairman Bobby Ferrell, area manager of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

14th — Fort Smith and Van Buren filming of Trimark Productions' feature film, "The Lone Rider," starring Rob Lowe, Bill Paxton and Randy Travis, began.

17th — New Lincoln Child Care Center, located at 1415 North 9th in the historic Lincoln High School building, opened to provide day care and pre-school training for children ages 6 weeks to six years.

17th — Former School Superintendent and World War II veteran, C.B. Garrison, has fought most of his adult life for education. Although he is not paid as a lobbyist, the Fort Smith School District pays expenses when Garrison, 69, travels to Little Rock to monitor legislation.

* * * * *

18th — Future development of the Fort Smith Regional Airport will include relocating the airport terminal to the opposite side of the airport, according to a study released by Garver and Garver Engineers of Little Rock.

* * * * *

19th — Ayers Furniture Company, which had its beginning in 1892, was sold to the highest bidder at auction. It was done so with regret by the owners who had hoped that it would enjoy the success it once had.

* * * * *

26th — Fort Smith voters narrowly snuffed out a controversial smoking ban in the city Tuesday, ending a two-year effort by People Against Secondhand Smoke. The vote failed by 51 percent to 49 percent.

* * * * *

27th — Unexpected gains from a Fort Smith sales tax helped boost 1993 city funds by 6.5 percent, according to annual figures released by city finance director Kara Bushkuhl.

—●—

FEBRUARY 1994

8th — Five of the publicly held companies based in the Fort Smith area announced solid earnings gains for 1993. They are Arkansas Best Corp., Beverly Enterprises, Inc., Treadco, Inc., USA Truck Inc. and Baldor Electric Company.

* * * * *

22nd — Whirlpool's Fort Smith plant will produce 250,000 of the nation's most super-efficient refrigerators (its own design), with the final model expected to roll off the line in 1997. It will produce the newly designed refrigerators for the areas served by 24 U.S. public and private utility companies in the Super Efficient Refrigerator Program.

* * * * *

22nd — The new airport terminal which is in the planning stage is expected to cost at least \$9.5 million and will be developed in stages.

* * * * *

28th — For Fort Northside High School senior, Vinh Quoc Chung of Fort Smith, brains and brawn have turned out to be a winning — and

moneymaking — combination. Chung, 18, was recently chosen as the only male student in Arkansas to receive the Amateur Athletic Union/Mars Milky Way High School All-American Award. Chung is the son of Thanh and Hoa Chung, and was valedictorian of his graduating class. His award was \$1,000.

—●—

MARCH 1994

2nd — Bob Riddle, former Northside High School football player turned scientist, has helped to identify a newly detected gene that plays a key role in embryo development. He and his wife, the former Betsy Wilder, live in Boston with their two-year-old daughter, Anna Celeste.

* * * * *

3rd — The nation's third largest electronic security company has purchased Spurling Fire and Burglar Alarm of Fort Smith, reports Spurling owner, W.K. "Mac" McGehee. National Guardian Security Services Corp. of Greenwich, Conn., new owner, will enable Spurling to grow. Its 32 employees will keep their jobs and some can expect promotions within the new company, reported McGehee.

* * * * *

4th — Probate Judge Bernice Kizer retired March 3 after a lengthy career of public service to her credit. She was one of the first five women to enroll in the University of Arkansas Law School and the first woman judge in Arkansas.

She was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1959, where she served for 14 years. She also served as a city director for four years.

* * * * *

20th-22nd — Fort Smith hosted annual Governor's Conference on Tourism. Fort Smith has been bidding against other cities for the conference for the past three years.

* * * * *

21st — The local H.C. Tucker Duck and Awning Company rated mention in the syndicated newspaper column, "Ask Anne & Nan," in answer to a request about buying ironing board covers.

* * * * *

23rd — Fort Smith's Board of Directors expanded the city's border, adding about 250 acres to the corporate limits and a welcome mat for a proposed housing development.

With a 6-1 vote, the board approved two land annexations on the city's south side. Director

Nan Bartlett voted against the annexation, saying police could not adequately patrol an expanded city.

* * * * *

24th — Polly Crews, after 20 years as director of the Fort Smith Art Center, announced her retirement effective August 1. Julie Lind will become the new director on that date.

