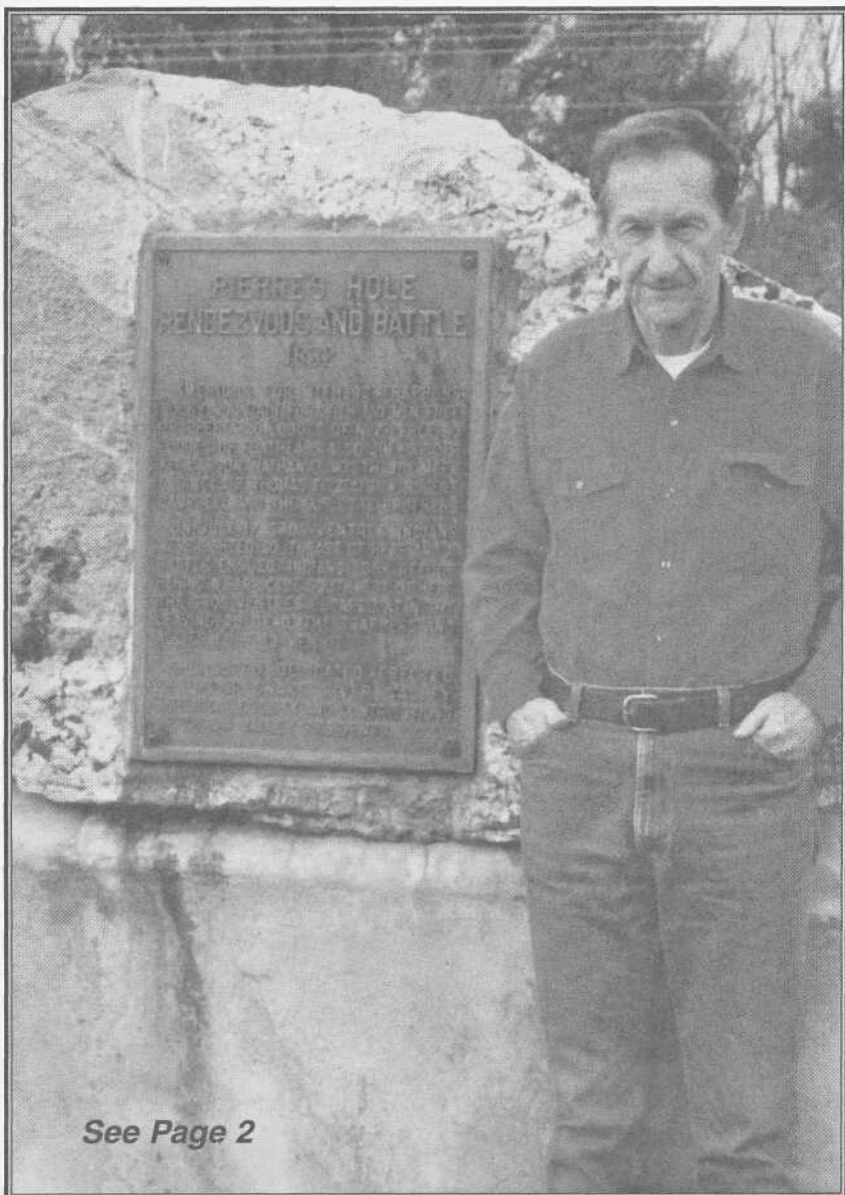


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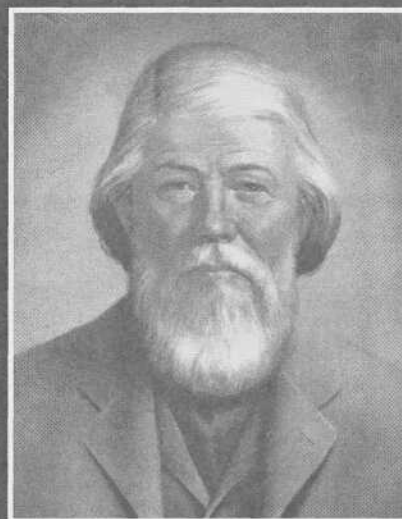
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and Features**



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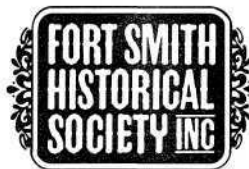
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The JOURNAL

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Eaton Tatum

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Sinclair Settlers in Early Crawford County

By Charles F. Sinclair*

Research Assistant Lynne Sinclair**

*** Charles Sinclair, a native of Van Buren, moved to Fort Smith in 1933. He attended Spradling and Trusty grammar schools and Fort Smith Junior High before emigrating to San Diego in 1942 with his parents. Following graduation from the University of Arkansas in 1949 he worked for the Lion Oil Company in El Dorado before joining Sears as a controller until his retirement from that firm in 1988.**

**** Lynn Sinclair, the eldest daughter of Charles Sinclair, received her bachelors degree from the University of Maryland. She is a system analyst at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.**

