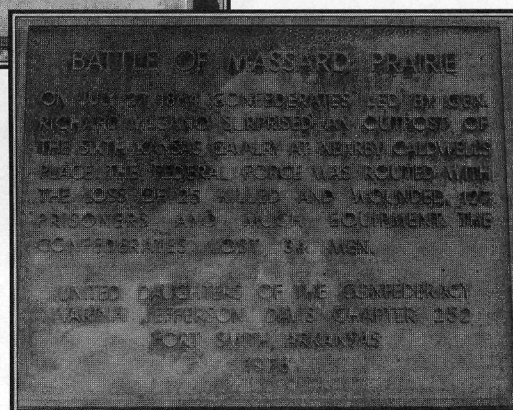
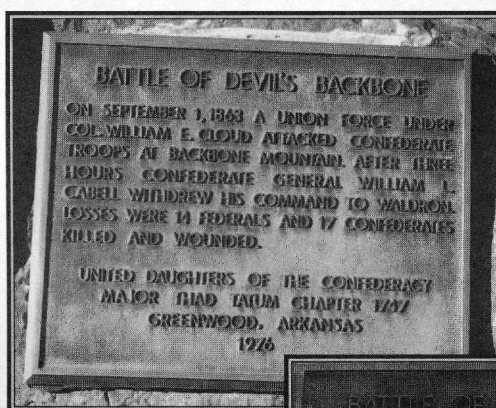
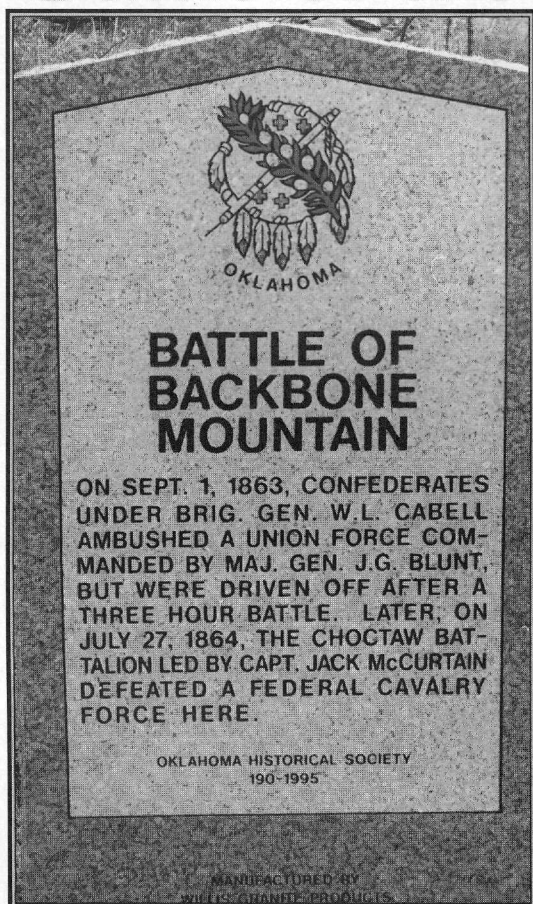


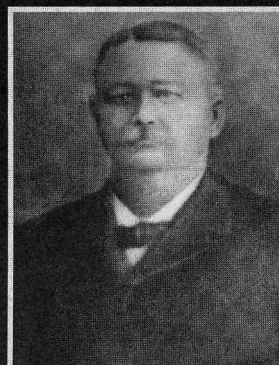
# The JOURNAL

## Battle of the Backbone Markers:



## Which Is Correct?

**A Look Inside:**  
Thomas Adams Smith  
Joseph Henry Willard  
Brig. General Bartlett Pearce  
U.S. Military Hospital  
Dr. Edward Benefield  
Car 10, Fort Smith Trolley Museum  
Plus Regular Articles and Features



**Vol. 22, No. 2, September 1998**

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# The JOURNAL

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COVER: Battle of Backbone Markers;  
Which Is Correct?

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# The Battle of the Backbone Markers: Which Is Correct?

By Michael Bryant

*(Michael Bryant is a native of Claremore, Oklahoma. He received his bachelor's and master's degree from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He has taught high school English at Spiro and Pocola, Oklahoma for 28 years and has been employed in the Fort Smith school system teaching summer school for the past 21 years. He and his wife, Gloria, have one daughter, Jennifer. He and his family live in Pocola, Oklahoma.)*

There is a historical marker, "Battle of Backbone Mountain," on Oklahoma State Highway 112 in Pocola which reads: "On Sept. 1, 1863, Confederates under Brig. Gen. W. L. Cabell ambushed a Union force commanded by Maj. Gen. J. G. Blunt, but were driven off after a three hour battle. Later, on July 27, 1864, the Choctaw Battalion led by Capt. Jack McCurtain defeated a

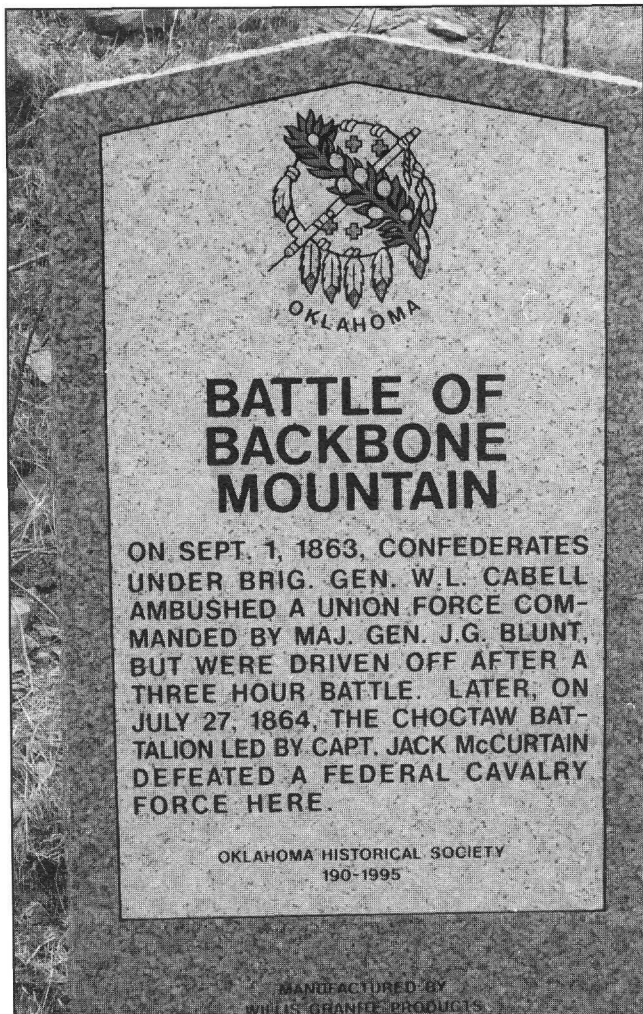
federal cavalry force here." This marker was placed by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

More information about Pocola's historical marker can be found in The Chronicles of Oklahoma:

"At a gap in Backbone Mountain on the Fort Towson Military Road, forces under the command of Major General James G. Blunt of the U. S. Army fought a three hour action on September 1, 1863, with Brigadier General William L. Cabell of the C. S. Army. Following an ambush of a portion of the Federal forces, the Confederate rear guard was driven up the mountain side to their main line of battle on the summit. Soon one battalion and three regiments of Confederates hastily retreated, leaving behind their dead, wounded, arms, and baggage, and ran through General Cabell's provost guard, and carried off with them eighty prisoners, most of whom were Union men held under sentence of death for treason and desertion. Confederate deserters then flocked to the Federal lines. Confederate losses were five killed and twelve wounded. Federal losses were two killed and twelve wounded. This action was a continuation of the skirmishes near Skullyville the previous day, and assured Federal control of Fort Smith.

"In another action at this gap on Backbone Mountain, the Confederate forces of Captain Jackson McCurtain of the Choctaw Battalion forced the retreat of a detachment of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry, U. S. Army, toward Fort Smith on July 27, 1864."<sup>1</sup>

Neither the marker nor the article explains why there are two other historical markers in Arkansas that commemorate actions on the two dates recorded on Oklahoma's marker — that of September 1, 1863 and July 27, 1864.



Marker located on Oklahoma State Highway 112 in Pocola.



Marker located on Highway 71 about three miles southwest of Greenwood.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a monument in 1976 with the title "Battle of Devil's Backbone" which reads: "On September 1, 1863 a Union force under Col. William E. Cloud attacked Confederate troops at Backbone Mountain. After three hours Confederate General William L. Cabell withdrew his command to Waldron. Losses were 14 Federals and 17 Confederates killed and wounded." This marker is located on Arkansas State Highway 71 about three miles southwest of Greenwood.

Regarding the incident of July 27, 1864, another marker can be found near the junction of Arkansas State Highway 45 and U. S. Highway 71, close to the Red Roper teen club, which is north of Rye Hill. This marker, "Battle of Massard Prairie," reads: "On July 27, 1864 Confederates led by Gen. Richard Gano surprised an outpost of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry at nearby Caldwell's Place. The Federal force was routed with the loss of 25 killed and wounded, 127 prisoners and much equipment. The Confederates lost 34 men."

A reading of the officers' reports does little to clarify the situation. United States Army Major General James G. Blunt filed this report on September 3, 1863, from Fort Smith:

"... I returned from the pursuit of Steele and Cooper, and marched with Colonel Cloud's brigade in the direction of this place.

"On the 31st ultimo, I encamped 3 miles west of the ford of the Poteau, 12 miles from its mouth. I there learned that Cabell was strongly posted near the ford, on the right bank of the creek . . .

"At daylight the following morning, I advanced to attack his position, but found that he had retreated during the night a short distance toward Fort Smith, and that from that point his force had divided, proceeding by various routes southward. I then detached Colonel Cloud . . . in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. He followed them closely 16 miles, when he engaged their rear, killing and wounding from 20 to 30, and capturing 40 pris-

oners . . . After detaching Colonel Cloud, I marched . . . to this place, and possessed the fort and city without opposition."<sup>2</sup>

U. S. Army Colonel William F. Cloud offers more details in his report filed on September 20, 1863:

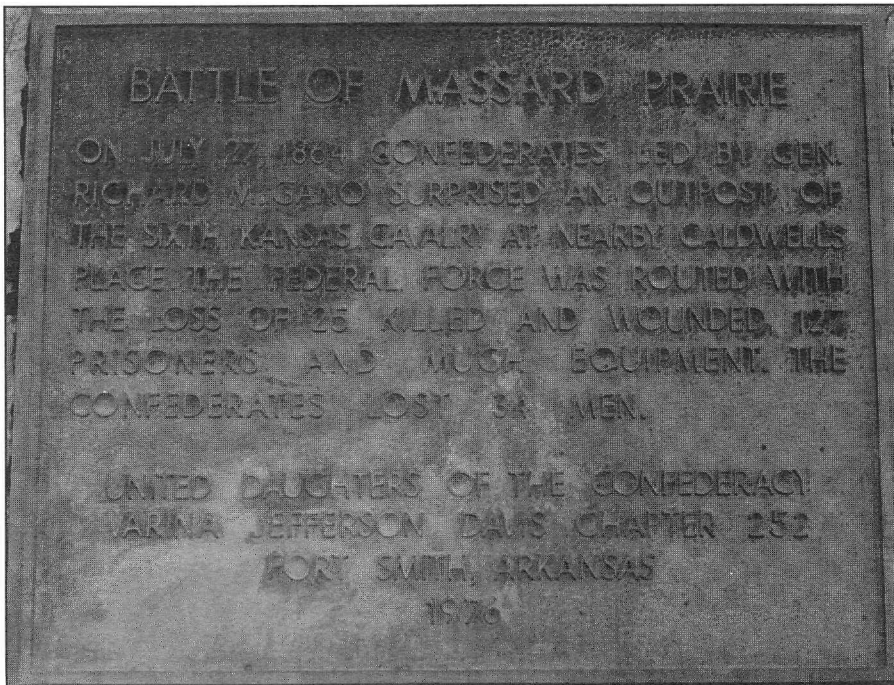
"We immediately started in pursuit of Generals Steele and Cooper, and . . . after a slight skirmish, drove them from their position . . . our army turned toward the forces of General Cabell, who was reported at the crossing of the Poteau near Fort Smith . . .

"On the evening of the 31st, we camped within 3 miles of the enemy, and at dark I took a small party to reconnoiter the enemy's position . . .

"In the morning, moving my brigade to the attack, the enemy was found to have retreated, at 12 o'clock in the night, in the direction of Fort Smith; but, upon following in his trail, it was determined that he had turned in the direction of Arkadelphia, entering that road at a town named Jenny Lind.

"At my request, General Blunt consented that I should . . . push the retreating enemy, hoping to capture baggage, &c. At 12 o'clock we came to their rear guard in ambush . . . I found a line of dismounted cavalry and howitzers, and steadily drove their rear from their position, and up the mountain side, to within one-fourth of a mile of their line of battle,





Marker located on Highway 71, near the junction of Arkansas State Highway 45 and U.S. Highway 71.

skillfully formed upon the summit of Backbone Mountain, of the Poteau range. I here brought my whole force into action, and for three hours the battle raged with variable violence. During a suspense of my fire, the enemy suddenly withdrew, leaving his dead and wounded, together with arms, baggage, &c., in our possession. I immediately occupied the field, and extended my pickets beyond, taking prisoners and receiving deserters, who came flocking in.

"Our entire loss was 14. The enemy's, in killed and wounded, was from 15 to 20."<sup>3</sup>

A more detailed account is provided by Confederate States Army Brigadier General William L. Cabell in his report of December 7, 1863:

"I have the honor to submit the following report in reference to the evacuation of Fort Smith by the troops of my command. . . . During the month of July . . . I was ordered to join General Cooper's command in the Indian country, which I did a few days after General Cooper's fight with Blunt.

". . . I received an order from General Steele to move to Scullyville, and to concentrate, as far as possible, my brigade there, to resist the enemy should he advance on me, and, if compelled to fall back, to take the road leading to Riddle's Station . . . I obeyed these orders strictly; moved to Scullyville, and encamped within 3 miles of it . . .

"On the 21st (of August) I received an order from General Steele to . . . ascertain, if possible, the strength of the enemy in Northwestern Arkansas. As it was impossible to get a position, on account of the scarcity of water and grass, near Scullyville, I concentrated all my troops at McLean's Crossing of the Poteau, 9 miles southwest of Fort Smith, and about 8 miles from Scullyville, on the middle road. I there made preparations to hold that place . . . I went to Fort Smith and found all the public property there. I also learned that there was a train of wagons loaded with ammunition for General Steele's ordnance officer at Dardanelle. I immediately sent an escort for it, and ordered it to Waldron, Scott County.

"On the morning of the 22d, I received a note from General Steele stating that the enemy was advancing on him in heavy force. I notified General Steele of the position I had taken on the Poteau, and after receiving his approval of the same, I made preparations to protect and send off the public property of every description at Fort Smith . . . My attention was also directed to gathering up my men as much as possible and scouting in the rear of the enemy, as directed.

"On the 30th, my scouts encountered the advance guard of General Blunt, 2 miles west of the San Bois, and skirmished with them until within 12 miles of Scullyville (and 20 miles of my camp), where they encamped, within 4 miles of my pickets.

"About 2 a.m. on the 31st, General Blunt's advance, under Colonel Cloud, attacked my pickets, and, after a brisk engagement . . . drove them back to the main body, under Colonel Thomson, near Scullyville. Colonel Thomson skirmished with them and held them in check at times until 4 p.m., until they reached the field near the Poteau Bottom, within 3 miles of my command, where they stopped farther pursuit with their cavalry, and awaited the arrival of their infantry and artillery. My command had been reduced at that time, by desertion, to about 1,250 men in all. After their infantry and artillery came up,



they attacked my skirmishers and penetrated nearly to the river. After a brisk fire on both sides for about an hour, the enemy fell back, with several killed and wounded (the number could not be ascertained, as it was some time after dark). Knowing positively that the enemy had at least 2,300 effective men and eight pieces of artillery, and knowing that I could rely on but little more than one-half of the small number of men I had to fight, I determined to fall back, and to reach, if possible, a range of mountains in my rear, and to get all the trains and public property of every description across these mountains, with the hope that I might possibly save them. It was impossible for me to fall back to the road (note: the road to Riddle's) that General Steele had designated . . .

"About 9 p.m. on the 31st, I determined to fall back, if possible, to Waldron, in Scott County. The baggage trains were all ordered to a little place called Jenny Lind, 10 miles on that road, early in the day . . .

"General Blunt, finding out that I had abandoned the position I had on the Poteau, sent Colonel Cloud, with 1,500 cavalry, six pieces of artillery, and 40 wagons loaded with infantry, in pursuit of me. They followed, and attacked the picket I left at Jenny Lind about 9 o'clock on the 1st day of September. The picket skirmished with their advance until they reached the foot of Backbone Mountain, about 16 miles from Fort Smith, where I had formed my command for battle . . . The action soon became general, and, after a heavy fire of nearly three hours and a half . . . the enemy were repulsed, with a loss of about 30 killed and from 100 to 150 wounded. My loss was 5 killed and 12 wounded. The number of missing I cannot state, as (several companies and regiments) ran in the most shameful manner. Hill's regiment, in running, ran through the provost guard, where I had 80 prisoners under sentence for treason and desertion. These men in running carried all the prisoners off with them . . . Had they fought as troops fighting for liberty should, I would have captured the whole of the enemy's command, and gone back to Fort Smith, and driven the remainder of the enemy's force off, and retaken the place. As it was, I . . . withdrew in good order, and marched to Waldron, Scott County, arriving there on the 2d of September."<sup>4</sup>

Even after reading the official reports, many questions concerning these historical markers arise – Which one is correct? What is the difference between "Backbone Mountain" and "Devil's Backbone"? Are they the same? Just exactly where did the battle take place? Where is "McLean's Crossing"? How could Cabell cross over Backbone Mountain (the one in Pocola, southwest of the crossing) before he reaches Jenny Lind, which is to the southeast, and then cross over Devil's Backbone (the one in Arkansas) on his way to Waldron? Since the date "July 27, 1864" appears on two different markers, are they referring to the same incident? Where is Massard Prairie? How does this battle relate to Backbone Mountain in LeFlore County in Oklahoma? Obviously, explaining historical events with markers is not as simple as it may seem at first glance.

After much research of existing records, one can conclude that the information on the markers and in the article is essentially correct. However, because of limited space, the markers cannot include all the necessary information needed to understand completely the historical event depicted. Yet, there are many discrepancies, errors, and misinterpretations in history books, state maps, historical magazine articles, and historical markers. Arkansas and Oklahoma differ in their accounts of the same events. Indeed, different agencies within the same state give seemingly contradictory reports.

After studying the issue, the researcher can reasonably conclude that there are three main reasons for the confusion regarding the Battle of Backbone historical markers:

- (1) The lack of accurate documentation of a minor skirmish creates many chances for erroneous information to be published and misinterpretations to be made.
- (2) There are two geographical features within mountain range that are named the same "Backbone."
- (3) There were two different military roads constructed from Fort Smith which were both called, among other names, "The Fort Smith to Fort Towson Military Road," even though these two roads were built at separate times and took different routes.

The lack of accurate documentation of a minor skirmish creates many chances for erroneous information to be published and misinterpretations to be made. Historians have a formidable task in reconstructing events that occurred over 130 years ago, especially when it comes to

recording accurately the facts surrounding a minor skirmish on the Trans-Mississippi. Many times the officers made little, if any, mention in their reports of small engagements. Often, these reports were filed several days later, which made the recollection of details that much harder. Also, historians struggle with the problem of transposing Civil War maps (if any were made) to current ones. Determining distances given by soldiers who were in unfamiliar terrain and under enemy fire can only be estimated today. Perhaps the most difficult task is matching names to towns, locales, and geographical features that no longer exist or have been renamed. In addition, it is quite possible the officers were in error when they recorded the name of a mountain or a crossing.