* * * * *

24th — Recipients of the Fort Smith Civic Center awards for their commitment and contributions to the visual and performing arts in Fort Smith were William M. Cromer, Tom Flocks, Mary McDonald and the Arkansas Best Corporation.

—●—

APRIL 1994

8th — Gov. Jim Guy Tucker presented the Owens-Corning's Fort Smith plant with one of seven 1994 awards for recycling and solid waste management. The plant produces glass fiber paper that is used in the company's roofing shingles.

Steve Gately, owner of Fort Smith Waste Paper, the company that has worked with Owens-Corning to recycle waste fiberglass, also attended the ceremony.

Besides saving the company \$277,000 in landfill costs over the three years prior to 1994, productivity jumped 15 percent in the same time period. Owens-Corning plans even more recycling.

The city of Ozark received a Governor's Award for its composting program.

* * * * *

22nd — Recipients of the 1994 Secondary Social Studies Educators Award are Bettye Moulton, of the Clayton House's Fort Smith Heritage Foundation; Jeanne Ledbetter of the Old Fort Museum; and Chapter 467 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The annual award is granted to "people who have made outstanding contributions to the historical development of Fort Smith."

—●—

JUNE 1994

27th — Dr. Leo Mahoney, a history and political science instructor at Westark Community College, has been commissioned to write an article on types of government for "Survey of Social Science: Government and Politics," a new encyclopedia being published by Salem Press of Pasadena, California.

* * * * *

28th — Guy Nichols received the United States Department of the Interior Honor Award in

Santa Fe, New Mexico. The award was presented by John Cook, Southwest Regional Director of the National Park Service. On May 24, Nichols, who has served as park ranger at the National Historic Site in Fort Smith for 30 years and 20 years in the military service prior to that, received high honors in Washington, D.C. He was presented a 50-year pin for his service to the U.S. Government, and a wooden plaque presented by Roger Kennedy, Director of the National Park Service.

—●—

JULY 1994

6th — As part of a nationwide effort to upgrade the weather service, forecasting and warning duties of the Fort Smith weather office were split between offices in Tulsa and Little Rock which will be using WSR-88D, or Doppler radar, the latest in radar technology. That equipment greatly enhances the ability to forecast and monitor weather conditions.

The Tulsa office will provide coverage for all of northeastern Oklahoma and six counties in Arkansas, including Sebastian and Crawford counties. The Little Rock office will cover Franklin, Logan, Johnson, Scott and Polk counties in Northwest Arkansas.

Storm warnings will now be sent from the Tulsa weather service office to the Fort Smith Police Department's communication center, which will be responsible for sounding the alarm.

* * * * *

6th — Update on that American burying Beetle we wrote about in our April (1994) issue, and which was written up in the February (1994) issue of *Reader's Digest* in the section "That's Outrageous!" (not our writing).

The City of Fort Smith entered into a contract with Dr. Christopher Carlton, entomologist at the University of Arkansas, to monitor the beetle for the next four years at a cost of \$28,500.

This, of course, is looked upon by city officials and citizens as an unnecessary and outrageous expense to the local taxpayers. What next? (Copy of contract with Dr. Carlton courtesy of Assistant City Administrator, Bruno Rumbelow.)

* * * * *

28th — Delta Queen Steamboat made inaugural trip to Fort Smith — beginning regular schedule on the Arkansas River.

* * * * *

1894 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

March 9, 1894 to May 11, 1894

Extracted by Mary Lou Jacobsen from micro-film at the Fort Smith Public Library.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

March 9, 1894

A large number of play-goers from Van Buren came over to attend Beau Brummell.

—●—

Last Friday night Mrs. Henry C. Smith died ... Mrs. Smith was a sister of the late John Colbert, and her death was to some extent hastened by the shock occasioned by his death. Her remains were interred at the White Cemetery in Central City.

—●—

Mr. William King and Miss S.W. Burg, of the Choctaw Nation, were married in this city Monday at the store of Isacson. The ceremony was performed by Esq. Satterfield.

—●—

Mr. Henry C. Voldorking died at his home in this city last Saturday ... He was 44 years old, and had lived in Fort Smith about twelve years. He leaves a wife and several children.