There were Sinclair families settled in Western Arkansas as early as 1820 when Charles and his wife and children arrived, probably from Tennessee via Illinois. In researching my ancestors' genealogical history, the period from 1820 to 1850 in Arkansas has developed into one of the most interesting segments. Several of my great great uncles as well as my great-great-grandfather Hiram Sinclair settled in the vicinity of Fort Smith during this time. Having been born in Van Buren and schooled in Fort Smith my interest in the history of the area has always been personal

The earliest surviving tax rolls and censuses for Arkansas Territory list the following Sinclairs as heads of households or liable for taxes:

Robert Sinclair*	
Ann Sinclair	widow of Robert
Alexander Sinclair*	brother of F. P. -
Fuller Pruitt Sinclair*	brother of Alexander
Charles Sinclair*	
Hiram Sinclair*	
Abraham Sinclair #1*	
Haven Sinclair	son of Charles
Jacob Sinclair	son of Charles
Moses Sinclair	probably brother of James
James Sinclair	probably brother of Moses
Abraham Sinclair #2	son of Alexander
John Sinclair #1	
Joseph Sinclair	probably son of Joseph of Anderson County, Tennessee
Thomas Crawford Sinclair	
Thomas Crawford Sinclair, Jr.	son of Thomas Crawford
William Sinclair	son of Thomas Crawford
John Sinclair #2	son of Thomas Crawford
Lorenzo Dow Sinclair	son of Thomas Crawford

* Men who are thought to be sons of John and Rebecca Pruitt Sinclair of Madison County, Missouri.

These entries are from Crawford County tax lists dating from 1821-1850 and Arkansas census enumerations of 1830 and 1840 for Crawford County and its "spinoff" counties Pope, Washington, Franklin, and Johnson. Spelling variations of the family name include Sinclair, St. Clair, Sinclear, and Sinkler.

This extended family constituted a significant part of the population of Crawford County in its earliest days. Family relationships are known for some of these Sinclairs, as indicated above; others remain speculative at this time. The focus of our genealogical research has been on determining relationships for Hiram Sinclair, who is my great-great-grandfather. Hiram appeared on Crawford County records from 1830 through 1842 and afterwards, Benton County tax rolls until 1854.

As indicated in the tabulation above, several of these men are believed to be sons of John and Rebecca Pruitt Sinclair, who settled in what is now Madison County, Missouri by 1803, having moved from Anderson County, Tennessee. John claimed 1280 patents of land on the Saint Francis River in 1803 and he or son John, Jr. remained on the farm to at least the mid-nineteenth century. John was a son of Charles and Ann Sinclair of Augusta County, Virginia. Charles had probably migrated to Augusta County from the northeastern corner of Virginia.

Charles had settled in Augusta County by 1742 when he was a member of the John Howard expedition which explored the New, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers. On his return from the trip in 1745, he became a mountain man in Southwest Virginia where in 1748 he acted as guide for the John Patton land exploration party in Western Virginia¹.

For service in the Howard expedition and guidance of Patton he was awarded a 996 acre patent on the Holston (Indian) River in 1753².

About 1750 Charles married Ann and began a family which would produce five sons and two daughters. In 1766 Charles died and left Ann with the responsibility for the children and homestead. For the next 23 years she was head of that household, being granted a patent for 300 acres of land in her own name, a rarity for a woman in eighteenth century Virginia. Governor Patrick Henry signed her patent in 1768³. After Ann's death in 1789 her children migrated from Virginia, John to Missouri via Tennessee.

By the 1820s when Sinclair family settlement began in Western Arkansas they would be part of a migratory movement into the general vicinity of Fort Smith. An article in the November 20, 1822 *Arkansas Gazette* stated that "In 1822 it is reported that a great number of families are emigrating from the Missouri across to Arkansas, and are settling on the south side of that river, in Crawford

County. They cross the country from about Fort Osage and strike the Arkansas above Fort Smith, and we understand are flocking in, in great numbers between the Poto and Canadian as well as below Fort Smith. The roads are said to be literally swarming."

John Bell's journal narrating Stephen Long's expedition to the Rockies included a September, 1820 entry describing their arrival at the fort on their return passage. In extolling the virtues of lands around the fort he stated that, "This place is remarkably healthy, and I have no doubt, but that the country generally for 100 miles about Belle Point, will prove so to settlers. Its surface is hilly and in many places broken, limestone is to be found, I am told, and where that is, then there is pure water and a healthy country. Fruit and vegetables of every description grow here with cultivation, in the greatest abundance and of the finest flavor, and perfection." During the journey from Fort Smith to Saint Louis, Bell noted on September 30, 1820 that: "Ten miles from Tidwell's is Sinclairs & Dillard's, families sick, obtained some milk to drink". Bell is describing events occurring near present day Batesville. The February 3, 1824 *Arkansas Gazette* indicated that letters were holding at Batesville for Thomas St. Clair and John St. Clair. These are probably two men who appeared on the 1829 Crawford County tax roll, and who Bell referred to in his journal. Bell gave favorable descriptions of homesteads encountered as the party made its way back through Arkansas to Saint Louis. This would be the setting which attracted settlers to the cheap land on what was in the 1820s the nation's western frontier.