A logical place to begin researching the history of the area is to read Henry L. Peck's popular and much-quoted book, The Proud Heritage of Le Flore County. He questions whether LeFlore County was the scene of any Civil War activity: "If there was the slightest skirmish in Le Flore (sic) County during the Civil War, this writer has failed to find where history reveals it." Yet, a few pages later, he admits that an account taken from the Official Records relates a skirmish that "could have been in Le Flore County."<sup>5</sup>

Another logical place to look is in maps and historical magazine articles and books. The dates listed in many sources are often in error. Two maps issued by Oklahoma list the date for the Backbone Battle as August 27, 1864. There is no mention of any action of September 1, 1863.<sup>6</sup>

Peck combines reports from July 27, 1864, with reports from July 31, 1864, as if these reports were based on one skirmish.<sup>7</sup> In fact, these reports refer to two separate incidents which occurred four days apart. Understandably, it is quite easy for an author to be mistaken when the officers use the date, "the 31st," without mentioning the year.

For example, one historical account reads, "On the morning of July 31st the Confederate advance attacked and drove in the Federal pickets stationed on the Texas road four miles south of Fort Smith . . ." <sup>8</sup> Thus, if one is not careful, the skirmish of August 31, 1863, can easily be confused with the one on July 31, 1864. Apparently, this is the reason for Peck's misinterpretation.<sup>9</sup>

Many sources give erroneous information about the exact location of the Battle of Backbone. Some place the battle in Oklahoma while some list it in Arkansas.<sup>10</sup> In the book Rugged and Sublime, editor Mark K. Christ documents the Battle of Devil's Backbone as taking

place on September 1, 1863.<sup>11</sup> He places this battle site south of Jenny Lind, Arkansas, in Sebastian County, about sixteen miles south of Fort Smith. In actuality, the battlefield is privately owned and not accessible to the public. In a letter to this researcher, Christ stated that the historical marker on U. S. Highway 71 is "not actually very close to the scene of the fighting."<sup>12</sup>

In yet another history book, a map illustration is in direct contradiction with the text. The map drawing indicates that Devil's Backbone Mountain (note the juxtapositioning of the two names) is in Oklahoma. Yet, the text is accurate in depicting the battle at Devil's Backbone Ridge, the attack at Massard Prairie, and the Confederate advance on Fort Smith that occurred on July 31, 1864. But, the text is confusing because of the reference to "Devil's Backbone . . . located sixteen miles below Fort Smith on the border of the Choctaw Nation" and "Devil's Backbone Mountain, south of Fort Smith."<sup>13</sup>

Unfortunately, too many reference materials make little, if any mention, to Backbone Mountain or Massard Prairie.<sup>14</sup> The Oklahoma Almanac does not even mention the Battle of Backbone or any other engagements in the general area.<sup>15</sup> The Battle of Backbone is thoroughly documented in Christ's book. Although his book records the Civil War in Arkansas, the Battle of Massard Prairie is not even mentioned.<sup>16</sup>

In addition, two reports filed by officers involved make reference both to Cedar Prairie and Massard Prairie which could cause misinterpretations to be made. "At sunrise on the 31st . . . the Creeks, under Major Barnett . . . proceeded by the river road to Poteau Bottom, opposite (west) Fort Smith. The remainder of the command formed a junction . . . on Towson road, near Cedar Prairie. General Gano . . . proceeded to Massard Prairie . . ."<sup>17</sup> Other units advanced on the main Fort Smith road towards the fortifications surrounding the city. Closer study will show that the actual engagements occurred north of the two prairies. The Confederates were stopped ". . . outside the breast-works . . . at Green Springs, three miles from Fort Smith . . ."<sup>18</sup>

It is important to note that this report details the skirmish outside Fort Smith on July 31, 1864, not the Battle of Massard Prairie on July 27, 1864, or even the Battle of Backbone on September 1, 1863.

Another problem is that local place names are difficult to confirm. A case in point is the difficulty in identifying the crossings of the Poteau River. Most residents of Pocola were in agreement about the location, but not the spelling. Whether the name is "Halloway" or "Hardaway," almost everyone agrees where the ford is located.<sup>19</sup> (See

map in Appendix A). In describing another crossing, Blunt and Cabell use the name "McLean's Crossing," but most residents in Pocola identified it as "McClain's Crossing."<sup>20</sup>

The second main reason for the confusion regarding the Battle of Backbone historical markers is that there are two geographical features within the same mountain range that are named "Backbone."

Backbone Mountain runs in a general east-west direction from LeFlore County in Oklahoma into Sebastian County in Arkansas. Devil's Backbone Ridge is a C-shaped range located south of Jenny Lind, Arkansas, approximately two miles south of Backbone Mountain. Devil's Backbone Ridge lies entirely within Sebastian County in Arkansas.

The origins of all this confusion probably can be attributed to the fact that in the reports submitted by the officers on both sides, the names "Backbone Mountain" and "Devil's Backbone" are used interchangeably, and unless one reads carefully, it is difficult to determine whether the mountain is in Arkansas or Indian Territory. This, obviously, makes the historian's job that much more difficult.

How easily "Backbone Mountain" and "Devil's Backbone Ridge" can be juxtaposed is demonstrated when Tom Franzman combines the names of the two mountain features in his title "The Battle of Devil's Backbone Mountain." More confusion arises when Franzman reports that Cabell retreated toward Waldron, Arkansas, after the skirmish on "a rough and craggy mountain . . . located about sixteen miles southwest of Fort Smith."<sup>21</sup> Devil's Backbone Ridge is located south and southeast of Fort Smith, while Backbone Mountain is to the southwest of Fort Smith.

A classroom history book adds to the confusion. The author, Edwin C. McReynolds, writes that Federal Colonel William Cloud "fought a minor engagement at Backbone Mountain, sixteen miles southeast of Fort Smith."<sup>22</sup> Obviously, he contends that the battle took place in Arkansas although he misidentifies Devil's Backbone Ridge as Backbone Mountain.<sup>23</sup>

Larry Puckett, a Fort Smith historian who was a contributor to Christ's book, emphasized that much of the confusion is a result of the similarities in the names of the two mountains. He repeatedly stated that "Devil's Backbone Ridge" is entirely in Arkansas while "Backbone Mountain" intersects the border of both states. Also, Puckett was adamant about the battle taking place in Arkansas, not Oklahoma.<sup>24</sup>

The third main reason for the confusion regarding the Battle of Backbone historical markers is that there were two different military roads constructed from Fort Smith which were both called, among other names, "The Fort Smith to Fort Towson Military Road," even though these two roads were built at separate times and took different routes. In order to differentiate between Backbone Mountain and Devil's Backbone Ridge, it is necessary to know which military road is being referred to in the historical accounts.

At various times, the first road, which was built in 1832, was known as the "Fort Towson Road," the "Texas Road," and the "Texas Trail." This 1832 road is not to be confused with what most historians call the "Texas Road," which ran from St. Louis to Fort Gibson.<sup>25</sup> Later it became known as the "California Road" since "large numbers of forty-niners used the same road on their way to California."<sup>26</sup> The second road which was built in 1838 was called the "Fort Smith Road," the "Towson Road," and the "Fort Towson Military Trail."<sup>27</sup>

The removal of the Five Civilized Tribes from their homes in the eastern part of the United States created a need for passable roads from Fort Smith throughout Indian Territory. Francis W. Armstrong, the federal agent for the Choctaws, wanted a route that would enable the members of the tribe, who were completing their trek on the Trail of Tears, to disperse in a southwesterly direction toward Cantonment (later Fort) Towson.<sup>28</sup>

Lieutenant-Colonel James B. Many, the commanding officer at Fort Gibson, ordered Captain John Stuart to construct such a road, as requested by Armstrong. Stuart and his men left Fort Smith on March 28, 1832, and finally reached the Choctaw Agency on April 15. The agency was later known as Scullyville (Scullyville today), near the present town of Spiro, Oklahoma, on State Highway 9. This military road then veered southward where it skirted the Winding Stair Mountains until it reached Fort Towson, located across the Red River from Texas.<sup>29</sup> This was the first Fort Smith to Fort Towson Road.<sup>30</sup> This road was later extended westward from Scullyville to Camp Arbuckle and then on to Fort Sill.

In 1838, a second Fort Smith to Fort Towson Road was built, but this one took a more southerly route as it traveled through the present-day town of Pocola and traversed over Backbone Mountain. The influence or presence of the second road can still be seen today in that one of the major streets in Fort Smith is Towson Avenue, which connects with that city's main street



(Garrison Avenue) at an intersection known as the Texas Corner. Travelers left the garrison, went east until they came to the end of the street, where they then turned south onto the Towson Road to go to Texas, hence, the "Texas Corner."

Towson Avenue today runs south until it veers away from Arkansas State Highway 271 and becomes the Texas Road which enters the town of Pocola. (The name "pocola" is Choctaw for "ten," which is the approximate mileage, ten miles, from the fort stockade on the junction of the Arkansas and Poteau rivers.)<sup>31</sup>

Interviews with several area residents verified the route of the military road through Pocola. Perhaps the best confirmation came from Pershing Gray, whose father, N. L. Gray, built his house just east of the road.<sup>32</sup> This second military road traveled in a northeast-to-southwest direction from the Texas Road to the gap at Backbone Mountain. It cut across Pocola (the area shown on the map in Appendix A labeled "Cedar Prairie") and ran roughly parallel to today's State Highway 112, crossing over Backbone Mountain at about the same spot as the highway does.<sup>33</sup> Interestingly, there are still places in which traces of the road can be seen from the depressions that remain. This road was the second Fort Smith to Fort Towson Road.<sup>34</sup>

Union General Blunt chased Confederate General Cabell down the second Fort Smith to Fort Towson Road, along today's Highway 9. Cabell, after ascertaining that all the supplies had been removed from Fort Smith, forded the Poteau River at McClain's Crossing. He then turned on a portion of the first Fort Smith to Fort Towson Road, which, for a short distance, headed back in the direction of Fort Smith. Britton confirms this direction change in his account, "... (Cabell) headed towards Fort Smith before turning southeast."<sup>35</sup>

Blunt recorded that Cabell used "various routes" to make his escape to Waldron. From his headquarters in Fort Smith, he filed this report concerning the events of August 31-September 1, 1863:

"On the 31st ultimo, I encamped 3 miles west of the ford of the Poteau, 12 miles from its mouth. I there learned that Cabell was strongly posted near the ford, ... the following morning, I advanced to attack ... but found that he had retreated during the night a short distance toward Fort Smith, and that from that point his force had divided, proceeding by various routes southward."<sup>36</sup>

Cabell's report refers to the same crossing, perhaps the same unmarked road to Jenny Lind, and the engagement at Devil's Backbone:

"... I concentrated all my troops at McLean's Crossing of the Poteau, 9 miles southwest of Fort Smith, and about 8 miles from Scullyville ...

"About 2 a. m. on the 31st, General Blunt's advance, under Colonel Cloud, attacked my pickets, and, after a brief engagement ... drove them back. Colonel Thomson skirmished with them and held them in check at times until 4 p.m., until they reached the field near the Poteau Bottom ... After a brisk fire on both sides for about an hour, the enemy fell back ... I determined to fall back, and to reach, if possible, a range of mountains in my rear, and to get all the trains ... across these mountains ..."<sup>37</sup>

There were several "routes southward" from the ford on the Poteau. All of these ran through Cedar Prairie towards Jenny Lind and Waldron. Cabell possibly traveled south and east on an unmarked road until he reached the junction of the Waldron road near Jenny Lind.

Colonel Cloud continues the narrative:

"In the morning (September 1st), moving my brigade to the attack, the enemy were found to have retreated, at 12 o'clock in the night, in the direction of Fort Smith; but, upon following in his trail, it was determined that he had turned in the direction of Arkadelphia, entering that road at a town named Jenny Lind."<sup>38</sup>

A study of an area map dated 1897 indicates the path of the 1838 Fort Smith to Fort Towson Military Road.<sup>39</sup> It also reveals several unmarked roads leading from McClain's Crossing and heading generally in a southeasterly direction across the border towards the town of Jenny Lind, Arkansas. One road parallels Arkansas State Highway 45 between two ridges named Brooks Stephens Mountain (where the housing addition known as Fianna Hills is today) to the north and Rye Hill to the south. Charles Fuller, who has lived in Pocola all his life, stated that he often traveled that road with his father.<sup>40</sup> It is quite possible that these are the roads that Blunt and Cabell are referring to in their reports.

In his "Account of His Civil War Experiences," James G. Blunt wrote about his campaign against General Cabell in the summer of 1863:

"We arrived at the crossing of the Poteau river, nine miles from Fort Smith ... on the evening of the 31st of August. Here we drove in the enemy's outpost and skirmished in their front until dark. At daylight the following morning, we moved upon their position

expecting to meet with a determined resistance, but were surprised to find that they had abandoned their position during the night and were retreating in the direction of Arkadelphia. Sending the cavalry, under command of Col. Cloud, in pursuit, who overtook and engaged them, in the latter part of the day, at 'Devil's Backbone,' while, with infantry and artillery, I quietly entered the town of Fort Smith . . ."<sup>41</sup>

The path of this pursuit as described by Blunt indicates that Cloud engaged Cabell south of Jenny Lind. The map "Blunt Captures Fort Smith" confirms the path of the pursuit.<sup>42</sup>

Cabell continues his report:

"The baggage trains were all ordered to a little place called Jenny Lind, 10 miles on that road, early in the day . . . General Blunt, finding out that I had abandoned the position I had on the Poteau, sent Colonel Cloud . . . in pursuit of me. They followed, and attacked the picket I left at Jenny Lind about 9 o'clock on the 1st day of September. The picket skirmished with their advance until they reached the foot of Backbone Mountain, about 16 miles from Fort Smith."<sup>43</sup>

Bearss noted that Cloud drove the Rebel pickets from Jenny Lind on the road heading " . . . southward toward the mountains. Hearing the rattle of gunfire, Cabell before noon halted his brigade at the foot of the Devil's Backbone."<sup>44</sup> The Waldron Road closely parallels today's U.S. Highway 71 and Arkansas State Highway 45, heading south of present-day Jenny Lind towards Devil's Backbone Ridge.<sup>45</sup>

In summary, the Federals chased the Confederates from Skullyville to McClain's Crossing on the Poteau River. The next day, September 1, 1863, the two armies fought the Battle of Devil's Backbone, south of Jenny Lind, Arkansas. There were no more major engagements in the Fort Smith area for 1863. It would be more than a year later before the Confederates organized any further attacks upon the Federal forces in Fort Smith.

In the summer of 1864, Confederate Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper received reports that a force of Federal cavalry were encamped on Massard Prairie, south of Fort Smith. He instructed General Richard Gano to organize a cavalry unit to attack the Sixth Kansas Cavalry.<sup>46</sup>

The Confederates approached Massard Prairie from the west through Cedar Prairie (Pocola). In his report filed from Fort Smith, on July 30, 1864, General Thayer reported that the "enemy, under

Cooper and Maxey, are camped on Buck Creek about twenty-five miles southwest of here."<sup>47</sup> Buck Creek Camp, which was located near present-day Bokoshe, Oklahoma, in LeFlore County, was "a favorite camping site for Confederate troops during the Civil War."<sup>48</sup>

Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper of the Confederate Army, who had his headquarters in Indian Territory near Fort Smith, filed this report on August 10, 1864. Note the dates mentioned:

"My scouts having reported to me at James' Creek . . . a body of Federal cavalry . . . encamped near Caldwell's, and other detachments on Massard Prairie, five miles from Fort Smith . . . General Gano was directed to have a detachment of 500 men . . . ready by 3 p.m. for a scout. Detachments from Second Indian Brigade, under Col. S. N. Folsom, and from Wells' battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel Wells, were also ordered to be in readiness. Lieut. Col. Jack McCurtain was directed to take post with his Choctaw battalion by sunrise next morning (the 27th) on the Devil's Backbone . . . the whole, except McCurtain's battalion, to rendezvous on Poteau, near Page's Ferry, by dark.

"The plan . . . was for Col. S. N. Folsom, commanding detachment from Indian division, to attack the camp of Federals at Caldwell's, on the Jenny Lind road, capture or destroy it if possible, and if pursued by other troops on Massard Prairie or from Fort Smith to retreat by the Fort Towson road over the Devil's Backbone, where McCurtain lay in ambush; the detachment from Gano's brigade to remain concealed near Page's, on Cedar Prairie, until the Federals should pass in pursuit of Folsom, and then attack them in rear, while Folsom and McCurtain should turn upon them at the Backbone . . .

"The expedition resulted on the morning of the 27th the complete rout of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry and dispersion of the Arkansas Federals."<sup>49</sup>

"Page's Ferry" was located a few miles to the west of McClain's Crossing on the Poteau River.<sup>50</sup> "Caldwell's" was on the Jenny Lind Road on Massard Prairie.<sup>51</sup> "Page's" refers to the home of John Page, a prominent Choctaw from Cedar Prairie, who lived just a few yards to the west of the Military Road. His house was built on a small knoll which is located about 200 yards south of the present-day cemetery which bears his name. The Page Cemetery can still be seen just east of Highway 112.<sup>52</sup> Even though his house was

destroyed in 1945, the site was confirmed by another lifelong resident of Pocola.<sup>53</sup> Cedar Prairie encompassed a large area between the Poteau River to the north and Backbone Mountain to the south. The town hall, the post office, and most of the businesses and residences of Pocola are situated on this "prairie" today. The Fort Smith to Fort Towson Road parallels State Highway 112 through Pocola over Backbone Mountain.

Cooper's report continues:

"The enemy came out from Fort Smith and pursued a short distance. A few followed to the Backbone, but again retired without molesting our forces, who encamped two miles south of the Backbone at James' Fork for the night. The lack of the party in ambush near Page's enabled them to return in safety to Fort Smith."<sup>54</sup>

The James Fork Creek intersects the Fort Towson or Texas Road about two miles south of Backbone Mountain in LeFlore County, Oklahoma. It is probable that this is the area Cooper is referring to. Again, this area is in proximity to the Buck Creek Camp.

This ambush near Caldwell's on Massard Prairie of July 27, 1864, is not to be confused with the skirmishing that took place on July 31, 1864, four days later. Cooper makes mention of these two separate actions in the same report, dated August 10, 1864. This section refers to the skirmishing outside Fort Smith on July 31, 1864:

"At sunrise on the 31st, the line of march was taken up . . . by the river road to Poteau Bottom, opposite (west) Fort Smith. The remainder of the command formed a junction at Wat. Folsom's on Towson road, near Cedar Prairie. General Gano . . . proceeded to Massard Prairie by the road leading from McCarty's place, seven miles south of Fort Smith."<sup>55</sup>

The 1897 map obtained from the Poteau abstract office lists the names of the land owners at the time the map was drawn. The names of two landowners – McCarty and Folsom – are mentioned in the officers' reports in reference to the location and direction of many of the roads that crossed Cedar Prairie. It is possible that the names in the reports are the same as the landowners on the map. It is interesting to note that the paths of the unmarked roads run next to or through the owner's lands.

"Wat. Folsom's on Towson road" was located on Cedar Creek, just about at the junction of the road coming from McClain's Crossing and the main

Fort Smith Road. A road heading almost due east towards Arkansas ran past "McCarty's place"; it was located at the junction of today's Kelley and Pryor streets in Pocola. There is an additional reference to the "river road to Poteau Bottom." This is perhaps the continuation of the 1832 road from Skullyville that ran in a northeasterly direction from McClain's Crossing, through what is known today as Braden Bottom. (See the map in Appendix A).