—●—

**U.S. Court Proceedings
A Busy Week — A Large Number of
Convictions — The Johnson
Murder Trial Ends In a
Verdict of Guilty
(Article too long to print here)**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

March 23, 1894

Arkansas Industrial University
For Both Sexes
Winter Vacation

All sessions began March 8 and end December 8, 1894. One of the leading universities of the Southwest. Graduates fill high positions in various states. Literary, Scientific, Engineering, Mechanical, Agricultural, and Normal Departments in the three colleges at Fayetteville. Law and Medical Departments at Little Rock. Normal and Mechanical Departments for colored students at Pine Bluff. Twenty Three courses of study. Equipped with modern apparatus and appliances. Large attendance. Matriculation fee \$5. Tuition free to Arkansas young men and young women. Students from

other states pay only \$10 a year tuition. Board for boys in dormitory at cost \$7.50 to \$8.50 per month. Board private families \$12.50 to \$15.00 per month. Arkansas students should secure appointments from their County Judges —

For Catalog apply to
President A. I. U.
Fayetteville, Ark.

—●—

The Burgess Gun
12 Gauge Repeating Shotgun
Latest and Quickest Simplest and Safest
Double Hits in 1-8 second
Three hits in one second
Six hits in less than three seconds
Will Wirsing
Corner of Fourth Street and Garrison Avenue

—●—

Golf is spoken, it seems, without pronouncing the "L". English folk say "gawf", and if we import the game we should import the pronunciation.

—●—

DROWNED

Dub Covington, a negro boy, twelve or thirteen years of age, was drowned in a small branch near the Duval School house last Saturday afternoon. The water was less than two feet deep. The boy was fishing at the time and it is supposed he fell into the stream while in a fit.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

March 30, 1894

Those politicians of Crawford who fought Fishback so desperately will call on Sebastian one of these days, then we will see what we can see.

—●—

A severe cyclone passed over the southeast portion of the Chickasaw Nation on the evening of the 18th. A number of houses were demolished and several persons were badly injured. Mrs. J. J. Potnam and her daughter being among the number. Much damage was done to farming and growing crops.

—●—

One hundred and twenty five converts to the Salvation Army were baptized at Flat Rock near Van Buren last Saturday.

—●—

EXPRESS ROBBER CAPTURED

Wednesday morning Charles Ketcham, alias Charles Hardin, was arrested at Alma on a charge of having robbed the Wells Fargo Express Company of \$35,000, on the road between Louisville and Cincinnati about a year and a half ago. Nineteen thousand dollars of the money was found in his possession. Ketcham's parents live in Fort Smith, having moved here from Van Buren a short time ago. They are very respectable people and are greatly cast down at the act of their wayward son. Ketcham has been taken to St. Louis.

—●—

A NEW GAS DEAL

The money has been deposited in the First National Bank of this city to square the deal made by Mr. W. H. Beatty with the Fort Smith Gas Company before he left Fort Smith for New York. This will cause a reorganization of the entire affairs of the company, and will doubtless result in great good.

Fort Smith is certainly booming!

—●—

Robert Kahn, nine years old, was badly bitten Tuesday by a dog. He was taken to the home of Mrs. Ward, in the eastern part of the city where a mad dog stone was applied to his wounds. The stone, we understand, adhered several times.

—●—

Last Sunday afternoon Miss Agnes Caldwell of this city and Mr. Emmett Gallaner, of Stanton, Washington County, were married at the residence of the groom's parents. Dr. Coombs officiating. The bride is the daughter of Col. R. A. Caldwell of this city and the groom is a prosperous young farmer in Washington County. *The Elevator* extends congratulations and best wishes.

—●—

Tuesday night Mr. John Sharon had one of his legs broken in a scuffle with Mr. Bob Wyatt in the latters saloon. From what we can learn of the matter the quarrel arose over a "nick in the slot machine". Mr. Sharon's leg was broken by being caught in a small railing which runs across the lower part of the bar. It was badly injured, several of the bones being snapped off just below the knee.

★★★★★★★★★★

April 6, 1894

PARDON BY THE PRESIDENT

William Crozier, confined in the U.S. jail at this place for cattle stealing, has been pardoned

by the President. His pardon was secured through the efforts of Col. Wm. M. Cravens.

—●—

Ed Reed, a son of the notorious Belle Starr, has been arrested on the charge of introducing whiskey into the territory. Reed has only recently been paroled from the penitentiary, where he was serving a term for horse stealing.