Robert Sinclair

Several of the Sinclairs living in early Crawford County played prominent roles in the civic life of the territory, and even in the larger history of the western frontier of the 1830s. Robert Sinclair was the most prominent member of his family in Western Arkansas, becoming county judge in 1830 and a magistrate in 1831 and 1833. He was a member of the territorial legislature, dying in November, 1833 while attending a session. Colonel Ben Duval's *History of Sebastian County* includes a reference to Robert as an early settler. Robert was almost certainly a son of John and Rebecca Pruitt Sinclair. He was 37 years old when he died, placing his birth at about 1796,

probably in Anderson County, Tennessee. As a youngster, he would have migrated with his family from Tennessee to Missouri in 1803.

The earliest evidence found so far for Robert Sinclair is from what seems at first an unlikely source – records in Madison County, Illinois. Robert

was a jury member there in 1817 and 1819. In 1819 he applied for and received a license to operate a tavern in his home. In 1817 he was appointed an officer in the Second Battalion of the Seventh Regiment of the Illinois Militia. On January 4, 1821 Robert was issued a certificate for 3.29 acres in Township 6N, R12 in Madison County, Illinois with his patent being dated June 20, 1821³.

Explanation for Robert's appearance in Illinois, and substantiation of the theory about his parents, comes from knowledge of places of residence for members of Rebecca Pruitt Sinclair's family. Rebecca's brother Martin Pruitt was an early settler of St. Clair, Madison County, Illinois. He settled near Alton in 1806, and several of his sons are prominent in county records and histories of this time period. Robert Sinclair thus apparently decided to move away from his family in Madison County, Missouri, to settle near his Pruitt cousins in Illinois.

Robert's household is listed in the 1820 census for Madison County, Illinois, and included 1 male 20-45, 3 males 16-26, and 1 female 16-26. The most likely candidates for the identity of the other males in the household are the Isaac and

No. ~~100~~

LAND OFFICE,
Little Rock, Nov 9th 1830

It is hereby Certified, That, the claim, No. *10* of *Robert Sinclair* to a donation of not exceeding two quarter sections of Land, agreeably to the 8th section of the Act of Congress, approved on the 24th day of May, 1828, entitled "An act to aid the State of Ohio, in extending the Miami Canal from Dayton to Lake Erie, and to grant a quantity of land to said State, to aid in the construction of the Canals authorized by law; and for making donations of Land to certain persons in Arkansas Territory," having been confirmed by the Register and Receiver of the Land Office at this place, on the *5th* day of *July* 1829 the said *Robt Sinclair* has ~~thereby~~ entered the *sr. M. gr. of Sec. 9*

of the S. M. gr. of Section 6, in Township 14 South, Range 1 West contg. 320 Acres.

ON THE PRESENTATION THEREFORE, of this Certificate to the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY; the said *Robt Sinclair* shall be entitled to receive a Patent for the said tracts.

3.29
320

B. Smith REGISTER.

Land Donation Certificate for Robert Sinclair.

Alexander Sinclair who appear in local records later. It is very likely that they are brothers of Robert. The area of Madison County where Robert lived was formed into Greene County in 1821. Marriage Book 1 for Greene County records on page 1 that Robert Sinclair mar-

ried Anna Vaughn on August 18, 1821. Also on page 1 is the record of Isaac Sinclair's marriage to his (presumed) cousin Melinda Pruitt on May 16, 1822. (Melinda was the daughter of James Pruitt, who was a son of Martin Pruitt).

With this evidence, we can correct the inscription on a marker in Pevehouse Cemetery (in the Rena community) which states "July 24, 1833 at Little Rock on the 9th inst Robert Sinclair, esq, member of legislator from Crawford County, age 37 years. Nov. 29, 1833 (Clara B. Eno record) Believed to be husband of Ann Eve Pevehouse." Robert's wife Ann was in fact Anna Vaughn. Ann Eve Pevehouse was married to a Sinclair whose given name was James, not Robert Sinclair. The *Arkansas Banner* of July 30, 1845 substantiates the Pevehouse marriage to James with this insertion: "Ransom Moore, administrator of estate of Christopher Pevehouse, deceased. James Sinclair, in right of his wife Ann Eve, late Ann Eve Pevehouse, John, Geneva, George W., Daniel Pevehouse – heirs at law of Christopher Pevehouse. Further evidence that Ann Pevehouse was married to James Sinclair is that her brother Daniel Pevehouse witnessed an 1840 affidavit relating to James' land claim in Crawford County under the Preemption Act of 1838.