Note that Cooper mentions many of the same places – Cedar Prairie, Massard Prairie, Towson Road – that can be found in reports based on the raid at Massard Prairie on July 27, 1864. Thus, without reading carefully, a historian can confuse the actions of the 27th and the 31st with one another. Apparently, some historians have made this error as previously mentioned. Brigadier General John Thayer, U. S. Army, filed this brief report on July 30, 1864, concerning the Battle of Massard Prairie:

"I have to report that on the morning of the 27th instant a force of between 1,500 and 2,000 rebels, under command of General Gano, all mounted, attacked my outpost, seven miles out, composed of about 200 men of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry, under command of Captain Mefford . . . who fought them bravely, but was very soon overpowered, and he and 82 men were taken prisoners, and the enemy retired . . . I sent a force in pursuit but could not overtake them."<sup>56</sup>

A Pocola resident remembers hearing his grandfather's eyewitness account of the battle on Massard Prairie in 1864. "At one point in the battle, the fighting got so close that he and his friends had to find a safer place in which to watch," stated Leo George, Samuel George's grandson. When Samuel was a young boy, he, along with several other area youths, climbed atop a nearby mountain (today's Brooks Stephins Mountain) and watched the Battle of Massard Prairie to the east. Mr. George also related several other anecdotes which correlate with the area and the date of the battle.<sup>57</sup>

To review, a Confederate cavalry force left Buck Creek Camp, spent the night at the James Fork Creek, traveled over Backbone Mountain, and set up an ambush on Cedar Prairie (Pocola). The rest of the cavalry troops used the ridge (Brooks Stephins Mountain and Rye Hill) to shield their movements. They then swooped over the ridge and routed the Federal outpost in a surprise attack. The Federals gave chase but gave up before they could be ambushed. All this took

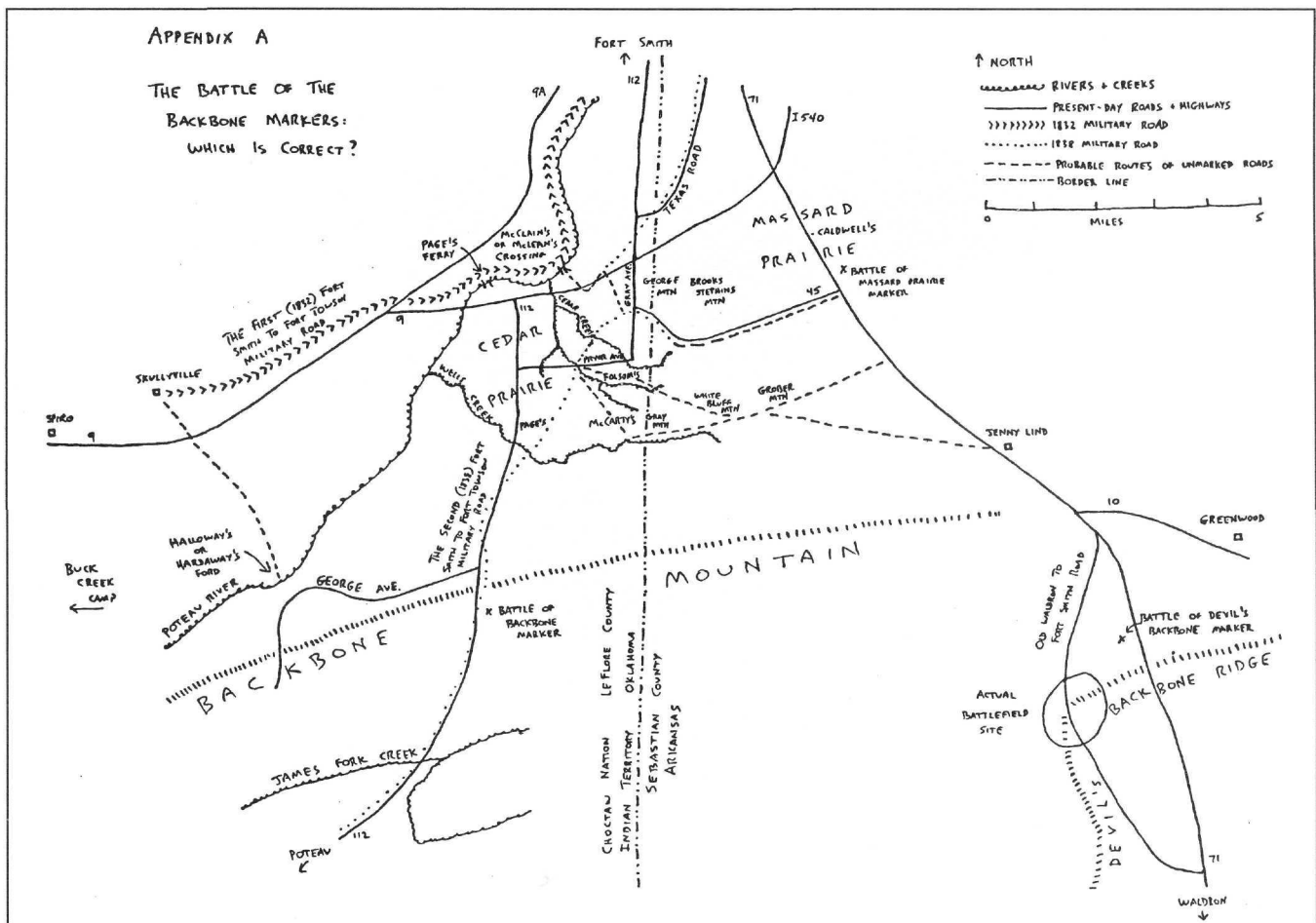


Perhaps the Backbone marker in Pocola should be replaced since the Battle of Devil's Backbone did occur in Arkansas. However, Pocola still deserves a Civil War marker. Maybe one should be erected nearer to McClain's Crossing in north Pocola on Highway 9 with this information:

## *The Civil War in Pocola*

“Also, on July 27th and 31st, 1864, Confederate cavalry units, under Gen. R.

Years after his heroic efforts at Little Round Top, Union General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain said this about Gettysburg, "In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass . . . but spirits linger to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls. And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream."<sup>58</sup> Obviously, the Battle of Backbone was not as important as Gettysburg. Still, it only takes one deed by one soldier on one battlefield to make the act heroic, regardless of the size and importance of the battle. How appropriate, then, for the soldiers, whether they wore blue or butter-but, to be commemorated for what they did at Backbone Mountain and Massard Prairie. The best historians can do is to record accurately the story they made.



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- <sup>3</sup>Cloud's Report, September 20, 1863, Official Records, I, 22, pt. 1, pp. 602-03.
- <sup>4</sup>Cabell's Report, December 7, 1863, Official Records, I, 22, pt. 1, pp. 604-07.
- <sup>5</sup>Henry L. Peck, The Proud Heritage of Le Flore County (Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press Argus, 1963), p. 72.
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- <sup>10</sup>Tom Franzman, "The Battle of Devil's Backbone Mountain," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. LXII, Number 4 (1984-85), p. 423; Edwin C. McReynolds, Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State (Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1964), p. 219; John W. Morris, Charles R. Goins, and Edwin C. McReynolds, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1976), p. 28; "Oklahoma Forts, Military History and Civil War Map," Oklahoma Heritage Association, Oklahoma City, 1990.; Peck, p. 72.; Wright and Fischer, Civil War Centennial Map.
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- <sup>12</sup>Mark K. Christ, letter to author, 13 December 1995.
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- <sup>14</sup>Arrell Morgan Gibson, The History of Oklahoma (Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1972), p. 71.; Oklahoma: Civil War in Indian Territory Map; "Oklahoma Forts, Military History and Civil War Map" Wright and Fischer, Civil War Centennial Map; Muriel H. Wright, "General Douglas H. Cooper, C. S. A.," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXII (Summer, 1954), p. 174.
- <sup>15</sup>Oklahoma Almanac, The Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Forty-Fifth Edition, Revised, 1995-1996, p. 699.
- <sup>16</sup>Christ, Rugged and Sublime, p. 166.
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- <sup>18</sup>Maxey's Report, August 6, 1864, Official Records, I, 41, pt. 1, p. 29.
- <sup>19</sup>Mona Crawford, interview with author, 27 October 1996.
- <sup>20</sup>Harold Hamilton, interview with author, 31 March 1997.
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- <sup>36</sup>Blunt's Report, September 3, 1863, Official Records, I, 22, pt. 1, p. 601.
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- <sup>44</sup>Bearss, p. 187.
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- <sup>48</sup>"Oklahoma Forts, Military History and Civil War Map."
- <sup>49</sup>Cooper's Report, August 10, 1864, Official Records, I, 41, pt. 1, p. 31.
- <sup>50</sup>Joe "Pete" Howard, interview with author, 23 August 1996.
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- <sup>54</sup>Cooper's Report, August 10, 1864, Official Records, I, 41, pt. 1, p. 31.
- <sup>55</sup>Cooper's Report, p. 33
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# Thomas Adams Smith: For Whom the Fort Was Named

By Jerry Akins

Anyone who studies Ft. Smith history probably knows that The Fort was named after Gen. Thomas Adams Smith, commanding officer of Majors Bradford and Long.. But you didn't know that Thomas Adams Smith is alive and well at Marshall, Mo. The sources for this article were given to me by the Generals great-great grandson of the same name as his ancestor. Mr. Smith lives on a farm in



Thomas Adams Smith  
(1781-1844)

the same part of Missouri where Gen. Smith located after he left the US Army.

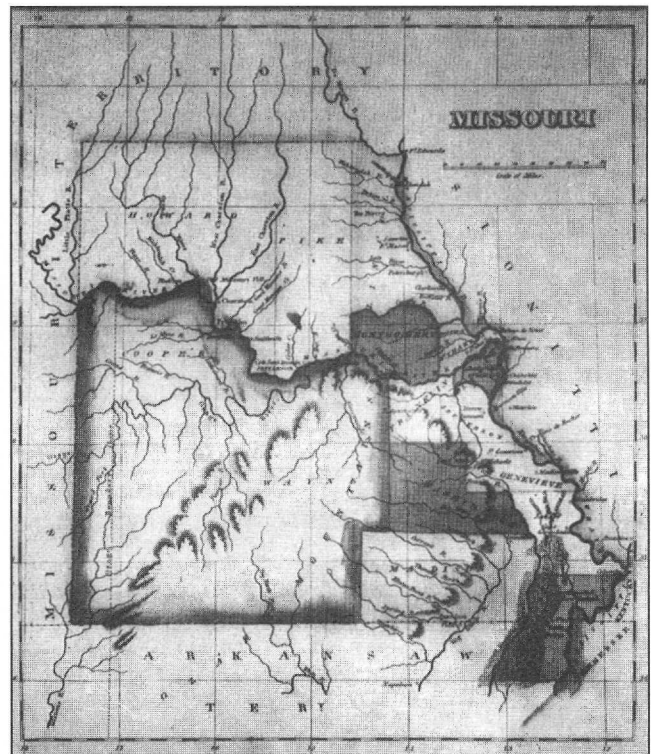
Thomas Adams Smith was born Aug. 12, 1781 in Essex Co., Va. He was the fifth son and child of Francis and Lucy Wilkinson Smith. He was nephew of Col. Merriweather Smith who played

a leading role in the Revolution and cousin of Geo. W. Smith who succeeded James Monroe as governor of Virginia.

After attending William and Mary College he entered the army as an ensign, receiving his appointment through Thomas Jefferson, a family friend. Smith was commissioned second lieutenant of artillerists in Dec., 1803. He attracted the attention of Gen. James Wilkinson who sent him on a horseback ride from New Orleans to Washington in 1807 with letters and oral communications for Pres. Jefferson regarding Aaron Burrs activities (probably Burrs scheme to acquire western lands). May 3, 1808 Smith was appointed to captaincy in the Rifles. Later reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and, during the War of 1812 colonel of the regiment. During the 'Patriots War', (a scheme by James Madison to take East Florida from the Spanish) Smith commanded in Spanish East Florida from March 1819 to April 1813 to protect against possible Spanish, Indian and Negro attacks. He was one of six

brigadier-generals created on Jan. 4, 1814. In 1815 the army was reduced, only four brigadiers were retained. Smith reverted to colonel in command of the Rifle Regiment. That same year he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Territories of Missouri and Illinois headquartered at Bellefontaine near St. Louis. In 1818 he resigned from the service. Upon his resignation he was appointed by Pres. Monroe to the most lucrative position in the West, receiver of public monies, at Franklin, Mo. He held this post until he retired to his plantation in 1826.

Although spoken of by Gen. William Henry Harrison in 1817, as "the most accomplished officer in the service", Smith must have been strongly opinionated. It is said that he resigned from the service because of his dislike for Gen. Scott. On one occasion, while he was receiver of public monies, he rode from Franklin, Mo. to Washington



Early (1822) map of Missouri showing town of Smithville near present site of Columbia, Missouri. Smithville, established in 1819 and named for T.A. Smith, never flourished and when a new site was chosen a mile east T.A. Smith suggested the name Columbia.



to administer a public flogging to a congressman who had criticized him on the floor of the House of Representatives.

On Sept. 17, 1807 T.A. Smith married Cynthia Berry White, sixth child and third daughter of James and Mary White. James White founded Whites Fort later to become Knoxville, Tenn.


In 1826 Thomas Smith retired from public life to devote his time to private enterprise and to his plantation he named "Experiment". His plantation was located near present day Columbia, Mo. This part of Missouri was a fertile area of prairie grass with salt springs. It had long been a favorite hunting ground of the Osages for all of the animals that roamed the central part of this country.

Smith named his home "Experiment" because he was entering a new and difficult career, that of converting prairie grass sod to cultivated fields. Besides the standard crops he had extensive fruit orchards. He also planted a wide variety of trees including pecan, chestnut, mulberry, pine, hemlock, spruce, cypress and a variety of evergreens.

Thomas Adams Smith died June 25, 1844 at his home, "Experiment". He was survived by his widow, three of his five sons and two of his three daughters. During his life many relatives had moved to the vicinity so that the area is well populated with Smiths.

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## **Mystery Photograph**

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# Joseph Henry Willard: U.S. Deputy Marshal

By Frank E. Vanderbilt, GGGrandson

After one hundred and six years, Joseph Henry Willard's resting place in Fort Smith's Oak Cemetery has been identified with a monument.

Joe's 5GGrandfather was Major Simon Willard who immigrated to Cambridge, Massachusetts Bay Colony, in 1634 from Horsmonden, Kent, England.

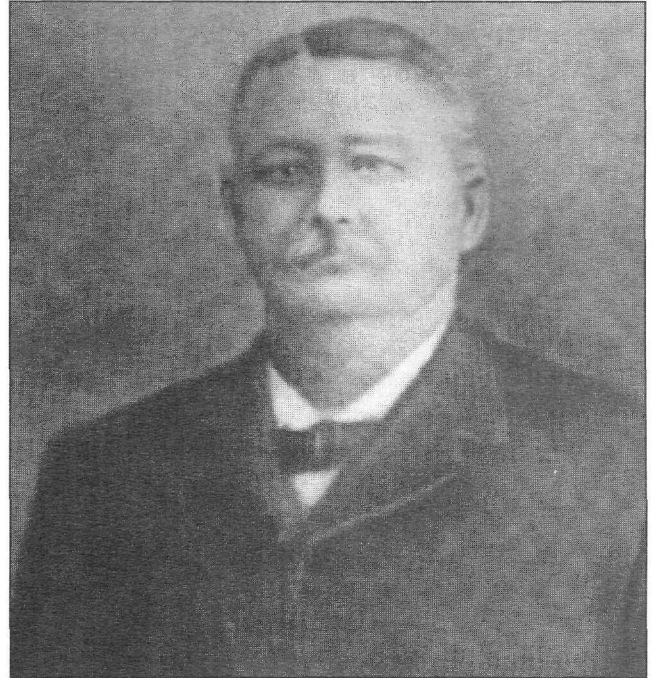
Joe's father, Samuel Morrison Willard, was born in Rockingham, Vermont ca 1812, enlisted in the 3rd Infantry at Albany, New York in 1829 and was stationed in Indian Territory, at Camp Pheonix, which was later to be known as Fort Towson.

Samuel married Martha G. Oates in Pulaski County Arkansas in 1837. They had six children, all born at or near Fort Towson, Choctaw Nation. He was discharged in 1840 with the rank of Sergeant. It is assumed that he remained at Fort Towson as an Agent for the Quartermaster until about 1850. He was a Justice of Peace in Crawford County, Arkansas in 1853. Postmaster at Hochubee, Indian Territory for five months in 1858. He was listed as living with his family in the Upper TWP, Sebastian County, Arkansas in the 1860 U.S. Census.

Samuel was an Agent for the Quartermaster at Fort Smith in 1861. He was Commissioned a Captain, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence CSA on General Albert Pike's Staff, 17 February 1862. His last assignment was Post Commissary at Doaksville where he was on the Staff of Major General Samuel Maxey, 15 June 1864. He remained there until the end of the war.

Joe, like his father, joined the Confederate cause and enlisted as a Drummer on the roster of A Company, 3rd Arkansas Infantry, Fort Smith Rifles. The National Archives reports J. Willard as slightly wounded during the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri 10 August 1861. His brother Charles, was a musician of Captain Spark's Company A, Fort Smith Greys. His brother William, had gone to Vermont prior to the Census in 1860 where he was living with his grandparents. William enlisted in Union Army, the 2nd Regiment, Company C of the Vermont Volunteer Infantry. He served four years as a Drummer.

During the war the family moved to the Choctaw Nation, where Joe married Susan J. Davis, daughter of Thomas P. and Elizabeth Davis



Joseph Henry Willard

ca 1866. They had five children and lived for some time in the vicinity of the Council House near Trahern Station. Susan was the postmistress at the Council House Post Office. She died ca 1879.

After Susan's death the children were sent to live with different aunts. Joseph remarried.

Joseph was a Deputy U.S. Marshal under Marshals Britton, Roots, Sarder, Fagen and Dell. He quit when Upham was appointed, but was again commissioned as a deputy when Dell became Marshal in 1881.

The following is a story concerning his death which was printed in the Fort Smith Elevator February 6, 1885:

"COME HOME TO DIE, JOE H. WILLARD DIES UNATTENDED AT THE CITY HOTEL IN THIS CITY"

"On Saturday night, January 24th, Joseph Henry Willard, well known in this community and all over Indian Territory, walked into the City Hotel about 10 o'clock and asked for a room, was assigned to one and remained quietly about the hotel, complaining of not feeling well, though he was able to be out everyday.

He appeared to be in a very despondent frame of mind, and seemed to avoid making his presence in the city generally known. He ate comparatively nothing and would retire to his room at an early hour in the evening and remained in bed until 10 or 11 o'clock every day. Mr. Pat Keating usually went to his room before retiring to see if he desired anything, but always met with the same answer, "nothing wanted".

Thursday night Joe went to his room about 7 o'clock and retired. About 10 o'clock Friday some of the boarders sleeping in adjoining rooms heard groans in Willard's room, but as he had been groaning every night some, no attention was paid to it. About 10 o'clock Pat Keating was called, and going to the room found Joe in a dying condition on the bed, with froth issuing from his mouth. He immediately sent for a doctor and endeavored to arouse the dying man, but to no purpose. Dr. Saunders came in time to witness his death, and pronounced it heart disease, and a coroners' jury rendered a verdict in accordance with his views without a post mortem examination of the body.

In his overcoat pocket was found an Odd Fellows traveling card and a certificate of membership to a Good Templar's Society. On the back of the latter was written in pencil the following:

"If anything should happen to me I wish my friends to write to my mother, Mrs. M.G. Willard, Goodland, IT., and also to my wife, Mrs. J.H. Willard, Guilford Centre, Vt. I am very sick and have been sick ever since I left home. I am an Odd Fellow, as my traveling card will show, and am entitled to \$50 from the lodge for funeral benefits - Wamtrastiquet Lodge No. 5, Brattleboro, Vt. My effects consisting of one trunk, one valise and umbrella, I would like sent to my mother.

J.H. Willard"

This note contained no date, but was apparently penned on Thursday night as the penciling was fresh and bright.

Joe Willard grew to manhood in this city, but the close of the war found him located in Indian Territory, where he married and for a long time resided at Brazil Station, about 35 miles from here.

He was a Deputy U.S. Marshall under Britton, Roots, Sarger & Fagen, but quit that business when Upham was appointed and moved to the Chickasaw Nation near Goodland. ( Goodland is in the Choctaw Nation. His mother and two sisters lived near Goodland.)

When Dell was appointed Marshal in 1881, Joe again obtained a commission as deputy, and

while over in Texas for the purpose of arresting a party named Harry Tennon, in some way killed a Negro. He immediately recrossed Red River into the Territory and went home, being pursued by officers from Texas. When the officers arrived at his house, Joe gave them a successful "stand off" and after they retired he picked up and left the country, since which time he has not been heard of in this part of the country until he turned up here on Sunday night, above stated, and was probably direct from Vermont. He was well dressed and his trunk contained a good wardrobe both of summer and winter clothing, but he had no money.