—●—

A CARD

For the Democratic voters of Sebastian County — owing to the important and increased amount of work that devolves upon me at this particular time of year, growing out of the collection of taxes, it will be impossible for me to visit you at your homes, as I would like to do, and ask personally for your support at the coming primary election for the office of Sheriff. In the full hope you will honor me with a second term, I promise to carry into the next term my every energy of mind and body in the discharge of public duty, which, when strengthened by valuable experience of the past, will enable me to render you full and faithful service. Respectfully, T. W. Bugg

★★★★★★★★★★

April 13, 1894

REWARD FOR GIRL

George Farrow writes from Red Oak, I.T. asking for information of his daughter who was taken away two years ago. The girl's name is Lillie. She is now 14 years old, has dark hair, dark eyes, fair skin, and a scar over the left eye. A reward of \$10 will be paid for correct information as to her whereabouts. Address George Farrow, Red Oak I.T.

—●—

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Farris of St. Louis, are in the city. The guests of Col. and Mrs. W. H. H. Clayton on North Sixth. They are welcome visitors to Fort Smith as they number their friends by the score.

—●—

Dick's Mal-en-ol for man or beast. Internally at B.I. Shouse.

—●—

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

A limited number of 25 foot lots in Home Addition \$100 each.

Forty acres of river bottom land. 2½ miles from PO in fine state of cultivation for \$2,250, now rented for \$5 acre.

Five to ten acres on Greenwood Road, two miles from PO, not improved for \$100 acre.

Lots 1,2,3 and 4 block 25 Fitzgerald Addition, \$150 each.

Lots 7,8,9 and 10 Block 11 same addition \$150 each Cash.

Seven Room 2-story modern house, five blocks from avenue now occupied by G.R. Williams, price \$3,000.

"Court House" block on 6th street containing 12 lots, the only solid block of lots in the city. Something choice — \$8500 - \$2000 cash.

Carnall Bros.

Office in Elevator Building
719 Garrison Avenue

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

April 20, 1894

WOODS — BRUDER

Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock Mr. Bobt E. Woods and Miss Kate Bruder were united in marriage by Rev. Lawrence Smythe. The attendants were Mr. Frank Bruder, a brother of the bride and Miss Maggie Tobler. After the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's mother which was attended by a large number of friends of the bride and groom. *The Elevator* extends congratulations to the happy couple.

—●—

The warm soft rain of Monday night to Wednesday morning are having a wonderful effect on vegetation.

—●—

The first volume of the city directory by Maloney Directory Company, has been completed and delivered to subscribers. It is the most complete work of the kind ever issued in reference to our city and will be especially valuable for the purpose for which it is intended. The second edition will be issued in January. The directory shows Fort Smith to have a population of 16,232 an increase of about 2000 since the completion of the census of 1890.

—●—

SECOND PAYMENT MADE

Yesterday the second payment of \$15,000 was made to Messrs. Theurer and Johnston by the Fort Smith and Van Buren Bridge, Electric Railway and Power Company on a controlling interest in the Fort Smith Gas and Electric Light Company.

Mr. Beatty is making his payments promptly when due and those skeptics who contended the electric line to Van Buren would never be built, are rapidly changing their minds. The electric line will be built and work will begin as soon as Mr. Beatty returns from the east.

—●—

Let the soldier's grave be a mecca at whose shrine a wreath of flowers is laid on Memorial Day.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

May 4, 1894

OPEN ALL NIGHT

Texas
Corner
Saloon

1018 Garrison

The Blue front

Special attention to Jug Trade, Wine, Liquors.
Cigars

—●—

SMALLPOX PRECAUTIONS

In consideration of the fact of the appearance of smallpox in the city of St. Louis on our north and Texarkana on the south, we think it important to impress upon the citizens of Fort Smith the necessity of taking precautions against a terrible epidemic. This best can be done by vaccination. At present there is no cause for great alarm, but all persons not having been vaccinated, or having children who have not been vaccinated should have the matter attended to as soon as possible.

B. Hatchett, M.D.

Pres. Board of Health

J.A. Hoffman, Mayor

—●—

The Young Peoples Club of the Lutheran Church will hold a strawberry festival tonight on the corner of Twelfth and Hickory Streets. Everyone is invited to attend.