The reason for Robert moving to Arkansas is found in the History of Madison County, Illinois: "Robert Sinclair was deputy sheriff (in 1824). He was shrewd, eccentric, and illiterate. He was found guilty of complicity in a robbery, and though present when the verdict was rendered, escaped before the officials could secure him. He fled to Arkansas, there became popular, and was elected a member of the State Legislature."

The Crawford County tax roll listed Robert's name in 1829 (those for 1824-1828 are missing) and he remained on the roll through 1833 when he died.

In 1828, a treaty was signed which gave to the Cherokees a body of land west of Fort Smith in exchange for Indian land in Northwest and North Central Arkansas. White settlers living on land west of the new boundary (including Lovely County) were authorized to receive "donation claims" of 320 acres in exchange for improvements on their homesteads in the newly ceded Indian lands.

Robert Sinclair received one of these donation claims, indicating that he had settled in the portion of Arkansas Territory ceded in 1828 to the Cherokees. In fact, land records of other donation claim recipients reveal (or substantiate) an interesting pattern of family relationships among the Sinclair and Nidever families.

On November 27-28, 1828 John Rogers bought the donation claim rights of Robert Sinclair, Alexander Sinclair, Fuller Pruitt Sinclair, George Nidever, Mark Nidever, and Jacob Nidever. Other donation claims were recorded for Jacob Sinclair, Henry Nidever, Joseph Sinclair, and Christian (Christopher) Pevehouse.

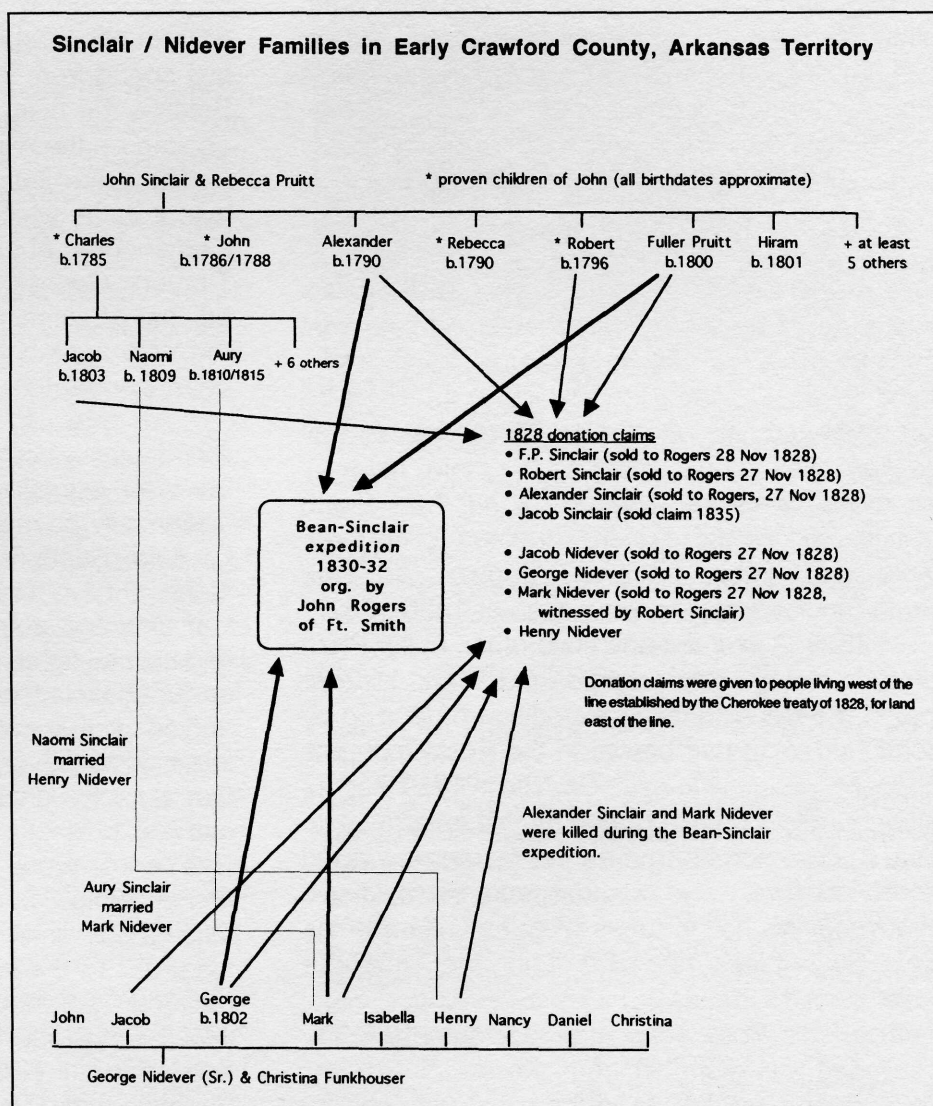
Sinclair/Nidever Families

The Sinclair and Nidever families had ties dating from the early 1820s when they

settled near Fort Gibson. During their time spent there Henry and Mark Nidever married Naomi and Aury Sinclair, daughters of Charles and Polly Havin Sinclair. See figure 1 for a graphic illustration of these inter-relationships and the section following for a narrative of the Bean/Sinclair expedition.