He stated to Pat Keating that the killing of the Negro in Texas was an accident, but he feared the consequences of trial at time it occurred and left the country to avoid arrest; That now, Martin, the man who was with him, was dead, and also a Negro that was a witness to the killing; That the affair had completely broken him up; That he was tired of being a fugitive and thought he would go back out there and have the matter settled.

He was probably on his way home when he came here. His death is clothed in considerable mystery, and while some pronounce it suicide, others scout the idea and aver that it was heart disease with which he had been afflicted for some days. We give the above account in order that the public may be able to judge for themselves.

The following letter was also found in his pocket which shows how he has been employed a part of the time since he left the Territory.

"McLean Asylum, Somerville, Mass. July 29 1883.

This will certify that Joseph H. Willard has been employed as an attendant in this asylum for five and a half months. In attention to his duties he has been regarded as a well-disposed man, and he is kind hearted and amiable in his dealings with the patients and others. I think he will undertake to perform faithfully any service for which he may be employed.

Edward Cowles, M.D.  
Superintendent"

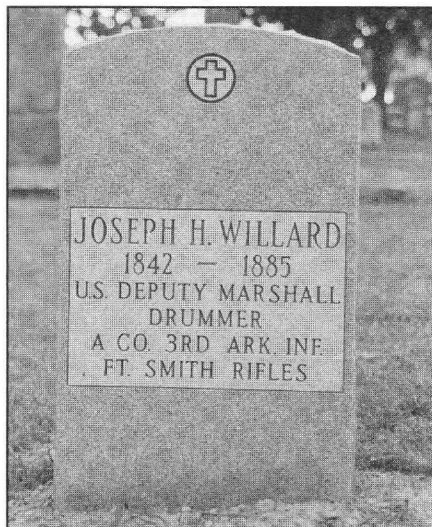
His remains were interred in the Oak Grove cemetery, and the expense of his funeral will likely be paid by the Odd Fellow Lodge above mentioned of which he was a member in good standing. His traveling card having been issued to him in January this year."

Joseph probably had good reason to flee from Indian Territory. According to Frederick Calhoun's THE LAWMAN, "U.S. Marshals and their deputies



could count little on the leaky umbrella of federal protection if they were arrested by state authorities. The marshals remained exposed to punishment and penalty for any acts they took in the line of duty that were not covered by individual laws or court orders."

Judge Parker had strict rules concerning a death caused



by one of his lawmen. He demanded that a death which occurred in the process of making an arrest be thoroughly investigated. Any deputy with sufficient evidence against him had to stand trial for murder. (Chronicles of Oklahoma Vol. LXVII #2 p 156)

Joe Willard was buried in Oak Cemetery in 1885. The grave description is Block 6, Range 4, Lot 10, Row 1, Grave 5.

A military type monolith has been erected in his memory, It reads:

Joseph H. Willard  
1842 - 1885  
U.S. Deputy Marshal  
Drummer  
A Co. 3rd Ark Inf  
Ft. Smith Rifles

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## Brigadier General Nicholas Bartlett Pearce

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(This article was published in the February 2, 1986 issue of the *Southwest Times Record*, and is one of a series of biographies from the *Southwest Times Record* series, Faces of Arkansas. Article did not include a by-line, so name of author is unknown.)

Brig. Gen. Nicholas Bartlett Pearce was born in



Brigadier General  
Nicholas Bartlett Pearce

Princeton, KY, in 1828 and grew up playing in the forests and mountains near the Cumberland River.

He graduated with honors from Cumberland College and, at 17 years of age, was admitted to West Point in 1846, graduated

with highest honors in 1850, and was commissioned as a Brevet Lieutenant.

His first years with the army took him from New York to Kentucky to St. Louis to Tennessee and then to the Old Fort at Fort Smith.

On duty in Fort Smith, the young first lieutenant met Nancy (Nannie) Smith, the "beautiful and accomplished" daughter of Dr. John and Mary Smith, who had moved from Tennessee to begin homesteading on the Little Osage in 1837. Nancy was visiting at the Fort Smith homes of her uncles, Col. James Spring, who was stationed there, and Dr. John Spring (one of Fort Smith's earliest physicians).

The courtship of Nancy Smith and Lieutenant Pearce was described by Arkansas Governor James H. Berry in a letter: "She was the most beautiful of all the lovely maidens of Northwest Arkansas, and she took his heart by storm - he soon was her willing captive."

They were married at the home of her parents at Osage, Benton county, on January 25, 1855. The wedding was elaborate and attended by many prominent people. The wedding party and guests from Fort Smith came several days early with military escort.

In 1858 Lt. Pearce resigned from the U.S. Army to engage in mercantile business with his father-in-law in Osage.

Capt. Cullum, Superintendent at West Point, wrote to Pearce in 1859 for information about his life since leaving the academy. Pearce's response, dated Nov. 7, 1859, includes a reference to an exploration he made of the Brazos River in Texas from July 2 to Oct. 18, 1854. Pearce also reported, "Whilst absent on this duty assisted Capt. Masey in locating and surveying the 'Indian Reserves' in Northwestern Texas."

When the Civil War erupted, Pearce's sympathies were with the South. He was appointed to organize and command Arkansas troops in the western half of the state at Camp Walker near Maysville.

While he commanded the 1st Division, Army of Arkansas, he was complimented on the field at Wilson's Creek (Springfield, Mo.) for his gallantry. Markers located near Maysville (Camp Walker) and between Bentonville and Pea Ridge on Little Sugar Creek (Camp Stephens) honor him.

After the battle of Shiloh, he was ordered to Texas and appointed to the Military Board of Texas by the governor and served in this capacity for the remainder of the war.

After the war, in 1865, he visited Washington D.C. and was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson and signed the Oath of Allegiance required of all Confederates, promising he would never again take up or bear arms against the United States.

He returned to Osage Mills in 1867, rebuilt his residence, mill and store, and engaged in business until 1872 when he was appointed first professor of mathematics at Arkansas Industrial University (now the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville).

Gen. and Mrs. Pearce had two sons and four daughters. Their son, Bartlett Pearce, married Mary Ella Fields and their son, Nicholas (Nick) was a veterinarian in Fort Smith. Another Pearce grandson, Fred Alden, married Opal Maberry and their family still lives on the old homestead which has been in the family for almost 150 years.

Gen. Pearce died on March 8, 1894, at the home of a daughter living in Dallas, Texas. At his death Alvin Seamster wrote: "Thus ended the life of a great and good man, a Christian gentleman, who had lived the life of a soldier, merchant, and educator during the time that hardships made a man. He could have had any position he cared for from the Union, but cast his lot with the people

he loved and who loved and honored him, and went forth to defend the Southland in defense of what he believed to be right."

Gen. Pearce's history was brought to the attention of *Southwest Times Record* editors by Patricia Pearce Payne, his only living descendant in Fort Smith.

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#### EXCERPTS FROM July 31, 1862 FORT SMITH BULLETIN NEWSPAPER:

Now is the time for every true southern man to bring in something for our soldiers to eat. Gen. Pearce is using every exertion in his power to provide supplies, and it is the duty of every true man to extend every possible assistance to that end. He proposes to pay fair and reasonable prices for all articles consumed by our troops, and there is no good reason why anyone should be backward in bringing in any surplus provisions on hand.

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Quartermaster's office, Fort Smith, Ark.  
June 25th, 1862

#### TO THE LADIES OF WESTERN ARKANSAS

Much has been done by the noble women of the South for our brave soldiers. I now appeal to you in their behalf to aid in the effort to provide them with clothing for the coming winter. Every yard of cloth that can be made will be needed to cloth them.

Lindsey and Jeans will be mostly needed – and to insure uniformity in color, it is desired that the goods be manufactured WHITE, and will be colored and made into uniforms by the Government.

ALL WOOLEN AND COTTON SOCKS AND COARSE SHOES that can be made, will be needed. I will have an agent in each county town to RECEIVE AND PAY for the goods on DELIVERY. Fair prices will be paid. I hope this appeal will not be in vain.

N. B. Pearce, Maj., A. Q. M.

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#### NOTICE

I will give to persons who will weave plain cotton cloth for the government one bale (of 5 pounds) of spun thread, for every eighteen yards of cloth made and delivered to me at Fort Smith. The government furnishing the thread to make the cloth.

N. B. PEARCE, Maj. A.Q.M.

# U.S. Military Hospital and Freedman's Hospital Fort Smith, Arkansas

By Angela Y. Walton-Raji

Fort Smith had a black presence early on in its history. A small community of Free blacks lived in Fort Smith in the 1850's. Little is known about the specifics of their lives, nor how their needs such as medical needs were met. However, it is known that by the late 1860's, routine medical treatment was given to black citizens, as well as white town people. They were treated at the military hospital in Fort Smith, near the barracks, and commissary.

The first mention to the community about the military hospital occurred in an early issue of the *Fort Smith New Era*, one of the first newspapers.<sup>1</sup> On the military site was a hospital, but treatment also occurred in Upper Township Fort Smith in some private homes also. During the Civil War, an official hospital developed again, this time tending to the needs of the troops stationed there.

In October 1863, orders were received to organize a regiment of Colored Soldiers in Fort Smith. By December that year, the black soldiers had been recruited, and were being trained. Efforts were made to also provide white officers that would direct the new regiment, thus giving rise to the mustering in of the 11th United States Colored Infantry. This unit would eventually be transferred to Van Buren, and then to Little Rock where they would later be consolidated with another regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry.

While in Fort Smith, the black soldiers of the 11th U.S. Colored Infantry were hit early on by problems of disease. Disease would plague the patients of the hospital throughout its use. The hospital was known, at that time, as the U.S. General Hospital. The hospital contained on an average of 10-20 patients each month, however, during the month of September 1864, 17 soldiers were hospitalized. Several soldiers were continually in the hospital and later succumbed to disease at the same hospital.

When the 11th U.S. Colored Infantry was relocated to Little Rock, they were replaced by another black regiment, the 57th U.S. Colored Infantry. This unit was to see more military action than the 11th, for they participated in two battles in the Fort Smith area, including the conflict on Massard

Prairie. As a result, there were injuries among the 57th, as well as the ever present problem of disease. The 57th was to spend considerable time in Fort Smith, and subsequently the Military Hospital became known as the Colored Military Hospital, or merely Colored Hospital at Fort Smith. The reference to the Colored Hospital was actually used as early as November 1864, before the relocation of the 11th USCT.

The hospital was known to be located on the banks of the river, on the western site of the military fort, across from the barracks. The Colored Hospital was a landmark, and when orders were sent to place troops near the river banks, the Colored Hospital was the landmark to use.

## Freedman's Hospital

It was only a few days after the surrender at Appomattox that a telegram was sent to Fort Smith that the war had ended. For several days the city was under the direct patrol of black soldiers of the 57th USCT. Many of the newly freed slave community, most of whom were in the Upper Township, were impressed by the colored soldiers, and frequented the fort. By 1866<sup>2</sup> the Fort Smith post became a Field Office of the Freedman's Bureau. The site was the military post at Fort Smith. Many newly freed slaves appealed to the Bureau for assistance, and many also frequented the military hospital for medical treatment also.

The official name of the Freedman's Bureau was the *Office of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands*. This office was patrolled by some of the colored soldiers still at the Fort<sup>2</sup> and was under control of white officers. The focus of the Fort Smith offices was to tend to the needs of the newly expanded free black civilian population. The Freedman's Bureau performed the first black marriages in Fort Smith, many of which were between black women and colored Union soldiers. In addition, the Freedmen had medical needs addressed as well. Shortly thereafter, the Colored Military Hospital began being referred to as the Freedman's Hospital.



## White patients at Fort Smith Freedman's Hospital<sup>3</sup>

What is not as widely known is that there were many white residents who were also treated medically at the Freedman's hospital. It is important to recall that the Bureau served the Refugee population, who were white, as well as the Freedmen population, which was black. Those in need were served, if an appeal was made to the Bureau for aid.

Not much more is known about how long the Freedman's Hospital, the Colored Military Hospital, and the U.S. General Hospital continued to function. Records show however, that as late as 1867 the hospital continued to serve the community. By the 1870's however, this medical facility on the banks of the Arkansas faded into history, having served white soldiers, black soldiers, newly freed slaves, and destitute white citizens as they adapted to new lives after the Civil War in this budding frontier town.

### Foot Notes

1. *Fort Smith New Era*, January 30, 1864  
U.S. GENERAL HOSPITAL, FORT SMITH

The General Hospital at the Post consists of six buildings viz: The St. Charles Hotel, Sutton Mansion, Rector Mansion, prison, Small Pox Ward, and Colored Wards containing 240 patients.

The hospital is under charge of Dr. J. E. Bennet A.A. Surgeon, U.S.A. and three assistants viz: Drs. J.S.C. Rowland, J.L. Prentiss, A.A. Surgeons U.S.A. and A.D. Tenney Assistant Surgeon 1st Colored Kansas Volunteers.

The prevailing diseases are Pneumonia and Small Pox. There are also in the Hospital some 40 cases of vaccination with syphilitic virus. This unfortunate and detestable disease had spread among soldiers and citizens to the extent of between five and six hundred cases presenting all the symptoms of true syphilis.

During the month of December 1863, 263 patients were admitted, 16 died, 3 deserted, and 77 returned to duty. Whole number treated, 309; of these, 64 were cases of Pneumonia, 34 Small Pox, and 39 spurious vaccination. Two thighs were amputated, 1 tumor removed from posterior part of thigh, weighing 7 ounces, and 1 removal of left testis for sarcoma.

2. A report to the Commanding Officer, 11th U.S. Colored Troops dated Fort Smith, Ark. May

31th 1866 read: "Sir, I have the honor to report the following particulars of enlisted men of your command in this hospital, (all privates in the 11th U.S. Colored Regiment): Richard Tillman, Samuel Harvey, Jonathan Parker, Robert Blade, Joseph Logan, Joseph Williamson, Jacob Faulkner, Abraim Wair, Adolphus (Mclsvee – possibly misspelled, difficult to read), and Thadeus Enfield." (Reproduction of this report made by the National Archives not clear enough to reprint).

3. Monthly Report of Destitute, Discharged Soldiers and their families who have been treated in Refugees and Freedmen's Hospital at Fort Smith Ark. District of Ark & Ind. Ter. For the month ending June 30 1867.

Patients listed:

1. James Chastain, 30. Private, Battery, White, enlisted February 1863, Fayetteville. Belonged to 1st Ark. Battery commanded by Henry Easter, has a wife and three children in destitute circumstances.

2. Henry Godsey, 62, Private, "H", 7th U.S. Inf., white. Enlisted 9 May 1829 and 9 May 1834, Fort Gibson. Capt Ed Hawkins Co., served 8 years. Discharged March 9th 1837, has a wife and two children in destitute circumstances. Says he had never received bounty land or bounty in money for any service.

3. Jacob Lewellen, 25, Private, "A", 1st Ark Inf, white, Enlisted 1863, Fayetteville. Has been sick for one year. Self and family destitute.

(This is a sample list of white citizens treated at Freedman's Hospital. Reproduction of the official handwritten report made by the National Archives also too dim to print.)

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The following biographical information on Doctors J.E. Bennett and J.S.C. Rowland, who are listed in the above 1864 news article as being in charge of the U.S. General Hospital, is from the book Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, 1817 - 1976 by Amelia Martin.

### JAMES EDWARD BENNETT, M.D.

James Edward Bennett, born at Salisbury, Somerset County, Maryland, May 13, 1828, was fifty-seven at the time of his death, September 16, 1884. He was an office student of the great surgeon and teacher, Nathan R. Smith of Baltimore Maryland; graduated from the University of Maryland in 1855, and practiced in Sharptown, Maryland for two years. In 1857 he moved to Wyandotte, Kansas for four years; entered the Union Army in 1861 and was stationed in Fort

Smith, where he remained at the end of the war and began with Dr. Lee, a drug business on Washington Street, which he sold in 1872. In 1873 he returned to the practice of medicine, in Greenwood.

Dr. Bennett was a charter member of the Sebastian County Medical Society, and was its secretary almost continuously from 1874 until his death. He served as president of the society in 1877 and was vice-president of the Arkansas State Medical Society in 1880 and 1881. He was, for many years, chief surgeon of the Pension Bureau in Western Arkansas. He contributed a number of articles to the medical press.

The 1880 census listed in his home: his wife, Martha, born about 1838 in Maryland, and two children, a son, Leolin E., also a physician, born in Kansas; and an adopted daughter, Ouida, born in Delaware ca. 1871.

#### Sources:

Minutes Sebastian County Medical Society – taken from a ten-page eulogy.

Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society

1880 Census, Sebastian County, Arkansas

#### **JOHN/JAMES ROWLAND**

John/James Rowland, 38, physician born in Ohio, and his wife, Josephine, 34, born in Virginia, were residents of Fort Smith, Ward 1, 1870 Sebastian County Census. In their home were John Varle, 23, U.S. Collections Clerk, born in Indiana, and two domestic servants. The given name on the census appeared to be Jno., but may have been James or Jas., because we find listed on the Internal Revenue Assessment: 1867, Fort Smith, J.C. Rowland; September 1868, Jas. S.C. Rowland; and November 1869, James S.C. Rowland – all listed as physician.

## Genealogy News and Views

By Janice Bufford Eddleman

### **Looking for the Grave Site of Your Yankee?**

The National Archives has recently released a new microfilm publication (22 rolls) of the records of gravestones provided for Union veterans buried in private cemeteries between 1879 and 1903. These are 3 by 4 inch cards filed alphabetically which include the name, rank, company, regiment, place of burial and date of death of the soldiers and are on NARA microfilm publication M1845. They may be viewed at any National Archives Branch or purchased by calling (800) 234-8861.

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### **WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!**

There is a new genealogical consumer scam out there. The U.S. Information Bureau, NUMA, 3220 N St., N.W., Ste. 1400, Washington, D.C. 20077 wants to thank you for your help with your family records by sending you a "soon-to-be-published book, The (Family Name)s of the Civil War." No price is given and you will be billed for the book. It appears that one of the old scams has rented a new mailing service. File this ad in the wastebasket!

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### **Genealogy and Modern Technology**

Genealogy has long been one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States, but computers and on-line services are making it even

more so. According to a recent article in the Library of Congress' magazine **Civilization**, the only on-line sites that have more business than the genealogical sites are the pornography sites. The latest thing is to scan actual records on to CD's or to web sites where you can see and print out exact copies of the records. Oh, the wonders of modern technology! Will we soon be able to do all of our research via computer? However, please remember that not everything on line is the gospel truth. Many of the genealogies on-line should be looked at with a skeptical eye. Check all the sources before you adopt a family group sheet or ancestor chart and remember that abstracted records do have errors. Some web sites that you might want to check out are listed below:

Roots Web Genealogical Data Cooperative  
<http://www.rootsweb.com>

Library of Congress (on-line catalog  
and family name index)  
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/>

National Archives  
<http://www.nara.gov>

Family History Centers (Mormon)  
[http://www.lds.org/Family\\_History/How\\_Do\\_I\\_Begin.html](http://www.lds.org/Family_History/How_Do_I_Begin.html).

Allen County Public Library, Genealogy Dept.  
<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/genealogy.html>.

Social Security Death Index  
<http://www.ancestry.com/ssdi/advanced.htm>

The National Genealogical Society's new web site is also up and running at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. It includes everything from e-mail to NGS staff members to the library catalog. If you are on-line, don't miss this new web site.

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### **The Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference**

Plan now to attend the fall seminar and book fair of the Arkansas Genealogical Society on September 11-12, 1998, at the Holiday Inn-Airport East, Little Rock, Arkansas. Friday night classes are at 5:30 and 7:45 and you may select two from "Researching African-Americans in US Military Records," "Irish Family History Research," "In the Footsteps of the Blue & Gray: Civil War Research," "Computers, Genealogy & the Internet" or "Genealogy Research in Arkansas." Saturday will feature nationally known genealogist, Leslie Smith Collier. For registration forms and information contact Lynda Suffridge, 3801 Caraway Ct., North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116-8575; phone (501)771-1012 or FAX (501)771-0231.