—●—

A SAD AFFLICTION

Rabbi Traugatt was suddenly stricken with total blindness Tuesday evening while walking along the street. His affliction is a result of paralysis of the optic nerve. He has for a long time been troubled with failing eyesight, and recently went to St. Louis to consult with occultists about his condition. From them he received little encouragement. It is a very sad case. Rabbi Traugatt is unusually esteemed in this city. Since the beginning of his ministry here he has made a host of friends among all creeds and classes by his endeavors to do good. It is to be trusted his ailment may be only temporary.

Arrangements are being made for giving an entertainment at the Opera House Monday Night, in the nature of a benefit for the Rabbi. This is being done without his knowledge or consent. *The Elevator* hopes the citizens will fill the house to overflowing.

—●—

IT'S ALUMINUM

And everything is being made of it. Cooking utensils, table ware and novelties of all kinds. Everybody wants it, and everybody buys it.

Agents wanted at once to canvass Arkansas and the Indian Territory, big pay.

Will D. Ham

Gen'l Agent

Call *Fort Smith Elevator*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

May 11, 1894

SENTENCED TO HANG

Last Friday, Judge I.C. Parker passed the sentence of death upon Willie Johnson, who was convicted at the last term of court for being accessory to the murder of Sherman Russell in the Indian Territory on the 12th of July 1893. Wednesday, July 25 is the day set for execution.

Sherman Russell was killed by Sam Woodward. Johnson is guilty of being party to the killing by aiding and abetting Woodward to commit the crime.

—●—

Fort Smith is an exceedingly fortunate city in more ways than one. Aside from all her other advantages she this year will reap a harvest by reason of the payment of the Cherokee strip money — \$8,740,000 in amount.

This is a big pile of money and it will help push over a dull season. But then, Fort Smith is all right in every way. Last year when banks were breaking and factories shutting down in the north, Fort Smith had no failures. Her Postoffice showed an increase in business through the most trying period as did her banks, her wholesale and retail houses and her moneyed institutions. Fort Smith's trade last year was greater than ever before, and this year's trade will exceed that of last.

—●—

CHIEF QUANAL PARKER

Chief Quanal Parker of the Comanche Indians possesses some odd traits of character. He occupies, with his five wives, a handsome home of 30 rooms near the reservation, and whenever he leaves for a journey he turns his wives out of doors because "they have no more sense than to let the house take fire and burn down during his absence". Quantel is 43 years old, very rich and inclined to adopt the ways of civilization to the extent of wearing its clothes, driving a team of fast horses and serving on his table the best the market affords. — *New York World*.

—●—

VOTE FOR FIVE MILLS

The statement published by the school board shows that the amount derived from the interest on our school fund will not support the public schools for nine months' term. The statement is plain and easily understood, and it leaves no alternative. We must either vote a five mills tax or content ourselves with a four months' term. The former will not be felt by our people, the latter will be felt by them, and most seriously. It will give the schools a set-back from which they will not recover for a long time.

Vote for a tax of five mills.

—●—

ATTEMPTS AT SUICIDE

Tuesday night there were two attempts of suicide in the city.

Mrs. Milo Creekmore attempted to shuffle off the troubles of this world with a dose of arsenic. Her condition was discovered shortly after she took the drug. Physicians were at once notified, who, by hard work, saved her life. Despondence is supposed to be the cause of her desire to try the climate of the undiscovered course.

Mr. J. L. Young, a saddler, took an overdose of morphine at his boarding home on Eighth Street about half past six o'clock. The rigorous efforts of physicians saved him. Mr. Young has been in poor health for sometime and it is more than likely this was the reason he took the deadly dose. Some of his friends feel the overdose was taken by mistake.

—●—

The second lecture of the series under the auspices of the Ladies of the Fortnightly Library Association was delivered in the Circuit Court room Tuesday night by Col. W. H. H. Clayton. The colonel's subject was "Man", and for an hour his audience enjoyed the scintillations of wit for which the gentleman is noted. It was a rare literary treat for those present. The next and last lecture of the course will be given by Dr. Howard Ayers.

—●—

Mr. Richard Stahl, the composer, now has charge of the choir of the Episcopal Church and has reorganized it with the following membership: Mrs. Hammons, Mrs. Ramey, and Mrs. Butler, Soprano; Mrs. Mantor, Alto; Mr. Frank LaFlore, Tenor; Messrs. Albens, Rogers, Voelter and Howell, Bass.

—●—

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NOTES: il - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait.
 por - a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.
 (---) - for such as title, marital status, degree, etc.
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