After The Treaty of 1828, the Sinclair and Nidever families who were settled west of the new demarcation line were forced to move east out of what became the Cherokee Nation. Charles Sinclair and Henry and Jacob Nidever resettled in 1828 on contiguous sections 17, 18, 19, and 20 in Township 9N, Range 30W at Alma, owning more than 2000 acres of land there. Robert Sinclair resettled in Upper township of Crawford County.

Robert probably served as head of the Sinclair clan in Crawford County as the 1830 census listed 18 people in his household, including 8 adult males and 3 slaves. In 1826 he had assumed guardianship of Harrison and Polly Brummett, his



nephew and niece who had been orphaned when Robert's sister, Rebecca Sinclair Brummett died⁵ and they were still probably in his household in 1830. After Robert's death in 1833, Ann(a), his wife appeared in Crawford County records as administrator of his estate until her death about 1845. In a court decree issued in 1850 Robert's children were identified as Clayton F. Sinclair, Miranda Sinclair Shore, and Julia Sinclair Jetter (Chicot Arkansas Deed Book G, page 103).

While Robert Sinclair left his mark as a civic leader in Crawford County, Alexander Sinclair (believed to be a brother of Robert) achieved a small measure of fame by virtue of his participation in fur trapping activities in the 1830s. Alexander was a lieutenant in the Crawford County militia in 1823 (Territorial Papers, V. 20, page 74).

In 1827 and 1828 he had a homestead near the convergence of the Canadian and Arkansas Rivers⁶. The treaty of 1828 forced him along with other settlers living west of the treaty line to move. It is likely that Alexander was one of the people in Robert's large household in the 1830 census.

Bean/Sinclair Trapping Expedition

The 1803 Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803-1806 opened vast expanses of the plains and mountains of the west, first, to American trading and trapping entrepreneurs and later to settlers and mineral seekers. Saint Louis would be the major gateway for these westering enterprises but Fort Smith also served as the eastern terminus for several, including what became known as the Bean/Sinclair trapping expedition of 1830-1832.

In 1830, Alexander and his brother, Fuller Pruitt Sinclair, along with George and Mark Nidever joined the Bean trapping expedition organized by John Rogers to trap beaver in the Rockies. In ads appearing in the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1829 Rogers attempted to recruit 100 men for this enterprise. In May, 1830 a band of more than 40 men departed from Fort Smith and would spend the next two years seeking their fortunes in the mountains of the west. Six of these men died during that time (four violently at the hands of Indians).

The *Little Rock Advocate* of October 13, 1830 published this dispatch from the trapping party. "We understand that 14 of the party, who set out

To Young Men of Enterprize.
THE undersigned will start, on the 15th of September next, from Fort Smith, on a **TRAPPING EXPEDITION TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS**. He wishes to raise about 100 men for the trip, to be absent two years. The company will choose their own officers, and be subject to such regulations for their government as may be adopted by them. The articles of association are already drawn up and signed by a number of persons. The outfit will be furnished by me, (with the exception of the horses and guns), to such as may desire it. It is confidently believed, that this enterprize affords a prospect of great profit to all who may engage in it.
JOHN ROGERS.
Fort Smith, July 20th, 1829. 31-1f.

John Rogers' newspaper advertisement asking for men to join the trapping expedition to the Rocky Mountains which Alexander Sinclair and his brother Fuller Pruitt Sinclair joined. Courtesy of Fort Smith Museum of History. (Formerly Old Fort Museum)

on a hunting expedition to the Rocky Mountains last spring from this place: have returned to Fort Smith – the balance, consisting of 30 or 40 proceeded on the expedition."

The precipitating event causing this desertion was a battle which the party had with a band of Comanches about 250 miles west of Cross Timbers. George Nidever in his memoirs indicated that 10 men returned to Fort Smith and he "never heard what became of them." Thus, a third of the party returned before reaching the Rockies.