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### **Ozarks Genealogical Society, Inc.**

18th Fall Conference featuring Myra Vanderpool Gormley, September 25-26, 1998, Springfield, Missouri. For more information Phone (417)889-5677 or (417)881- 5424 or e-mail bhickman@mail.orion.org

Conference Site, Holiday Inn, University Plaza, 333 John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield, MO 65806. Phone (417)864-7333. A block of rooms with special rate has been reserved. Contact hotel before September 4.

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### **SOUTH SEBASTIAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

1. Index of all THE KEY published 1966 through 1996. THE KEY magazines are individually indexed beginning in 1997 – Cost \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for postage.

2. Reprint of WHEN THE OLD BELL RANG by William D. Redwine. Cost \$15.00 each plus \$1.50 for postage.

Order from South Sebastian County Historical Society, P.O. Box 523, Greenwood, AR 72936.

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**CRAWFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, P.O. Box 276, Alma, Arkansas 72921, publishers of "Panning for Nuggets of Old". Periodical published twice each year, Spring and Fall. Membership dues \$15.00 per year for an individual membership. If more than one person in the family wishes to join, add \$1.00 per person for each additional person. This includes only one issue of each periodical per family.

This Society has reprinted the History of Crawford County written by Miss Clara Eno. Exact duplication of text, but in 8-1/2 x 11 size paperback. Price \$25.00 postpaid.

## **Inquiries**

**Inquiries 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. Remember, effective inquiries must contain full names, dates, places and submitter's name and address.**

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**LUNSFORD** – Seeking descendants of Jessie and Mattie Lunsford. Jessie, who was a U.S. marshal in Judge Parker's time, was the brother of my grandfather John Lunsford. Jessie and Mattie had a daughter called Little Mattie and a son named Walter. – Mary Lunsford Beckett, 371 South Moore Avenue, Booneville, AR 72927.

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**MILLER, SKINNER** – Searching for relatives of Jack Miller and Katie Skinner Miller. Their children were Betty, Riley, George, Clara, Lula and Bill – D. Klopp, #59, 1001 E. MacArther, Wichita, KS 67216, e-mail: copeland@southwind.net

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**ALLISON, BLOODWORTH, HARP, O'KELLEY** – Would like to correspond with anyone researching Martin Harp and his wife Sarah Ann Bloodworth who moved to Sugar Loaf Township in 1848. Would also like to exchange information about James Bird Allison and his wife Eliza Ann O'Kelley. – Carline A. Brown Doyle, 17016 Lawson Road, Little Rock, AR 72210-2033

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**DIXON** – My great-great-great-grandfather Leander "Lee" Dixon supposedly died in the jail in Fort Smith in 1887 from wounds he received while helping his wife's (Mary) brother who was an outlaw escape. Mary Dixon supposedly was gunned down in 1886 by two bounty hunters or lawmen in Sebastian County on her way to Indian Territory. Would like Mary's maiden name and any other information about this incident. – Kenneth A. Rigali, P.O. Box 172, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

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**CALDWELL, CLINE, DAVIS** – Looking for information on George Caldwell, who was supposedly killed by federal officers in the area of Fort Smith. His daughter was born in 1903, so it had to be after that. Also looking for information on John Cline and Elizabeth (Davis) Cline prior to 1900. – Cathy Casey, P. O. Box 3956, Visalia, CA 93278-3956

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**LEE, YORK** – Would like to locate my grandparent's places of residence at the time of their marriage. They were John Franklin York and Mary Jane Lee and were married 14 November 1901 in Fort Smith. – Mrs. Shirley E. Churchill, Apt. 302, 4249 Lakesedge Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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**ADAM, BATES** – Looking for proof of birth for Elmer Lester Adam, born 27 October 1914 at Van Buren, Arkansas. His parents were John O. Adam and Sarah Bates Adams. – LaLonnice Scallen, 1470 Wyatt Avenue, Stayton, OR 97383

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**HENDRIX/HENDRICK/HENDRICKS** – Need death date and parents of my great uncle Albert Hendrix, brother of my grandfather T.J. Hendrix. Albert was a blacksmith and worker for a wagon factory in Fort Smith. He also owned property there and is listed there on the 1920 census. Would like to correspond with any of his descendants. – Dorothy Hendrix Waldman, 7921 S.E. Villa Circle, Hobe Sound, FL 33455

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**HOLLENSWORT, HOWELL, MARRS** – Seeking information about my grandfather Samuel Marrs, born at Fort Smith June 1, 1836. His parents were Capt. Marrs and (?) Hollenswort and he possibly had brothers, John, born ca. 1838, and James, born ca. 1840. Samuel and his wife Rebecca Howell came to Oregon in 1861. – Sharon Curry Rohrer, 5681 SE Colony Circle, Milwaukie, OR 97267

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#### **GAR FORT SMITH POST 2, SATTERFIELD**

Recently I learned that my grandfather, Marcus Lafayette Satterfield, was a member of the Civil War organization of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). A cousin has his badge that states that he belonged to the Fort Smith Post Number 2. Would like to have more information about this group, including pictures if possible. Especially would like to have a picture of Marcus Lafayette Satterfield. – Betty Palmisano, 322 Parkview Circle, Taft, CA 93268

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**MILLER** – Looking for information on Miller family that lived in Van Buren, Arkansas ca. 1850-60. 1850 census: Jacob Miller 50, Synthia Miller 23, Texanna 7, Coffee 4, William 2, no name 1/12, Mississippi Blunt 12, John Brawley 21, James Milton 22. In 1860 census, Jacob 60, Cynthia 38, Texanna 18, William 11, Mississippi Brawley 23. Jacob was in Garland Co. in 1830 and in Sevier Co. in 1840. – Dale C. Stinnett, 1209 S Western Amarillo, TX 79106

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**LYNCH** – Looking for burial place of Sarah A. (Martin) Lynch. She and her husband, Joseph W. Lynch of Franklin County, Tennessee, Marion County, Illinois and Parker County, Texas had two sons, John M. Lynch and William R. Lynch, whose descendants lived and live in Fort Smith, Arkansas. John M. Lynch had a son who was Samuel Arthur Lynch who was a probate judge of Fort Smith. This Samuel Arthur Lynch married sisters, Blanche Alma Rogers and Mamie (Rogers) Lynch. William R. Lynch's son who was William Wilson Lynch married Mamie Rogers and they were later divorced. William Wilson Lynch or W. W. Lynch and Samuel Arthur Lynch and Blanche Alma (Rogers) Lynch and Mamie (Rogers) Lynch are buried in the Forest Park Cemetery, Ft. Smith. – Don Martin Thomas, 447 North 200 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

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**BURGER** – George Burger, age 35, born Missouri, is listed in Vol. 59 ED 156 Sheet 3 Line 4 of Ft. Smith, Sebastian County 1920 Arkansas census with his family Pearl age 24, Russell age 7, Georgia age 3 and Kathleen age 1 month. Searching for location and date of death of George Burger (not listed in Social Security Death Index). Would like to correspond with anyone regarding George Burger's descendants. – Mrs. Betty Davis, 3137 North 68th Street, Kansas City, KS 66109-1342. Email: bmdavis@swbell.net.

**HARP, BLOODWORTH** – Seeking information about Martin Harp and wife Sarah Ann Bloodworth, who moved to Sugar Loaf Twp., Crawford Co. before it became Sebastian County in 1851. – Carline A. Brown Doyle, 17016 Lawson Rd., Little Rock, AR 72210-2033.

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**HAAS, CIVIL WAR RECORDS** – Researching George F. Haas, who was a Private in Company A, 2nd Kansas Volunteer Cavalry during the Civil War. George Haas was detached from the 2nd and station at Fort Smith during March and April of 1864. His diary notes that on 18 April 1864, he was escorting a Federal forage wagon train, out of Fort Smith and near Clarksville & Logan, Arkansas when they were attacked by a party of bushwhackers. Following a volley by a unit of the 13th Kansas Infantry, eight men of the Cavalry detachment, gave chase and a running battle took place over a 2-1/2 mile pursuit. Does anyone know

of records that would give additional information concerning this wagon forage expedition? – John Peter Beckendorf, Executive Vice President, Coast Insurance Agency, 11611 San Vicente Blvd., Suite 720, Los Angeles, CA 90049. PH: (310) 207-7737. FAX (310) 207-4792. Email address is <jpbcoast@aol.com>

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**FRY, PRESSER, ERVIN, BREWER, SELF, MORRIS, TURBYVILLE, SMITHSON, PAGE, AKE** – Looking for birth and death records on these Sebastian County families. Some migrated to Arkansas in the mid 1850's and died in Sebastian County. Many of the descendants went from Sebastian County to Ventura County, California in the mid 1940's after the war. – Richard L. Fry, 101 Stardust Ln., Ventura, CA 93004. PH: (805) 659-3241. E-mail address: richard\_fry@hotmail.com

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## Donoho Tidbits

By Janice Bufford Eddleman

You never know where or when you are going to find genealogical tidbits of information. On a recent trip to my birthplace in Independence County, Arkansas for a family reunion, I purchased two new volumes about the Hutchinson Mountain area of that county. As I read through one of the volumes, I stumbled upon the following from the *Batesville Guard* of September 9, 1935, which is a connection to Fort Smith:

### **R.N. Donoho Is Given Higher Position With Life Insurance Company**

R.N. Donoho, who has been the Batesville representative of the Central States Life Insurance Company of St. Louis, has been transferred to Fort Smith, where he will be in charge of the agency in that district. Mr. Donoho left Sunday. The family will move to Fort Smith by the middle of this week. It has not been decided who will take Mr. Donoho's place here.

This is a deserved promotion for Mr. Donoho, who served as special agent here. He will be in charge of the entire Fort Smith district.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Donoho wish them well in their new location. Their two sons, C.C. and Tommy, entered Fort Smith high school this morning.

This article led me to carefully check the two volume work for other references which might be of assistance to a Donoho researcher. The following is the result of that search.

Riley Donoho taught school at Mineral Springs, District #16, sometime between 1891 and 1928.

M.P. Donoho owned 224 acres in Section 25, Township 12 North, Range 7 West.

The following are listed as buried in the Palestine, Hutchinson Mountain Cemetery:

Kirby Otis Donoho (husband of Mona Towell Donoho; son of Miles P. and Martha Fry Donoho), born August 8, 1889, died September 20, 1967, Veteran World War I

Martha Jane Fry Donoho (wife of Miles Donoho; daughter of Sarah Edmonds and William Hall Fry), born October 28, 1866, died May 9, 1959

Miles Pearce Donoho (husband of Martha Fry Donoho; son of Loveann Williamson and William Riley Donoho), born February 26, 1859, died August 30, 1923

Mona Towell Donoho (wife of Kirby Donoho; daughter of Wretha Barnwell and John Franklin Towell), born October 17, 1900, died February 10, 1978

Obituaries copied from the *Batesville Guard* were also listed.

May 11, 1959

### **MARTHA DONOHO FORMER RESIDENT**

Mrs. Martha Jane Donoho of Little Rock died Saturday night in a Festus, Mo., hospital. She was a former resident of Independence County.

Survivors include five sons, E.A., K.O., H.G., and L.C. all of Little Rock, and R.N. of Fort Smith; two daughters, Mrs. Earl Walters, North Little Rock, Mrs.

Lettie Gamel, Little Rock; 29 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. Burial will be in the Palestine Cemetery at Hutchinson at 1:30.

September 22, 1967

#### **KIRBY O. DONOHO**

Kirby O. Donoho, age 78, of Little Rock died there Thursday. He was born in Mt. Vernon, Ill., was a member of the Asbury Methodist Church, the American Legion, a veteran of World War I and had been a member of General Pershing's band.

Survivors include his wife Mrs. Mona Towell Donoho; five sons, K.O. of Vacaville, Calif., Miles Donoho of Little Rock; Jack Donoho of Shreveport, La., Hugh Donoho of San Jose, Calif., and David Donoho of Yuma, Ariz.; one daughter Mrs. Martha Wright of Little Rock; four brothers, F.A. and H.G. Donoho of Little Rock, R.N. Donoho of Fort Smith, and L.C. Donoho of El Dorado; two sisters, Mrs. Earl Walters of North Little Rock and Mrs. Letta Gamel of Festus, Mo.; fourteen grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services will be Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. at the Drummond Chapel in Little Rock with

Rev. Edward B. Hollenbeck and Rev. J. Paul Horton officiating. Graveside services will be Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. at Hutchinson Mountain. Burial will be in Palestine Cemetery. Local arrangements by Crouch Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Bert Ramsey, Paul Duke, Harry Cordon, Frankie Williams, James Herman and Ted Calahan.

The following obituary from the Arkansas Democrat of February 12, 1978 was also found:

#### **MRS. MONA DONOHO**

Mrs. Mona Theresa Towell Donoho, 77, of 1222 Center, Little Rock, a retired State Revenue employee and widow of Kirby Donoho, died Friday.

Mrs. Donoho was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, M.M. Eberts Post One American Legion and was an alumna of Arkansas College.

Surviving are five sons, Hugh Donoho and David Donoho, both of San Jose, Calif., K.O. Donoho of Fairfield, Calif., Miles Donoho of Caddo Gap, Jack Donoho of New Orleans, La., a daughter, Mrs. Martha Donoho Wright of Little Rock; 23 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Drummond Funeral Home.

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## **Charles Edward Benefield**

(From **PHYSICIANS AND MEDICINE, Crawford and Sebastian Counties Arkansas, 1817 -1976, by Amelia Martin**)

Charles Edward Benefield, born in Chapel Hill, Georgia on November 25, 1870, died August 6, 1958 at home 712 North 12th Street in Fort Smith, after fifty-five years of service in medicine. He is buried in Forest Park Cemetery in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Dr. Benefield was a graduate of the old Buckner College, Witcherville, Arkansas, and Memphis Hospital Medical School in Memphis Tennessee, which is now the University of Tennessee School of Medicine. He received his M.D. in 1902 and in 1952 was presented the "Golden T" from the University of Tennessee School of Medicine for fifty years of medical practice.

He practiced medicine in Conway, Arkansas in partnership with the late Dr. G. D. Huddleston until 1927, after which he practiced medicine and surgery in Fort Smith, until his retirement in 1950. Post-graduate work was done in a number of post-graduate schools of medicine, including Tulane Polyclinic, New Orleans, Louisiana - 4 years; Dallas, Texas Medical Conference - 4 years; spent one winter observing clinical work in the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, during the lifetime of Drs. William and Charles Mayo; New York Medical Center - one summer.

Two uncles, the late Dr. Will Pitman of Greenwood and Fort Smith, and Dr. E. L. Hesterly of Greenwood

had a great deal of influence toward his decision to enter the field of medicine.

He was a member of the American Medical Association and the state and county medical societies. In 1896 he appeared before the Choctaw Nation's District Medical Examiners and secured license to practice medicine in the Choctaw Nation. During this practice in the Choctaw Nation, one of his memorable patients, was a Methodist minister named Fulsom, who was the 106-year-old father-in-law of the Chief of the Choctaw Nation. This Indian Chief was Green McCurtain.

Dr. Benefield was a 32nd Degree Mason - presented the 50-year Masonic button in 1952, a member of the Knights of Pythias, the First Methodist Church, and the Rogers Bible Class.

He was married to Nora Howard in 1900 and they had two children, Ralph of San Antonio, Texas, and Exene Carolyn (Mrs. E. Clay Bumpers) of Fort Smith, Arkansas. They had one granddaughter and two great grandchildren.

#### **SOURCES:**

Family records of Exene Benefield Bumper  
Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society



# In Loving Memory

## **ANN LOUISE MEEK JOHNSTON**

Ann Louise Meek Johnston, life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, was born March 16, 1913 and passed away peacefully December 11, 1997. She was a life-long resident of Fort Smith, always helping those in need, in her quiet way touching so many lives, but never asking for thanks or telling others of her helping deeds. She also served as past board member of the Bonneville House Association, St. Edward Ladies Auxiliary and Sparks Ladies Auxiliary. She was a past member of Hardscrabble Golf Association, Fort Smith Garden Club and March of Dimes.

She is survived by her husband, Ben B. Johnston, Jr. of the home; one son, Dr. Robert M. Johnston of Leawood, Kansas and five grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Jane Anne Johnston and one son, Ben B. Johnston III.

Memorial contributions may be made to Make-A-Wish, 1209 North B St., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

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## **PAULINE BERNEICE WALTON**

Pauline Berneice Walton, 77, died Monday, July 28, 1997. She was a member of the board of the Fort Smith Historical Society, a member of Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church, a retired secretary at Howard Elementary School, a volunteer of Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the AARP.

Burial was at the National Cemetery under the direction of Rowell-Parish Mortuary.

She is survived by one daughter, Angela Yvette Walton-Raji of Baltimore, MD; one son, the Rev. Sam L. Walton, Jr., of Fort Smith; three grandchildren; and one great grandchildren.

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## **EXENE BENEFIELD BUMPERS**

Exene Benefield Bumpers, 92, a life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, died June 9, 1998. She was the daughter of Dr. Charles Edgar Benefield, who practiced medicine in Fort Smith from 1927 until his death in 1959. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, a retired real estate broker, a retired music instructor at Harding College, a former member of the Fort Smith Symphony board of directors and a member of the Fort Smith Coterie.

She is survived by one cousin, Yvonne Pendery of Dallas, Texas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Westark Community College and Hendricks State College.

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## **MARGARET PACHL**

Margaret J. Lorenz Pachl, 85, died July 25, 1997. She was a member of the First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ, past president of the Christian Women's Fellowship, a retired secretary for Southwestern Bell, past state president of the Telephone Pioneers of America, a member of the Fort Smith Literacy Council and a volunteer for the St. Edward Medical Center gift shop.

She is survived by a brother, Louis Lorenz of Fort Smith and two nephews, Mike and Sam Lorenz, both of Fort Smith. An article about the Lorenz family was published in Volume 2, No. 1 of *The Journal* of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Disciples of Christ, 3600 Free Ferry, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

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## **CHARLES LIDDLE**

Charles F. "Chuck" Liddle, 89, a member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, died September 20, 1997. He was a retired tool and dye supervisor for Whirlpool Corporation and a member of the First United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Ann; one daughter, Maxine Kyle of Amarillo, Texas; one son, Wayne Liddle of Pinckney, Michigan; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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## **PETER JACOBSEN**

Peter Alexander Jacobsen, 50, died April 8, 1998. He was formerly a journeyman boiler maker for Bremerton Ship Yards in Bremerton, Washington, a Lutheran, a veteran of the Vietnam war and a member of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 467.

Burial was in National Cemetery in Fort Smith. He is survived by his mother, Mary L. Jacobsen of Fort Smith; one sister, Cindy L. Hatfield of Sandy, Utah; one brother, Andy Jacobsen of Fort Smith; and one uncle, Carl Havert of Dora.

Memorial contributions may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 10431, Fort Smith, AR 72917.

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## **MARILYN KELSEY**

Marilyn McEwen Kelsey, 73, died Sept. 25, 1997. She was a contributing member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, a member of the First United Methodist Church and past president of the Fort Smith Junior League. She was a board member of the Salvation Army, a member of the Sebastian County Medical Auxiliary and the Sparks Hospital Guild.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. J. F. Kelsey; two daughters, Margo Roberts of Dodge Center, Minn., and Ellen Jacobi of Grand Forks, N.D.; one son, Major Fred

Kelsey of Ramstein, Germany; one brother Dr. Stanley McEwen of Fort Smith; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

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#### **S. H. BLAKELY**

Dr. S. H. Blakely, 83, died August, 15, 1997. He was a teacher who taught in Mississippi, at the University of North Carolina, Westark Community College, where he was also a Dean of Literature and Languages, and Arkansas Tech University. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, and was the son of Captain Benjamin Croy Blakely, who was known as the most famous of the Arkansas River steamboat captains. For an article about Captain Blakely and his family, see Volume 6, No. 2 of *The Journal* of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Dr. Blakely is survived by three nieces, Sarah Jane Roden of Van Buren, Sydney Dunson of Tulsa and Jane Ann Cooksey of Fort Smith; and one cousin, William Blakely of Battle Creek, Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gospel Rescue Mission, 201 Drennen, Van Buren, AR, 72956.

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#### **DR. BERNARD PAUL**

Dr. Bernard S. Paul, 82, who spent a lifetime supporting his church, his profession and his community, died March 10, 1998. He was a retired podiatrist and World War II Army veteran. In 1944 he served in the 8th Army Headquarters in the Philippines, and when recalled into the army in 1950 he was stationed at Fort Chaffee where he was in charge of two foot clinics. He was later sent to Korea to serve on Gen. Van Fleet's staff in the G-4 section in 1950 and 1952.

He was active in national and state professional Podiatry associations, was a 50-year member of Masonic Belle Point Lodge No. 20, Amrita Grotto, Western Arkansas Scottish Rite and the Scimitar Temple Shrine. Paul was also a member of York Rite, a member of the Exchange Club, a charter member of Fort Smith Elks Club and a member of the First United Methodist church.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; a daughter, Ellen Pugh of Greenwood; a son, Ralph of Van Buren; two sisters, Eleanor Paul of Arlington, VA, and Jean Kraak of Bensenville, ILL.; a brother, Ted of Wheaton, Ill; four grandchildren and two step grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th Street, Fort Smith AR 72901 or the Alma City Cemetery Association, c/o Louis Brown, P.O. Box 717, Alma, AR 72921.

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#### **BEULAH CRUTCHFIELD**

Beulah Evelyn Crutchfield, 89, died April 13, 1997. She was the widow of Eugene Crutchfield, was a teacher for 49 years before retiring in 1972. She was a

graduate of Sul Ross College in Alpine, Texas and received a masters degree from the University of Arkansas in 1954. She was a member and past president of the Varina Jefferson Davis Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), Colonial Dames XVII Century and National Society of United States Daughters of 1812.

She is survived by four sisters, Hazel Tarkington of Fort Smith, Pauline Forbis of Malakoff, Texas, Lorene Hopkins and Madeline Vernon, both of Kerens, Texas; and a brother Thomas Benton Tarkington of Irving Texas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Oak Cliff Baptist Church, 3701 South Gary St., Fort Smith, AR 72903.

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#### **STEVEN JENKINS**

Steven Dale Jenkins, 19, died September 14, 1997. He was a Southside High School honor graduate, a Boys Club Coach, a member of First Methodist Church and a sophomore at Westark Community College.

He is survived by his parents, Carolyn and Dale Jenkins of Fort Smith; his grandmother, Lois Toon of Fort Smith; one sister, Connie Croy of Van Buren; and one brother, David Jenkins of Muldrow.

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#### **HELEN McCARTY**

Helen McCarty, 86, a former volunteer for the Fort Smith Historical Society, a retired teacher in the Fort Smith Public School System, and a member of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, died September 15, 1997.

She is survived by two cousins, Dorothy Hurley of Fort Smith and Majel Billingsley of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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#### **JOHN ROBINSON**

John Vincent Robinson, 63, a contributor to the Fort Smith Historical Society, died Sept. 24, 1997 in Little Rock. He was an architectural historian, past president of the Quapaw Quarter Association, worked for the Little Rock Housing Authority, the city of Fort Smith Belle Grove Historic District, Helena Cherry Street District and restoration of the Ace of Clubs House in Texarkana.

He is survived by many caring friends and memorial contributions may be made to the Quapaw Quarter Association in Little Rock or St. Paul Methodist Church in Fort Smith.

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#### **WILLARD SMITH JR.**

Willard C. Smith, Jr., 54 died September 23, 1997. A graduate of Fort Smith High School, he received his law degree from the University of Arkansas, and practiced law in the Fort Smith area since 1969. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and past president of the Fort Smith Art Center.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; one daughter, Katie Smith of Fort Smith; two sons, Tripp and Collier, both of Fort Smith; his mother Catherine Hoge Gilman of Fort Smith; and two brothers, Arthur of Portland, Oregon, and David of Midland, Texas.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 116 North 12th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901; Diabetes Education Department of the "Wenderoth Nursing Center", c/o Sparks Regional Medical Center, P.O. Box 17006, Fort Smith, AR 72917 or Childrens Emergency Shelter, P.O. Box 982, Fort Smith, AR 72913.

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### **NANCY ORR**

Nancy Jane Montgomery Orr, 84, died May 23, 1998. The owner and operator of the Circle R Ranch near Dora, she believed in hard work, good deeds and quiet charity. The recipient of numerous awards, she never expected thanks or awards for her work. She was a tireless supporter of Sparks Hospital, was the first woman elected to the Sparks Regional Medical Center board of trustees, headed a major capital drive to add an east wing to the hospital in 1966 at a cost of \$440,500, and a west wing in 1971 (\$1.1 million). The Nancy Orr Family Center at Sparks Regional Medical Center was dedicated in 1990, the same year she received the Arkansas Hospital Association Distinguished Service Award.

Her commitment to the Girls Club spanned 62 years, affecting the lives of more than 44,000 area girls. She served on local, regional and national Girls Club boards, and because of her leadership, Fort Smith has two Girls Clubs, one named for her.

She was tireless in her efforts on behalf of Westark College, which began when the school was known as Fort Smith Junior College and she was on its board of trustees. From 1976 to 1982, she was on the medical admissions committee of the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Center, and more recently served on the advisory board of the U of A Area Health Education Center in Fort Smith.

She is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Bud and Meredee Montgomery of Fort Smith; a niece and her husband, Ann and Charles Bonsteel of Little Rock; and a great-nephew, Jacob William Bonsteel of Little Rock.

Memorials may be made to the Fort Smith Girls Clubs; First Presbyterian Church, or any charity of the donor's choice.

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### **ROSS PENDERGRAFT**

Ross Pendergraft, 72, died May 17, 1998. He was a former vice-president and chief operating officer of the Donrey Media Group and was president of Scores, Inc., a Carson City, Nev. based real estate and investment firm. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and attended Arkansas Tech University. The first vice chair-

man of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, he was a member of the executive committee of the charitable trust and was a former chairman of the Fort Smith United Way, in addition to serving on the boards of a number of other businesses and organizations.

He was named Man of the Year by the Arkansas Press Association (1977-1980), was inducted into the Arkansas Tech University Hall of Distinction and had a building named for him on the Arkansas Tech campus.

Pendergraft was a member of the First Baptist Church, Sebastian Lodge No. 706, a 32nd-Degree Mason, K.C.C.H. and a Shriner.

He is survived by his wife, Donnie; one daughter, Lauri Mason of Fayetteville; one son, Neal Pendergraft of Fayetteville; one sister, Letha Hampton of Greenwood; and three granddaughters.

Memorial contributions may be made to Westark College, P.O. Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72902; First Baptist Church, 1400 North E. Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901; or Phillips Cancer Support House, 2510 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

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### **PERRY A. HENSON**

Perry A. Henson, 86, died April 26, 1998. He was a member of South Side Baptist Church, Belle Point Masonic Lodge for 51 years, a Navy veteran of World War II and retired rural postal carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He was Deacon Emeritus at South Side Baptist and a member of RSVP and AARP.

He is survived by his wife, Luqurisa of the home; two sons, Perry H. and Sandra Henson of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and Michael A. and Carmen Henson of Fort Smith; one sister, Mattie and Jack Bland of Fort Smith; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Mary Allyn Henson.

Memorial contributions may be made to South Side Baptist Church at 2400 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

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### **HERMAN UDOUJ**

Herman Joseph Udouj, 81, died May 27, 1998. He was the founder of Riverside Furniture Corp., Fianna Hills Country Club and Sundridge Farm. He was a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and on the board of directors of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, Fort Smith Boys Club, St. Edward Mercy Medical Foundation and Hardscrabble County Club. He was also on the board of trustees of Westark Community College and the University of the Ozarks. He was a director of the Arkansas Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and was named Arkansas Thoroughbred Breeder-of-the-Year several times. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where he was on the Parish Council.

He was one of eight children of a Yugoslav immigrant, John Udouj and his wife, Katheine (Wiederkehr) Udouj.



He is survived by his wife, Irene; three daughters, Anne F. Udouj, Mary J. Udouj and Ellen Udouj Echols, all of Fort Smith; two sons, Ronald H. Udouj and Phillip Udouj, both of Fort Smith; two sisters, Catherine Nolte and Theresa Olsen, both of Fort Smith; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fort Smith Boys Club, 4905 North O Street, Fort Smith AR 72904; Westark College, P.O.Box 3649, Fort Smith AR 72913; St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, P.O. Box 17000, Fort Smith AR 72917-7000; or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, P.O. Box 1866, Fort Smith AR 72902.

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### **PAT PORTA**

#### **Fort Smith's Mr. Television**

Paschal G. "Pat" Porta, 75, died May 20, 1998. Porta, well-known for his golden, mellow voice, achieved a long list of firsts in the fields of radio and television during his 39-year career.

His voice was first heard signing on KFSA radio February 17, 1947. He also signed on Fort Smith's first television station on June 22, 1954, staying with the station when it became Channel 5.

Porta was reportedly the first country/western disc jockey west of the Mississippi River, the first television staff announcer in Arkansas to do live news and the first to do live TV interviews and commercials in Fort Smith. Among his live interviews was one with Elvis Presley during Presley's induction into the Army at Camp Chaffee in 1958. Porta's radio show, "Pat Porta, Inquiring Reporter," on the air between 1947 and 1953, was so popular it often generated more than 100 pieces of fan mail a day. He also took part in the Fort Smith Little Theatre's first musical production - "Up in Central Park," in 1950 where he first met his future wife, Sally Ann.

In addition to his pioneer broadcast efforts Porta was involved in numerous community efforts.

Porta always lived in Fort Smith except for a tour of duty during World War II. A member of the Blue Devils, the 88th Infantry Division, he received a Purple Heart for valor and was a member of the American Legion, Ellig-Stoufer Post, and of the Order of the Purple Heart No. 447.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Ann; one daughter, Carolyn "Libby" Horn of Fort Smith; one son, Jim Pat Porta of Little Rock; one sister, Helen Agee of Santa Rosa, Calif.; one brother, Matthew Porta of Fort Smith, three grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, P.O. Box 1866, Fort Smith AR 72902, or to the American Diabetes Association, 11500 N. Rodney Parham, Suite 19-20, Little Rock AR 72212.

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### **STACY D. LEE**

Stacy D. Lee, 48, died May 9, 1998. He was public relations director for Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Fort

Smith, member and deacon of Grand Avenue Baptist Church, one of the founding fathers of the annual Coca-Cola Classic Basketball and Kenny Whitson Memorial Junior High Basketball tournaments, former Parks and Recreation Director for Fort Smith city parks, former public address announcer for high school football, former commissioner of church league baseball, former scout executive for the Boy Scouts of America, former scoutmaster for Troop 7, former officer of Kimmons and Northside PTA and honorary life member of PTA.

He is survived by his wife, Carole; two sons, Ryan and Brent Lee of the home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lee of Fort Smith, one brother, Joe T. Lee of Fayetteville; three nieces, four nephews; two great-nieces; and two great-nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grand Avenue Baptist Church Children's Building Fund, 921 N. 39th St., Fort Smith, AR 72903; Grizzly Booster Club, c/o of Northside High School, 1201 N. B St., Ft. Smith, AR 71901, or Dave Dravecky's Outreach of Hope, 13840 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921.

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### **PENN WILSON**

C. Penn Wilson, 82 of Houston, Texas, formerly of Fort Smith, died October, 1997, in Houston. He served as a transport pilot for the Royal Air Force in England during World War II. He was the first manager of the Fort Smith Airport and was a corporate pilot in Tulsa and Houston.

He is survived by his wife Joan; one daughter, Joan Forester; one son, C.P. Wilson; and several grandchildren.

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(Margaret Jagmin, 13822 Methuen Green St., Dallas, TX 75240- 5829 sent us the following obituary from the *Dallas Morning News*.)

### **HERBERT PRESLEY FOSTER**

Herbert Presley Foster was born July 8, 1914 in Fort Smith AR and passed away February 27, 1998 in Dallas, TX at the age of 83. He was the son of Josiah Foster and Inez Dozier Foster, members of a pioneer family in North Arkansas.

He was a graduate of the University of Arkansas and an alumni of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Herbert was associated for many years with J. Foster and Company of Fort Smith, and he retired as a Corporate Manager of the Southland Corporation in Dallas, TX. He was a member of the Gleaners Sunday School Class and Lake Highlands Methodist Church. Herbert was a 32nd Degree Mason, a member of Circle 10 Council of Boy Scouts of America and the Exchange Club.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Elizabeth Louise Foster, sister, Virginia Foster and brother, Dozier Foster. He is survived by wife, Billy Dougherty Foster of Richardson, TX; sons and daughters-in-law, Ted and Judy Schwink, of Dallas, TX and Presley and Loretta Foster of Austin, TX.

Graveside services were held March 3 at Forest Park Cemetery in Fort Smith.

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### **W.D. "BILL" JEFFREY**

W. D. "Bill" Jeffrey, 92, well known Arkansas heavy construction builder and benefactor of the Fort Smith Boys Club, died July 16, 1998. He was born in Jamestown.

The founder of Jeffrey Construction and Jeffrey Sand and Gravel Company, he was involved in the building of many area lakes, including Wister Dam, Tenkiller Dam, Blakely Mountain Dam and the dams at Lake Maumelle and Lake Eufaula. He also helped build

major sections of the interstate highway system in this region, plus sections of the Kerr-McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System.

He is survived by his wife, Mae Winston Jeffrey; two daughters, Peggy Hinds and Joanne Swafford, both of Fort Smith; one brother, Ocial Jeffrey of Desha; two sisters, Marie James of Desha and Nobia Lee Bufford of Fort Smith; seven grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jeffrey Boys Club, 4905 North O street, Fort Smith, AR 72904, which was named in honor of his son.

## **Life Members FS Historical Society**

Alexander, J.C., Jr., M/M  
Allen, Sam B.  
Baker, Alice Mayberry  
Baker, Monica  
Barber, Easy, M/M  
Barber, Marci  
Barker, Mary  
Barron, Joe M.  
Barron, William P., Mrs.  
Barry, Harward M.  
Barry, Louis, M/M  
Bledsoe, L. Wayne  
Bowers, Don S., M/M  
Brown, James A., Dr.  
Burch, T.L.  
Burns, Doyne E., Mrs.  
Carson, Jerry  
Cary, Victor L., BGen.  
Cassebaum, Frances  
City National Bank  
Clouse, Vester W.  
Condren, Stewart M.  
Cook, Joel M.  
Corley, Carl D.  
Cotton, Ray W.  
Cravens, Elizabeth E.  
Cravens, Fadjo, Jr.  
Daniel, D. Gene, Mrs.  
Davis, R. L.  
Deer, Carole J.  
Delt, Mary  
DeWitt, Delores R.  
Dunlap, David D.  
Floyd, Wallace C.  
Fulgham, David, M/M

Galloway, Frances  
Gambrel, Francis O'Kelly  
Gardner, John F., Jr., Mrs.  
Gardner, Ronald, Jr.  
Guerin, James R., M/M  
Girard, Charles  
Godt, Henry C., Jr.  
Graf, J.E., M/M  
Grant, H.L., M/M  
Griffin, Richard B.  
Hadley, Peggy A.  
Harder, Patricia Breen  
Hardin, Hugh and Nadine S.  
Harris, David L.  
Hauert, Carl W.  
Hawkins, Franklin, M/M  
Heflin, George, M/M  
Hennessey Foundation  
Herold, Annie  
Hinton, Betty J., Dr.  
Huber, H.E.  
Irwin, Peter J., Dr. and Mrs.  
Isaacks, Stanley, Mrs.  
Jacobsen, Mary L.  
Johnson, K.W., M/M  
Johnson, Robert E.  
Johnston, Geo. Allen  
Johnston, Ben B., M/M  
Joyce, Taylor A.  
Kelley, Gordon, Miss  
Kelly, James B.  
Kidder, Brad  
Kistler, Betty L.  
Klopfenscein, Keith, Dr.  
Koenig, A.S., Mrs.

Koenig, A. Samuel, Dr.  
Lee, Robin, DDS  
Lewis, Jesse R., Jr.  
Lloyd, Joe T., Jr.  
Looper, Floy  
Martin, Art B., Jr., M/M  
Martin, Art B., Dr. and Mrs.  
Martin, Nathan  
Martin, Tommy  
Matthews, Ruth I., Mrs.  
McCann, Eleanor R.  
McCullough, Sarah, Mrs.  
McDaniel, Ronnie  
McDonough, J. Martin, Jr.  
McMinimy, D.J., Mrs.  
Merchants National Bank  
Miller, Phil and Amy  
Moore, Edna, Mrs.  
Morrow, Payne  
Myers, Mary, Dr.  
Northside High School  
Parker, Steve, Dr. and Mrs.  
Patterson, Franklin M.  
and Lucy  
Pollan, George A., Mrs.  
Porter, C.B., Jr.  
Pryor and Barry, Attorneys at Law  
Quenin, James H., Lt. Col.  
Reed, C. Robert  
Roberts, Altha L.  
Roberts, Ramona  
Russell, Jim  
Schaefer, Paul M/M  
Schmidt, Linda Evans  
Secrest, Mrs. Helen

Sharum, Teri Barber  
Shelburne, Donald M.  
Simpson, James B.  
Skinner, Stephen, M/M  
Sorrell, James  
Sparks, James D.  
Stouffer, Walter L., Jr., Mrs.  
Stubblefield, Joel R.  
Sunnymede School Library  
Taylor, Charles E.  
Taylor, Robert C., M/M  
Tennant, Lawrence S.  
Tillery, Kenneth L., M/M  
Tisdale, Martin, Mrs.  
Toller, W.R., M/M  
Vorenberg, S.C., Mrs.  
Vorster, Sister Pierree  
Walker, Henry E., Jr.  
Walker, Jerry L.  
Walling, Robert V., Dr.  
Wanslow, Robert  
Weidman, Bill and Peggy  
Westfall, Ernest N.  
Westphal, Robert B.  
Winans, Lewis, M/M  
Winters, Charles E.  
Woods, Pendleton  
Woods, Powell  
Wortz, Ed Dell  
Wray, Thelma  
Yantis, John M., Jr.  
Yearty, Gordon A.

# Car 10: Fort Smith Trolley Museum

By Thomas S. Duggan

Fort Smith Trolley Museum car 10 has the distinction of having served as both a trolley car in Fort Smith and as a self-propelled passenger car on the obscure Combs, Arkansas (on the Frisco's St. Paul branch) to a point about one mile above Cass, AR of today. The Combs, Cass & Eastern was built by the J. H. Phipps Lumber Company of Fayetteville to tap a 5,000 acre stand of white oak in the area of Black Mountain in northern Franklin County. The railroad was both the last railroad to be built and the sole lumber railroad in Northwest Arkansas. It was completed on December 15, 1916. The line took nearly four years to complete as it had to build four massive wooden bridges to cross the difficult terrain at elevations of up to 1,900 feet. The line had depots at Combs, Frazer, Black Mountain and Cass. J. William Fulbright, the Arkansas senator and statesman, became a railroad director in 1923 at the legal minimum age of 18 as his family had obtained control of the J. H. Phipps Lumber Company and its railroad in 1920. In 1910 the Fort Smith Light & Traction Company announced that it planned to retire cars 1 through 10 as they were obsolete. Car 10, built in 1902 by American Car & Foundry, was a single truck streetcar with manually operated brakes and a monitor roof. Car 10 was likely purchased by the railroad in 1916 or 1917 as a published Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) decision initiated July 28, 1917 notes that the Combs, Cass & Eastern owned "a gasoline motor car." The December 31, 1917 and first report of the Combs, Cass & Eastern to the ICC indicated the line owned one "passenger-train car". A "passenger-train car" was defined as something other than a regular locomotive-hauled passenger car. The railroad's ICC annual reports through December 31, 1926 continued to reflect ownership of a "passenger-train car".