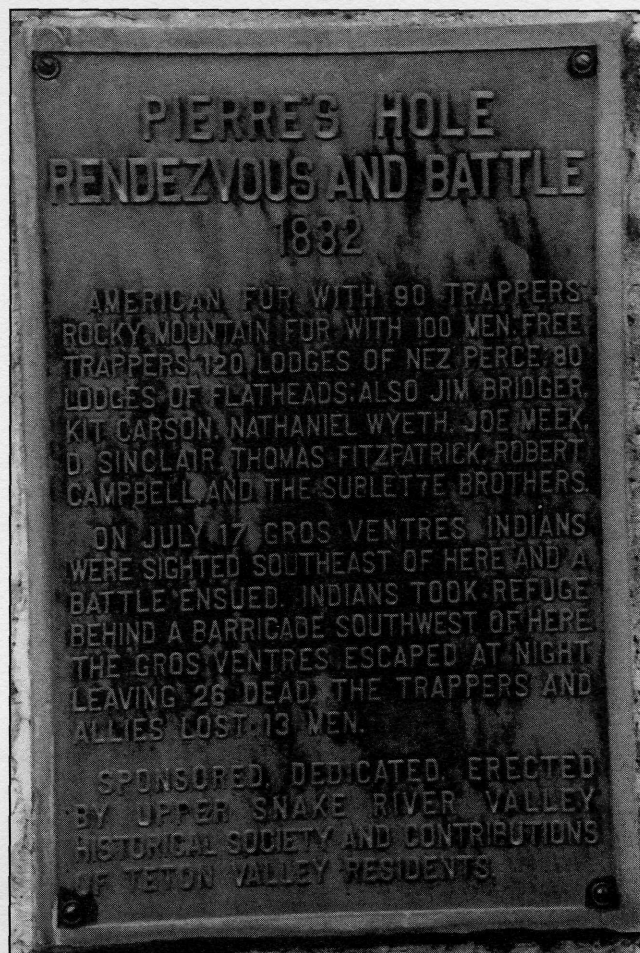
The *Arkansas Gazette* of June 8, 1831 published a letter from Dr. James Craig, another member of the expedition, which described the trappers' dilemma in the mountains during their first winter in the field. "Santa Fe, (Mexico) Jan 2, 1831. My dear friend – I have had a long and fatiguing route since I left you, and attended with great danger. We have had several fights (with the Indians) but have been so fortunate as to lose only two men. When we arrived at the place in the mountains where we intended to winter, we found the game so scarce that we were unable to remain without danger of starving to death. We therefore concluded that it was best to proceed to Taos (about 60 or 70 miles NW of Santa Fe), the first Mexican settlement, and take up our winter quarters-We had not been there long, before the Alcalde received orders from the governor to order us out of the country forthwith. As it was impossible for us to obey the order, without subjecting our company to the risk of perishing in the mountains, Col Bean and myself came to this

place for the purpose of making a representation of our situation to the governor, and soliciting him to rescind the order for our removal. How we shall succeed I know not, though we have been so fortunate as to enlist several of the most influential men in the country in our favor."

The November 2, 1831 *Arkansas Gazette* published a letter one of the trappers had sent to "a legislator," probably Robert Sinclair. It stated that: "Col Robert Bean got home yesterday alone. None of the company came with him. All the company are still trapping, and doing well, except three – Nidever, Christ, and John Sanders who are dead." Mark Nidever and Frederick Christ had been killed by Indians. "Col Bean is going back shortly. He came by way of St Louis, as he had company to that place..." Bean had been deposed as leader during the trip west and Alexander Sinclair took charge by common consent of the remaining trappers. By 1831 only 15 men were still trapping with the party. The men did remain in Taos during the winter of 1830-1831. The governor dispatched militia to expel the Americans but snow made it impossible for the troops to reach Taos.

The *Arkansas Gazette* of January 18, 1832 published Craig's second letter in which he described the trip west: "It was not until the first of Nov. (1830) that we reached the Rocky Mountains. In our route, particularly on the waters of the Red River, and the north fork of the Canadian, we passed through much fine country, and fared sumptuously on buffalo, deer, – honey, &c. From which we observed a north course until we struck the Arkansas River, immediately at the mouth of the Little Arkansas. We then followed the river, and about the middle of Oct. we overhauled a war party of the Pawnee Indians who pretended great friendship, and invited us to encamp with them, to which we readily assented, and, but for an impolitic movement of their's which excited our suspicion, they might have caught us so much off our guard that night as to have overpowered us. But we were on our guard, and they effected nothing. In the morning, by suffering them to come into our camp, they stole several little things from us. We left them, traveled only seven miles, and encamped in a beautiful grove of cotton-wood, on the bank of the river. Here we were joined by a band of Indians of another tribe, who were enemies of those with whom we staid the night before. They encamped with us, and evinced every mark of friendship. They advised us to be on our guard, for the Indians we had left that morning would steal our horses. We were nevertheless too careless, and about one o'clock the guard challenged and fired on them." George

Nidever in his memoirs states that this guard was Alexander Sinclair. "They then raised a most horrid yell and rushed upon the guard; but they stood firm until we arrived to their assistance. We quickly formed a line and kept up a fire from one end to the other. I expect I was frightened, for I felt a most



Commemorative plaque designating site of the Battle of Pierre's Hole which occurred south of present day Driggs, Idaho (the marker is at a roadside park on Highway 33). D. (Alexander) Sinclair is listed among the leaders of the trappers participating in the fighting.

Inscription on the plaque:

PIERRES HOLE
RENDEZVOUS AND BATTLE
1832

AMERICAN FUR WITH 90 TRAPPERS: ROCKY MOUNTAIN FUR WITH 100 MEN FREE TRAPPERS 120 LODGES OF NEZ PERCE: 80 LODGES OF FLATHEADS: ALSO JIM BRIDGES, KIT CARSON, NATHANIEL WYETH, JOE MEEK, D. SINCLAIR, THOMAS FITZPATRICK, ROBERT CAMPBELL, AND THE SUBLETTE BROTHERS.