Interviews with senior citizens confirm that the passenger-train car was indeed a former streetcar converted to carry railroad passengers. One recalled riding the car with his mother from Cass to Combs to attend a funeral in St. Paul. Another person recalled that when she lived in Combs she went to Cass high school for two years. She recalled riding in the self-propelled converted streetcar on Friday afternoons from Cass to Combs and returning to Cass the same way on Sunday afternoon. This informant stated the streetcar had come from Fort Smith as her family ran the Brashears Hotel in Combs where some of the lumber company executives stayed during the week.

The railroad had only one locomotive throughout its existence and presumably the streetcar was

purchased to avoid diverting the locomotive from its lumber hauling duties. A published source recalled riding "the rarely operated chaircar" when his family moved to Cass in 1920. An unpublished 1940 history of Franklin County states the street car was propelled by two farm tractor engines. The use of two engines suggests the street car was used as a double ender even though the railroad had wyes at Combs and near Cass where equipment could be reversed.

Passenger revenues on the railroad peaked at \$1,092 in 1920 or about 7.2% of total revenues. By 1923 the best timber had been harvested and revenues began to decline sharply. No 1923 data is shown for passenger revenues so it is possible passenger service was discontinued in 1923. In November 1925 the railroad secured ICC approval to discontinue service on 9.08 miles of line from Cass to Frazer.

Eli Turner of Turner's Bend learned of the streetcar's availability and paid \$20 for it sometime after December 31, 1926. He brought the streetcar body, painted in a dark green with a large number 10, south to Turner's Bend using a horse drawn wagon and restraining ropes tied to trees along what is today Arkansas Route 23. The streetcar body first was located next to the now destroyed Turner homestead located above Turner's Bend. Mr. Turner, who sired 25 children by two wives, then decided to move the streetcar body down to Turner's Bend sometime in the early 1930s as there was a fair amount of business to be done selling gasoline, food and sundries to locals and tourists. From 1939 to 1977 Champ Turner, a son of Eli Turner, operated the Turner's Bend property. The streetcar body saw service as a tourist cabin, storage room, notions shop and even a dog house. In the early 1990s the Fort Smith Trolley Museum obtained the car body and removed it to Fort Smith where it awaits restoration. The car is in generally good condition although the all important gear is missing. Car 10 affords a unique link to the past. It is the only piece of rolling stock known to exist from an obscure railroad whose equipment roster had only nine cars. It is also a Fort Smith streetcar that successfully made the transition from street car to selfpropelled rail car. Many streetcars, especially those with single trucks such as car 10, had difficulty in operating on standard railroad tracks. No. 10 is a survivor whose future restoration will please railfans, traction aficionados and everyone interested in the history of Northwest Arkansas.

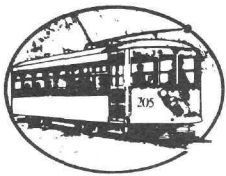


# News and Opportunities

## **FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Except for life members, it is time to pay 1999 membership dues.

Directors elected to serve three year terms on the FSHS Board are: Linda Schmidt, Lynn Dockery, June Alexander, Clara Jane Rubarth, Becky Chancey, Brad Kidder and Nancy Turner.



## **FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM**

The voters have approved the plans to enlarge the Civic Center and develop the river front. Plans are being made by the city to extend each end of the trolley track to these stops.

Plans are for the track to cross Sixth Street at the gate of the National Cemetery, and turn north on Seventh to Rogers. After crossing Rogers, it will turn east to Eighth street where it will turn north stopping at the edge of Garrison Avenue.

On the west end the track now stops at Trolley Square next to the Varsity Sports Grill at 4th and Garrison. The track will turn west toward the river on the south side of Garrison Avenue, continue west toward the old Frisco station, turn north under the Garrison Avenue bridge and continue north stopping across the railroad tracks from the Visitors Center in Miss Laura's. The tracks may cross part of the property where the tornado damaged building at 200 Garrison Avenue is scheduled to be demolished.

This will be convenient for tourists to ride from the Visitors Center and stop at the National Historic Site, the Old Fort Museum, the Trolley museum, the National Cemetery, the Holiday Inn and the Civic Center as well as restaurants on Garrison Avenue.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MEXICAN WAR DOCUMENTARY**

A two-part, four-hour program "The U.S. Mexican War (1846-1848)" will air on Sunday, September 13 and Monday, September 14, from 9-11 pm each night. (Check local listings). This documentary, a production of public television station KERA, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, marks

the 150th anniversary of a war that few Americans remember and most Mexicans will never forget. The series will also air in Spanish in the United States and on Mexican television.

John S. D. Eisenhower, retired Brigadier General in the Army Reserves, plays a prominent role in the bi-national four-hour documentary series.

Eisenhower, son of the former President, serves as on-screen commentator in the series. He has written several books on the war, including the most recent, "Agent of Destiny: The life and Times of General Winfield Scott," published by The Free Press. Eisenhower also served as U.S. ambassador to Belgium.

(See Volume 17, Number 1, pages 2 thru 12 for article on Fort Smith and Van Buren Units in the Mexican War.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Vora Ervin Terwilliger of Fort Smith has observed her 104th birthday. She was born March 11, 1894, in Booneville. She and the late Lewis Terwilliger were married July 2, 1911, and moved to Fort Smith in 1918. She moved to her present home on Towson Avenue in 1939 when Towson was a small two-lane road through rural fields. She has four daughters, Myra York, Betty Kline and Nadine Harlan, all of Fort Smith, and the late Verba Knape; four sons, Charles Terwilliger of Kansas City, Mo., Bob Terwilliger of Russellville, Jay Terwilliger of Fort Ssmith and the late Ervin Terwilliger; 21 grandchildren; 53 great-grandchildren; 52 great-great- grandchildren; and two great-great-great grandchildren. She joined Phoenix Village Baptist Church in 1919 where she continues to be a member. Her greatest wish is to be able to once again walk into her church.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dollie Hall of Fort Smith has observed her 100th birthday. She is a resident of Medi-Homes Nursing Home. She was born in Washita on May 9, 1898, and after graduating from high school, taught school in Washita. She is a member of First Baptist Church and is the widow of George Hall. She has two nieces, Nancy Smith of Fort Smith and Duel Scott of Greenwood; and four nephews, Ralph Smith of Fort Smith, Ozelle Smith of Plainview, Maurice Costolow of Dallas and John Costolow of Houston.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FORT SMITH HONORED AS WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY**

Fort Smith ranked in the top third of the nation's metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) in Industry Week magazine's annual rankings of World-Class Manufacturing Communities, according to the April issue. Fort Smith ranked 105th out of 315 U.S. metropolitan areas.

Other Arkansas cities ranked in the survey were: Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers at 107, Jonesboro at 151, Pine Bluff at 159 and Little Rock-North Little Rock at 213.

Chamber Chairman Tom Barr said the magazine's ranking of Fort Smith demonstrated the power of our Region's strong and diverse manufacturing base, which includes more than 300 manufacturers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BILL HARDING NAMED AS NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Bill Harding, who was named City Administrator in May, began working for the City in 1984 as Director of Planning, and has been serving as Acting City Administrator since December 1997. He was named Assistant City Administrator in 1987 and Deputy City Administrator in October 1997.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MUSIC FORT SMITH**

Music Fort Smith is kicking off a promotional campaign to restore the New Theatre (formerly the Old Malco) to its 1911 grandeur. Needed are financial contributions, and photographs and original or copy of architect's drawing of the building (both interior and exterior). Donations can be made to The New Theatre, 9 North 10th, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Music Fort Smith is a nonprofit, 501c(3) corporation organized for the purpose of establishing and operating a community center for the promotion of the performing arts. Although membership is open to all ages, Music Fort Smith is devoted to especially serving children and young adults with musical education and performance opportunities.

Music Fort Smith acquired the New Theatre in order to provide practice, lesson and performance area for young musicians and others in the performing arts. Renovation will take a long time and a lot of money, but the New Theatre has been called one of the most historically and architecturally significant buildings in Fort Smith. The revival of this building would be a real jewel for our town. Everyone can be a part of the rebuilding of the New.

In addition to this fundraiser, musical fundraisers will be held every Friday night 7pm to 10pm in the Hangman's Garden, 300 block North 5th Street (3 blocks behind Old Town), weather per-

mitting. \$5.00 per person, kids under 12 free, food & non-alcoholic drinks available, bring a blanket or chair or sit on the grass.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BLOOPER**

There was a typographical error in the Chronology in Volume 22, No. 1 of The Journal, page 31, Column 2, September 17th should read: Wyman R. (Rick) Wade, Jr. and Ann Dawson won at-large-seats on the Fort Smith Board of Education. The typographical error caused the name Dawson to be spelled Damson.



## **1998 CHRONOLOGY**

**February 5 - July 6**

**Prepared by Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough  
from the Fort Smith *Southwest Times Record*  
FEBRUARY**

5th – Miss Laura's moved to new foundation on February 4. The only bordello on the National Register of Historic Places is being renovated to repair damage from the April 1996 tornado. When completed in August, the building will again be the home of the Fort Smith Convention & Visitors Bureau, which has operated out of a temporary trailer since the tornado.

\*\*\*\*\*

12th – More than 225 employees of Crain Industries in Fort Smith will lose their jobs beginning April 12 as part of a consolidation plan announced Wednesday by Crain's parent company, Foamex International.

\*\*\*\*\*

15th – Richard Griffin was praised by City Administrator Bill Harding for his efforts at revitalizing the remaining assets in the downtown business area of Fort Smith. Developer Griffin is chairman of the Fort Smith Housing Authority, commissioner on the Central Business Improvement District and chairman of the local Republican Party.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – The Economic Development grant that Fort Smith had intended to use to help build a parking garage on Garrison Avenue will go into the riverfront development, acting City Administrator Bill Harding said Wednesday. The city's delay, however, in laying claim to the grant has cost more than \$500,000. The original grant had originally been negotiated at \$1.8 million dollars.

— • —

## **MARCH**

9th – Vera Ervin Terwilliger of Fort Smith will observe her 104th birthday on Wednesday. She

was born March 11, 1894, in Booneville and moved to Fort Smith in 1918.

\*\*\*\*\*

11th – Fort Smith has hired Wayne Bledsoe, former commissioner of the Belle Grove Historic District Commission, as Historic District coordinator, a newly created part-time position.

Bledsoe, who taught social studies and vocational education at Northside High School for 22 years, started work February 28.

\*\*\*\*\*

12th – A Sebastian County jury awarded \$1.2 million to Griffin Construction Co. against St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Co. The case stemmed from a fire that occurred on December 20, 1996, at the Josiah Foster building at 222 Garrison Ave. The building was on the National Register of Historic Places.

\*\*\*\*\*

13th – The Fort Smith Central Business Improvement District commissioners Thursday endorsed a \$3.5 million downtown development plan that proposes an expansion of the National Historic Site and construction of a landscaped parking area along the North side of Garrison Avenue.

\*\*\*\*\*

15th – Belle Grove, Fort Smith's historic district of buildings dating back to the Civil War, is beginning to see developments that parallel revitalization efforts in the downtown commercial district and on the riverfront.

\*\*\*\*\*

17th – Floor plans and drawings for a new \$8.7 million area regional technical center were unanimously approved Monday by members of the Westark College Board of Trustees.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – Polly Wood Crews received the Gloria White Community Angel Award Wednesday for her volunteer efforts in nursing homes on behalf of Project Compassion.

\*\*\*\*\*

22nd – Elvis Presley was remembered in a one-day celebration at the Old Fort Museum. Presley was inducted into the Army at Camp Chaffee in 1958.

\*\*\*\*\*

23rd – The Fort Smith-based Internet Partners of America (IPA) has become an information superhighway instead of the sideroad it started out in its beginning in May, 1995.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – The Fort Smith Board of Directors voted Tuesday to purchase the property for a new library to be located on Free Ferry Road and Rogers Avenue.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – The Fort Smith Board of Directors voted Tuesday to annex 99 acres belonging to

Stephens Production Company. Located south of East Geren and east of Arkansas 45 near the Hiram Walker plant, the annexed property also contains five of nine acres that have recently been determined by historians to be the site of the Massard Prairie Battle of the Civil War. Those five acres have been given to the city by Stephens, said Mayor Ray Baker.

\*\*\*\*\*

29th – The Fort Smith Board of Directors unanimously approved an \$80,000 appropriation to help fund the 1998 operations of the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority Public Trust and help match the trust's anticipated grant from the U. S. Economic Development Administration.

\*\*\*\*\*

30th – The GenCorp plant in Fort Smith, which manufactures plastic gaskets for refrigerators and vehicle seals for automobiles, will close within the next 60 to 90 days and all 160 employees will lose their jobs, the company announced Wednesday.

— • —

## APRIL

1st – Dee Carroll, executive director of the Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau, honored for being named 1997 Arkansas Tourism Person of the Year at the annual Governor's Conference on Tourism.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – Investiture of The Honorable Robert T. Dawson as United States District Judge Western District of Arkansas.

— • —

## MAY

8th – Recipients named for the Whirlpool Master Teacher Award, the Lucille Speakman Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Luella Krehbiel Teaching Excellence Award at Westark College.

The Whirlpool winner is Emma Watts of Fort Smith. Speakman award winners are Stephanie Zerkel and Carolyn Filippelli, both of Fort Smith, and Cindy Lanphear of Coal Hill. The Krehbiel winner is Brad Kidder of Fort Smith.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 11th – Outstanding Volunteer Golden Rule Award Winners:

**Individual Award Winner**, Jo Rene Leach, Westark Retired Seniors Volunteer Program;

**Group Award Winner**, Children's Services League (63-year-old, low-profile agency with a 100% volunteer group that collects, sorts and stores clothes for school children who need them. They have provided clothing to over 500 children this year.

**Educator Award Winner**, Hank Needham, Fort Smith Boys Club

**Youth Award Winner**, Hoang Pham, Fort Smith Public Library.



\*\*\*\*\*

25th – After nearly 20 years in storage because of frequent vandalism, the refurbished “Spirit of the American Doughboy” statue returns to its post in front of the Ellig-Stoufer Post 31. The Victor Ellig Post first dedicated the monument in 1930 to Fort Smith soldiers who died in World War I. The E. M. Viquesney statue stood at the entry of the Louis Tilles Children’s Park for half a century. In 1979, the statue was warehoused because of frequent vandalism.

Ralph Irwin, a Van Buren artist and sculptor did the restoration and his father, Charles F. Irwin of Van Buren, a mason for more than 50 years, built a fieldstone base for the six-foot monument. The monument is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – Oak Cemetery Pavilion dedicated. Ceremony was followed by an afternoon of living history “Tales of the Crypt.”

\*\*\*\*\*

20th – Trans World Express announced it was pulling out of Fort Smith effective June 6, airport Manager Bob Johnson confirmed Thursday. Johnson blamed TWE’s departure on poor service.

\*\*\*\*\*

29th – Herman Joseph Udouj, founder of Riverside Furniture Corp., Fianna Hills Country Club and Sundridge Farm, died Wednesday, May 27, at the age of 81. (See In Loving Memory).

\*\*\*\*\*

31st – Local business leaders say a draft plan for reuse of 7,390 acres of surplus Fort Chaffee property balances economic needs and the community’s desire for green space, despite opposition from environmentalists.

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— • —

## **JUNE**

2nd – A new type of Wal-Mart store may be coming to the Quarry Shopping Center. Building plans for a Wal-mart Food and Drug Express are on record with the city, Fort Smith permit officer Tom Monaco confirmed Monday.

\*\*\*\*\*

3rd – Fort Smith’s April street tax revenues were up by less than one percent compared to the same month last year, prompting city finance officials to predict tax receipts won’t increase appreciably over last year.

\*\*\*\*\*

3rd – The Mixed-drink proposal got mixed reviews from the Fort Smith Board of Directors.

\*\*\*\*\*

5th – Fort Smith and Sebastian County making plans for a new courthouse.

\*\*\*\*\*

6th – The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority unanimously approved a conceptual reuse plan for 7,390 aacres of surplus Chaffee property.

\*\*\*\*\*

11th – The Fort Smith Art Center featured the works of John Bell, Fort Smith’s historical artist, through June and planned to continue it through July.

\*\*\*\*\*

11th – The National Weather Service planned closing the Fort Smith office when the old weather radar at the Fort Smith Regional Airport was decommissioned this month (June).

\*\*\*\*\*

15th – Members of the Fort Smith Historic District Commission and residents of the Belle Grove Historic District would like to remove the asphalt paving of the area’s streets and restore them to the original brick paving, now undercover. The cost is the main consideration.

\*\*\*\*\*

16th – Fort Smith will now take animals to the River Valley Humane Society at 3900 Kelley Highway. The city contracted the Humane Society to provide a centralized shelter and will pay the Humane Society \$116,000 per year, under a two-year contract, according to Randall Russell, executive director.

\*\*\*\*\*

22nd – The Rogers Avenue Station postoffice in Fort Smith moved to a new updated and expanded home at 3400 Rogers Avenue in Park Plaza with the latest of everything the post office has to offer. It replaces the facility located at 46th Street and Rogers Avenue, and will continue to serve the same functions including collectibles and stamp sales and post office box rental.

\*\*\*\*\*

27th – Officials of Fort Smith-based Beverly Enterprises hosted a groundbreaking June 26 at the site of the company’s new corporate center in south Fort Smith. Construction will begin immediately on the \$25 million, five-story, 318,000 square-foot facility on a 64-acre tract on George Mountain – now unofficially dubbed “Beverly Hills” – west of Arkansas 253.

\*\*\*\*\*

— • —

## **JULY**

4th – City celebrates July 4th with entertainment and fireworks at Kelley Park.

\*\*\*\*\*

7th – Multi-Ethnic Committee formed to establish a center where immigrants relocating to Fort Smith can have access to a Multi-Cultural Information Center to receive information and education. “Our philosophy here is we want to provide services to people who need help,” said J. Fred Patton, committee chairman.

# 1898 Newspapers

**FORT SMITH ELEVATOR – February 11 - August 5, 1898**

(Abstracted by Mary Lou Jacobsen from microfilm in the Fort Smith Public Library)

## **FEBRUARY 11, 1898**

The Liederkranz will give a masked ball at their hall over Little's store next week. This will be last ball before Lent.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **WANTED**

To form the acquaintance of a country widow who is matrimonially inclined. Address "Widower" Box 308, Little Rock, Ark.

— • —

## **FEBRUARY 18, 1898**

### **Passenger Rates Fort Smith to Klondyke**

The Frisco Line is now able to sell tickets direct to the Klondyke as follows:

To Wrangell, first class \$61.40; second \$19.40

To Juneau, first class \$76.40; second \$63.40

To Skaguay, first class \$66.40; second \$71.40

(This is as in paper – believe they made error)

To Sitka, first class \$86.40; second \$68.40.

These tickets are routed via Portland or Tacoma.

Rates to these points via San Francisco are \$8.00 higher first class and \$4.00 higher second class.

Rates to Circle City, Dawson City, Fort Cadahy and Forty Mile via Portland or Tacoma and the Yukon River is \$296.40. For further information call on or address S. J. Breckenridge, Agent.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **A TERRIBLE CALAMITY**

The United States War Steamer Maine Blown to Pieces in the Harbor of Havana  
Two Hundred and Fifty Officers and Men were lost.  
It was one of our best vessels.

The United States steamer Maine was blown to pieces in Havana Harbor Wednesday night about 10 o'clock. Reports in Washington say that 250 officers and men, if not more, perished in the explosion. The shock shook the entire city of Havana and shattered the windows in nearly all the houses. This terrible accident is thought to be the result of an explosion in the magazine of the vessel, although many are of the opinion that the Spaniards are at the bottom of it. A rigid examination will be made and the blame placed where it belongs.

Many of the victims of the explosion who were blown overboard, were eaten by sharks, which abound in the harbor of Havana by hundreds.

The crews of the Spanish vessels in the harbor acted heroically in rescuing struggling sailors from the waters. The Maine was one of the

strongest vessels in our navy. She was built between 1886 and 1890 and cost \$2,500,000. She carried ten guns, six torpedo tubes and had a speed of over seventeen miles an hour.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **THE NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH**

At a meeting of the members of the Church of the Immaculate Conception \$5,000 was subscribed to the erection of the new church building. The following committee was appointed to take charge of the matter and push it to a successful conclusion: W. J. Murphy, M.P. Boyd, J. A. Montgomery, F. T. Reynolds and Henry Kuper, Sr.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Garrett has approved the electric street car ordinance, so rapid transit may not be such a distant matter after all.

— • —

## **FEBRUARY 25, 1898**

This section experienced a severe cold snap during the week, the thermometer falling as low as at any time during the winter.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Pryor Lumber Company of Mena was incorporated last week. Capital \$15,000. Incorporators: W. S. Pryor, Clara Pryor and W. A. Carroll.

\*\*\*\*\*

Company D were out for drill last Friday and made a splendid appearance. Sunday they attended divine service at the First Presbyterian Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bullard's Horehound Syrup is not a mixture of stomach destroying drugs, but is a scientifically prepared remedy that cures coughs and cold, and all throat and lung troubles. Its action is quick, prompt and positive. 25¢ and 50¢. E. E. Payne

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL MASS MEETING**

On next Monday, the 28th inst. at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and 8 o'clock in the evening, there will be at the First Methodist Church, on Seventh street, a Sunday School mass meeting, at which all the Sunday Schools of the city will participate. These meetings will be conducted by Prof. H. M. Hamill, of Illinois, who is international field worker for the International Sunday School organization. His methods are up to date and it will be a treat to

hear him. There will be no admission fee charged, and it is hoped that everyone interested in Sunday School work will attend these meetings.

— • —

**MARCH 4, 1898**

**MUST HOLD THEMSELVES IN READINESS**

Maj. Gen. R. G. Shaver, Commanding the Arkansas State Guards and Reserve Militia, has sent the following notice to Captains of companies in the State Guard. "Sir — you will at once put your company in condition for active service, and hold them in readiness for marching orders at any moment. If any deficiencies exist in the arms or equipment you will report same at once to Gen. Clem R. Schaer, Commanding Second Division.

\*\*\*\*\*

We do not believe, like many others, that a war with Spain would be a mere "breakfast spell", but would thunder out the yellow hided cusses in the end.

\*\*\*\*\*

Workmen are rapidly rebuilding the residence of Herman Krone on D street, which was ruined by the cyclone. The building will be of frame instead of brick as formerly, will be a more imposing edifice than the old one.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE MAINE**

The Board of Inquiry has no doubt that she was Blown Up.

Karl Decker, telegraphing from Key West, Florida, to the New York Journal says, "I have obtained today absolutely accurate information that the Maine was blown up by a mine or mass of dynamite placed under the starboard bow, just at the 10 inch magazine."

\*\*\*\*\*

The Protracted meeting which has been in progress at the Fourth street colored Baptist Church for the past two or three weeks, has resulted in thirty or forty additions to the church. The ordinance of baptism will be administered Sunday afternoon in the river at the foot of Garrison Avenue.

— • —

**MARCH 11, 1898**

**ELECTRIC LIGHT  
AND ELECTRIC CARS**

The Board of Public Affairs let to Col. Sam McLoud a contract for Lighting the city by Electricity. Only two bids were received.

Last Monday evening the Board of the Public Affairs awarded to Col. Sam McLoud a contract

for lighting the city by electricity and the contract provides for electric car service. There were but two bids before the board, one from Col. McLoud and the other from the Fort Smith and Van Buren Light and Transit Company. Col. McLoud's bid was for seventy lights at \$80 per annum for a term of ten years. The bid carries with it a clause providing for the construction of six miles of electric street railway within one year. For lighting alone, Col. McLoud's bid was for \$70 a light. The bid of the Fort Smith and Van Buren Transit Company for lighting alone was \$61.50 per lamp. For light and electric railway combined, \$100 per lamp per annum.

\*\*\*\*\*

Plenty of those fellows who now stand around the street corners and avow their willingness to eat a Spaniard blood raw, if they can only catch one, will sing as softly as sucking doves if scrapping begins in dead earnest.

— • —

**MARCH 18, 1898**

**HAIR GOODS**

A lady representing D. Minehan's Hair Store of 458 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, will be at Hotel Main, March 24th, with a full line of hair goods — wigs, toupees, switches and all styles. Free samples of water color for gray hair and face bleach for the complexion. Call and examine the goods.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bourland Pugh of Van Buren raised a rumpas in Maggie Monds' house on the river last Monday night. He knocked the gentle Mollie down and proceeded to thump her. Then he started to run from the house, and as he did so, Maggie sent a pistol bullet after him which lodged in his shoulder. His fun cost him \$50 beside a sore shoulder.

— • —

**MARCH 25, 1898**

**ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL**

Commencement exercises were held at St. John's Hospital yesterday afternoon. Misses Seiber, Wood and Howard graduated, but owing to the early hour at which our forms were laid out on the press we are unable to give a detailed account of the proceedings.

— • —

**APRIL 1, 1898**

Is your child peeked, peevy and peevish? Does it have convulsions? If so, it has worms. White Cream Vermifuge is the only safe cure. Every bottle is guaranteed to bring worms. 25 cents E. E. Payne (Yes, bring worms is what it said)



\*\*\*\*\*

### THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS

The council approves the action of the committee on streets in locating them.

The city council held a special meeting on the night of the 24th and approved the acts of the committee on streets and the board of public affairs in locating arc lamps. The location of the lights will be as follows:

on Garrison Avenue - at Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth and Twelfth

Towson Avenue - Rogers Avenue, South B, D, and F

Rogers Avenue - South Ninth, South Twelfth and A

South Thirteenth - B and D

Lexington Avenue - C and E

Little Rock Avenue - Lexington Avenue, North Seventeenth and North Nineteenth

South Sixth - Parker Avenue and South B

Carnall Avenue - Wheeler Avenue

North A - First, Third, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Thirteenth

North B - Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Fourteenth, Sixteenth and Eighteenth

North C - Third, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and and Seventeenth

North D - Second, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Fourteenth and Sixteenth

North E - Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Thirteenth

North F - Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth and Fourteenth

North G - Fifth, Seventh, and Eleventh

North H - Fourth and Sixth

\*\*\*\*\*

### WANTED

To trade a \$65.00 White Sewing Machine for a good horse. Apply L. M. Alford, 810 Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, Ark.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Robert Joyce of Lavaca had a leg broke last week by being struck by a street car. He was taken to St. John's Hospital where the fracture was reduced and a day or so afterward taken home.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ground has been broken for the foundation of the new Catholic Church and work will proceed without intermission. The new building will be completed by December and will be the finest church edifice in the State.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Marriage of Mr. John Gannaway and Miss Sue Freeman

Mr. John Gannaway and Miss Sue Freeman were married last night at the First Methodist church by Rev. O. E. Goddard. After the ceremony they went to their residence on Lexington Avenue where they received the congratulations of a number of friends. Mr. Gannaway and his bride are among our worthiest and most popular young people and the *Elevator* wishes them a long life of prosperity and happiness.

- • -

**APRIL 8, 1898**

### EPWORTH LEAGUE SOCIAL

The Epworth League of Broconscombe M. E. Church will give a Penny Social this evening at the residence of Mr. Jesse Lunsford, 315 S. 18th Street. An admission fee of ten cents will be charged at the door. Refreshments will be served and a good time is assured. All are cordially invited.

\*\*\*\*\*

The annual ball of the fire department will take place Monday night at Luderkrong Hall. We hope the boys will be encouraged by a good attendance.

- • -

**APRIL 15, 1898**

### CHANGE OF VENUE IN ED HINER CASE

Ed Hiner, the young fellow who is charged with killing Wiley Jackson, a negro boy, near Hare's Saloon about a month ago has taken a change of venue to Scott county. The testimony developed in the examining court shows plainly that Hiner threw the missile that caused poor Jackson's death and we do not believe that the change of venue will benefit him to any great extent.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Howard of Van Buren attempted to commit suicide last Saturday by taking laudamum, but a physician and stomach pump prevented her from joining the angels.

\*\*\*\*\*

### A BICYCLE THEFT

Mr. F. M. Masters, the electrician, had the misfortune last week to lose his bicycle, but on the following day found it in Van Buren, where it had been sold for \$4.00. The man who took the wheel turned out to be Burrell Garrison. After selling Master's wheel, Garrison came back to the city and stole a wheel belonging to A. J. Kenrick, editor of the *News Record*. Garrison is subject to epileptic fits and is said to be slightly off in the head. Monday he pled guilty to theft in Judge Blythe's court and was bound over in the sum of \$500.00.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE RACES**

There will be a meet of a week or more of racing at the fair grounds at Fort Smith, beginning May 8th. All horsemen are invited to attend, courteous treatment and good purses assured. Tucker Anderson

\*\*\*\*\*

Now that the city council has stopped gas-ing and given us electric lights, maybe we can see why they tore down the old garrison wall and why the settling basins don't settle.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PUNCH**

Twelve lemons, ten oranges, 2 cans grated pineapple, four pounds of sugar, three pints Jamaica rum, two pints of whiskey, two pints strong tea (optional) and one and one-half pints of water. Add this to large lump of ice and let stand four or five hours.

- • -

**APRIL 22, 1898**

## **BELLA! HARRIDA BELLA!**

Acting under director of Congress President McKinley issues an ultimatum demanding of the Spanish Government the evacuation of Cuba. In Forty eight hours Spanish minister at Washington demands his passports. Woodford will present the ultimatum and then leave Spain.

\*\*\*\*\*

O' Neal and Berry have secured the contract for laying the foundation of the new Catholic Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. W. H. Hannum and Miss Bettie Bonham were married in the city last Friday morning at the office of the Private Wire Company by Esq. James Dodson. The happy groom of this wedding is 72 years old, while his bride is 25 and slightly afflicted with lameness.

- • -

**APRIL 29, 1898**

## **WAR IS DECLARED**

The East India Fleet has been ordered to attack the Spanish Flotilla in the Phillipines.

Dispatches in Washington say a Spanish fleet is on its way toward the North Atlantic Coast.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Ben Worden and Miss Louise Victoria Guler were married Wednesday night at the residence of Mr. John Guler, the bride's father. Rev. McN McKay conducted the ceremony. Quite a number of friends of these deservedly popular young people witnessed the happy event. The *ELEVATOR* extends congratulations and good wishes.

\*\*\*\*\*

The false work around the pier of the Gulf Bridge over Poteau was swept away Saturday night by the sudden rise of stream.

\*\*\*\*\*

Theodore Roosevelt has resigned his position as Assistant Secretary of THE NAVY and will enter military service as a Lieutenant Colonel. It is to be hoped that Teddy will be more successful as a soldier than he has been as a civil service reformer.

\*\*\*\*\*

The building going up on Sixth street adjoining the headquarters of the fire department will be occupied by Mr. T. L. Metcalf, late of Hopkinsville, Ky., who will establish a first rate laundry.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Able Bodied Men

Between ages of 21 and 45

Wanted to enlist in the

Volunteer Service

From the State of Arkansas

Apply to

Recruiting Officer

Court House Yard

South Sixth Street, Fort Smith, Ark.

None but strong

Vigorous, Moral Men

Need Apply

- • -

**MAY 6, 1898**

## **LIMBERG BROS.**

Nos. 17 and 19 North Ninth Street manufactures the celebrated Limberg Wagon. Best wagon on the market. We insure tires on our wagons never come loose.

Wagons from 2 1/4 to 3 1/2 spindles kept constantly on hand - larger sizes made to order on short notice.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nearly 1000 Spaniards lost their lives in the big naval battle in Manila Bay last Sunday and as a consequence the atmosphere of hell is strongly permeated with garlic today.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **HIGH WATER**

The Arkansas and Poteau Rivers join and cover Poteau Bottoms. Repetition of the flood of 1892 feared. There is a higher stage of water around Fort Smith than at any time since 1892.

\*\*\*\*\*

Both Poteau and the Arkansas are out of their banks. The water of both have joined in Poteau bottom and threaten the destruction of several hundred acres of potatoes. (The lengthy article states the gage shows 30.1 feet with a rise of 3-1/2 inches an hour. In 1892 - May 19, 1892, showed 30.95 feet)

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Monday Policemen Moore and Carr arrested Walter Conter for stealing a lot of shirts from Max Strauss. The shirts were in front of the

store and Conter is said to have swiped them as he passed along. He denies the impeachment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday, the 7th, wheat sold at Chicago for \$1.70 per bushel. This is the highest price paid since 1888. The high price is owing to two causes, the continued shortage in Europe and the entire demand on account of the war.

- • -

**MAY 13, 1898**  
**NEW ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

The corner stone of the new church will be laid this evening with appropriate ceremonies. The stone will be placed in position by the Masons and Knights Templar and an address will be delivered by Rt. Rev. Henry N. Pierce, Bishop of the Diocese of Arkansas.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BOSTON HEIGHTS**

The famous hostelry at Winslow, the summit of Boston Mountains is now open for reception of visitors and will continue during the season under management of Mr. V. C. Duncan, who has conducted it so successfully in the past.

- • -

**MAY 27, 1898**

C. J. Murta has renewed the lease on the opera house and has booked a number of splendid attractions for the coming season.

- • -

**JUNE 3, 1898**

Mr. Geo. Miller of Van Buren was married Tuesday to Mrs. Sadie Oden at the residence of the bride's parents in this city. Rev. G. W. Flowers of Van Buren performed the ceremony.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Friday John Beck, Ciel Hoover and Mr. Lyons were arrested on the charge of robbing Sid McLaughlen, while he was drank (yes, the newspaper said drank) in a saloon. The examination was set for Tuesday, but when the hour arrived McLaughlin was not on hand, so the case was again passed until today.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CITY MAPS**

Anyone who would like a new city map can get one by calling at Wharton Carnall's office. He has them to give away.

- • -

**JUNE 10, 1898**  
**E. M. ROCKWOOD M.D.**  
**PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON**

Makes a specialty of club feet and curvature of the spine. He has a positive cure for club feet no matter how bad or how long standing.

Consultation free.

Radical cure for rupture without the aid of a knife.  
Over Crescent Drug Store - Fort Smith, Ark.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Echols residence was entered Sunday morning by somebody who stole a watch, a gun, a guitar, and considerable clothing. So far, the thief has not been discovered.

- • -

**JUNE 17, 1898**

Under the Auspices of Gentlemen's Driving Club, at Fair Grounds July 4th and 5th an interesting program has been arranged for the two days sport and - A Hot Time, A Good Time, A Jolly Time is promised. Bring your fast horses, your wives and children and sweethearts and take in the Big Race Jollification, Remember - Purses for the Winners - Sport for the Losers

July 4th and 5th at Fair Grounds - Fort Smith, Ark.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. S. A. High has rented the old residence of May Sparks, 121 B Street between Second and Third and is prepared to accomodate with good board all who may call on her. Terms \$3.50 per week. Good food, good beds, nice rooms.

- • -

**JUNE 24, 1898**

Mr. John D. Hays and Miss Dora Todd were married Tuesday by Rev. C. M. Shipley. Mr. Hays joined the army a few days ago and pending his departure to Chickameango thought it best to put the seal on a little affair that has been pending for some time.

\*\*\*\*\*

Work has begun on the construction of a new lodge at the National Cemetery. The new lodge will be in the northeast corner of the cemetery not far from the gate. It will be of brick, two stories high, and furnished with all conveniences of modern times. Sam Spencer is the contractor.

\*\*\*\*\*

Smoke the Twister - five cents, all spanish and as good as they make 'em for a nickel. Sold by Weldon and Williams.

- • -

**JULY 1, 1898**  
**EXERCISES ATTENDING THE CLOSE**  
**OF THE ELEVENTH YEAR OF OPERATIONS**

St. John's Hospital entered upon the twelfth year of its existence last Friday and the event was duly celebrated. After the program by Mr. J. C. Hill, about 5 o'clock, Rev. P. F. Germann, pastor of the Lutheran Church, offered an invocation. Dr. Rockwood, secretary of the staff of physicians then read the annual report.

Following the reading of the report there were other reports, there were other exercises and several addresses, the latter short but interesting.



Rev. P. C. Fletcher delivered the anniversary address and Rev. Frank Cole pronounced the benediction. Miss Sandberg, Matron, and her corps of assistants received the callers and many were the compliments passed upon the management of the hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE COLORED MASONS

Widows Sons Lodge met one night last week and installed the following officers: Collins Price, W.M.; T. Quinn S.W.; Ed Green, J.W.; Jury Harlon, Treasurer; Joe Hensley, Secretary; Simon Walker, S.D.; F. Greed, J. D.; Robert Green, Chaplain; Jim Green S.S.; William Patterson J.S.; Don Harrison, Tyler.

We understand the lodge met Friday night and adopted a resolution condemning in strongest terms the rowdyism that occurred on the train during the trip to Charleston the previous day. They also appointed a committee to assure the prosecuting attorney of their willingness to assist him in bringing the guilty parties to justice.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rough Riders ride into an ambush - a desperate fight in which twenty Americans are slain.

Captain Capron and several of the Territory Contingent among the dead.

(Details too long to extract)

\*\*\*\*\*

### WANTED

100 Able Bodied Recruits

for 1st Regiment Arkansas Volunteers

Must be physically sound and between ages of 18 and 45 and unmarried. Apply at once at Recruiting office, 317 Garrison Avenue, upstairs, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

W. M. Fishback, Jr.

2nd Leut. and Recruiting Officer

\*\*\*\*\*

### SCHULTE'S HACKS

On the 4th and 5th of July Will Schulte will run his hacks and wagonettes from the city to the fair grounds and race track connecting with the street car lines. Good vehicles and good fast service. Fare for round trip, including street car tickets .25 cents.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Monday, Mr. James J. Parker, son of the late Judge Isaac C. Parker, was admitted to practice law at the bar of the Federal Court.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fred Schleuter has secured the contract of building W. J. Murphy's business house. The house will put up in good style and will fill a very unsightly gap.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday evening last week, somebody slipped into the office of Hotel Main and tapped the till to the extent of \$390. Who the thief was or how he

managed to get in his work without being seen is what the hotel people are wondering about.

- • -

### JULY 8, 1898 WEDDINGS

On the afternoon of Thursday, the 30th ult. Prof W. B. Torreyson and Miss Alice Bulgra were married at the residence of Mr. J. L. Phillips, the bride's sister, on North Seventh Street. Rev. McN. McKay conducting the ceremony. The ceremony was private, being witnessed by only the bride's relatives and a few intimate friends. On the same day, at the residence of Mr. Sam Bollinger, on Sixth Street, Mr. Ben Miester and Miss Anna Bollinger were married by Rev. P. F. Germann, after the ceremony the happy couple took the train for a short visit in St. Louis. Their future home will be Little Rock.

\*\*\*\*\*

### LOST POCKET BOOK

Large red leather pocket book containing several dollars in paper money and some valuable notes was lost between O'Shea and Hinch's store on Garrison Avenue and the poor farm. Finder please leave at *ELEVATOR* office and receive reward. J. M. DOLAN

- • -

### AUGUST 5, 1898

Henry Poole and Will Taylor fatally cut each other with knives in a fight near Rob Roy last week.

\*\*\*\*\*

An ordinance has been introduced in the city council granting permission to Sam McCloud to erect a power house on the reserve, back of the Fishback Block. This is a quint toward the electric system we are to have one of these days.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Charley Weaver and family arose the other morning to find them short about \$30. When they retired the previous evening they inadvertently left a lot of clothing hanging on a clothes line and during the night every stitch of the same took its flight.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MRS. ROWLAND'S FUNERAL

The funeral of Mrs. J. B. Rowland took place on the afternoon of Thursday the 28th ult. from the Rowland House (on North Fifth Street) Rev. W. T. Allen, pastor of St. John's Church conducting the obsequies. Her remains were laid at rest in Oak Cemetery. Those who officiated as pallbearers were persons who had been regular guests at her hotel.

As Mrs. Rowland had no known relative, the effects of the hotel, of which she was owner, were taken in charge by the sheriff who will hold them subject to the order of the County court.

\*\*\*\*\*

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- NOTES: # - some sort of graphic is used, other than a portrait.  
 \* - a portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.  
 (- - -) - for such as title, marital status, degree, etc.  
 " - " - for nickname or special emphasis.  
 (-) - dash between page numbers indicates the name of the person, place, etc. is carried throughout the story.  
 (gp) - group picture  
 (pc) - postcard

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