ON JULY 17 GROS VENTRES INDIANS WERE SIGHTED SOUTHWEST OF HERE AND BATTLE ENSUED. INDIANS TOOK REFUGE BEHIND A BARRICADE SOUTHWEST OF HERE. THE GROS VENTRES ESCAPED AT NIGHT LEAVING 26 DEAD. THE TRAPPERS AND ALLIES LOST 13 MEN.

SPONSORED, DEDICATED, ERECTED BY UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF TETON VALLEY RESIDENTS.

intolerable sensation of thirst, though I felt no disposition to give ground, although the savages, with most horrid yells, would charge within a short distance of us, fire and retreat a short distance, and then return to the charge. The men who were in the line (about fifteen) behaved valiantly. Our new friends assisted us. None of our company was hurt. Two horses were wounded. That at least one of them was killed or badly wounded there is no doubt, from the appearances in the morning. They carried away with them seven horses, which we could ill spare. In a few days, we arrived at the village of our new friends, who had invited us to call on them. We were met, conducted in, and treated with every mark of hospitality; and when we left them in the morning, nothing was missing. Save one party with their women and children, we met with no more Indians until we reached the Mountains, where we lost two men, who were most barbarously butchered and scalped. We met the Indians seven or eight miles from the cruel scene, but were met by them so friendly that it removed suspicion of their having committed any depredations. The men's names were Mark Nidever and F.W. Christ. We remained here several days, and having nothing to eat, scarcely, and no game to be found, we concluded to push for the Spanish settlements, where we arrived on the 6th of Dec. having encountered many privations and sufferings, as well in mind as body."

Dr. Craig left the expedition at Santa Fe in 1831, becoming an early settler in San Francisco. Several others also left the group in (New) Mexico.

The remaining 15 men trapped under Alexander's leadership during 1831 and early

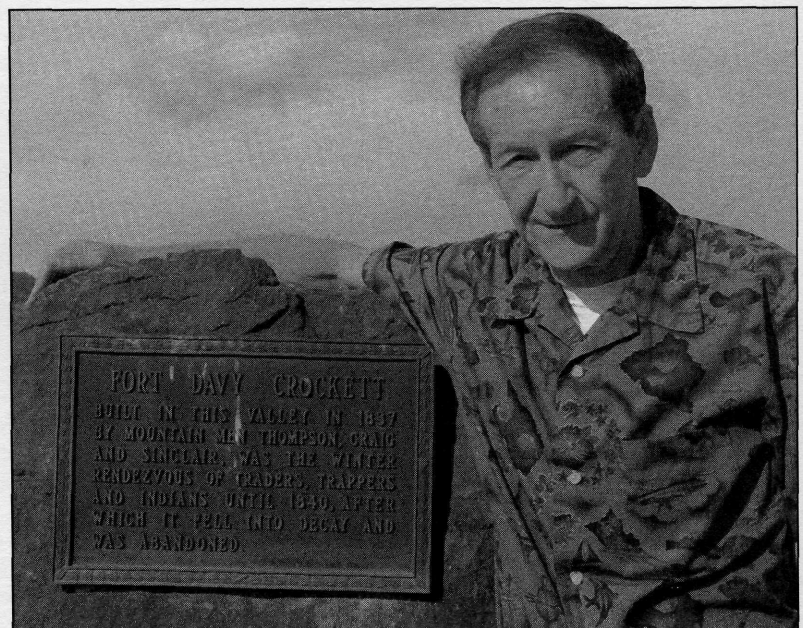
1832 with moderate success. In July, 1832 the party participated in the rendezvous at Pierre's Hole near present day Driggs, Idaho.

Washington Irving in The Adventures of Captain Bonneville described the Arkansans at Pierre's Hole as "a band of free trappers, commanded by a gallant leader from Arkansas named Sinclair, who held their equipment a little apart from the rest."

On leaving the rendezvous a pitched battle with a band of Gros Ventre Indians became one of the noteworthy engagements of the era of the Rocky Mountain trappers. Robert Campbell, a participant in the fight described the battle in which five whites and seven of their Indian allies were killed along with twenty-five or more Gros Ventre. Alexander Sinclair was one of the trappers killed and Campbell witnessed his death and described it as; "We approached according to the usage in Indian warfare, on our hands and knees; and while in this attitude Mr. Sublette and myself a little in advance, a shot from behind the (Indian) breastwork mortally wounded a brave fellow named St. Clair, who was within two feet of me. Poor Fellow! He had a brother in our company, to whom he was greatly attached, and feeling death approach rapidly, he called to us. "I am shot!-oh God-take me to my brother." Fuller Pruitt Sinclair was the brother to whom Alexander wanted to be taken. The Sinclair brothers had fought shoulder to shoulder with William Sublette, Robert Campbell, and Nathaniel Wyeth, men of note who would become prominent in Saint Louis and Boston after their fur trading days ended. *The Arkansas Gazette*

Charles Sinclair beside Commemorative plaque designating site of Fort Davy Crockett in Northwest Colorado at Brown's Park. Prewitt Sinclair was co-proprietor of the trading post for several years and hosted notable men such as Kit Carson, Joseph Walker, Joe Meek, and many other trappers and Indians during the 1830s and 1840s. Text on plaque:

FORT DAVY CROCKETT
BUILT IN THIS VALLEY IN 1840 BY MOUNTAIN MEN THOMPSON, CRAIG AND SINCLAIR. WAS THE WINTER RENDEVOUS OF TRADERS, TRAPPERS, AND INDIANS UNTIL 1840, AFTER WHICH IT FELL INTO DECAY AND WAS ABANDONED.



of October 31, 1832 noted "St Clair of Ar, killed in Rocky Mountains by Blackfeet Indians."

After the death of Alexander the men in his party broke up and became free trappers or joined other groups. Fuller Pruitt Sinclair probably accompanied Joseph Walker on his epic trip made from the Green River to Monterey Bay via Yosemite in 1833. Walker was a captain for B.L.E. Bonneville during his 1832-1835 trapping and exploration expedition and made this exploratory trip at Bonneville's direction.

Fuller Pruitt Sinclair returned to the Green River in Northwest Colorado and became co-proprietor of Fort Davy Crockett. He later became a farmer and entrepreneur in Northern California where he died in 1882.

Robert Sinclair in two depositions concerning Alexander's donation land claim gave contemporary comments on Alexander's trip west and his death⁶. The deposition was taken October 28, 1831.

"The affiant further says that on the 24th of May 1828 said Alexander Sinclair was the head of a family consisting of himself and an orphan boy of about ten years of age, and living on his own improvement of about five or six acres of cleared land with the ordinary improvements in the way of houses thereon-said improvements and settlement being in the forks of the Arkansas and Canadian Rivers, and about three miles from the confluence-This affiant further says that the said Alexander Sinclair is at this time with a company of trappers in the direction of the sources of the Arkansas River but is expected to return in the course of the next summer."

s Robert Sinclair

In a second deposition taken February 2, 1833 Robert commented on Alexander's death

"The said Robert Sinclair further states this day before the Register & Receiver of the Arkansas Land District that the above named Alexander Sinclair was killed by the Indians on the 18th of July last on the headwaters of Columbia River, that he obtained the information of the death of the said A Sinclair, by two letters, one from his brother Fuller P Sinclair and the other from Capt John Porter, both of whom were in the battle where the said Alexander Sinclair fell."

s Robert Sinclair

James, Hiram, Moses, and Abraham, and other family members also owned land in various parts of Crawford and Washington Counties during this time and remained in the area for varying lengths of time.

Thomas Crawford Sinclair served as a Crawford County Magistrate in 1833 and 1835.

While some of these Sinclair families of nineteenth century Crawford County continued their migrations to Texas, California, and other western locations, some remained in Arkansas and Missouri.

My grandfather Hiram Newton Sinclair, a direct descendant of the Hiram in 1830 Crawford County, was the owner of a blacksmith shop in Van Buren in the 1920s and is buried at Grace Lawn Cemetery in Van Buren. His son Charles W. Sincl(e)air worked for Eads Brother's Furniture Company for 20 years in the 1920s and 1930s and is buried in Forest Park Cemetery in Fort Smith.

These members of the Western Arkansas community followed a variety of callings such as farmer, rancher, blacksmith, adventurer, or laborer as the area evolved from raw frontier to developed lands.

FOOTNOTES

(1) Historical Sketches And Reminiscences Of An Octogenarian. Thomas L. Preston. B. F. Johnson Publishing Co. 1900.

(2) Virginia Patent Book 31, pages 406-408 Virginia Archives.

(3) Grants Q, pages 553-554 Virginia Archives.

(4) Sapp, Peggy L. Illinois Madison County Court Records, 1813-1818 and Indenture Records 1805-1826. (Springfield, Ill.: 1993; Johnston, Bob. Court Records of Madison County Illinois 1818-1821 (1983); History of Madison County Illinois (Edwardsville, Ill.; W. R. Brink & Co., 1882)

(5) Conway County Deed Book A-B, page 33.

(6) Land Entry Case File At National Archives For Donation Certificate #25 dated 14 October, 1837, For The Heirs of Alexander Sinclair. Recorded in Vol AR 2660.373, for twp 16S, R1E, Sec 35 & 36: Ywp 17S, R1E, Sec 1 & 2 (Helena Land Office)

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http://www.xmission.com/ndrudy/mtman/html/camp_nar.html
History Of Madison County Illinois. (W. R. Brink & Co. Edwardsville, Ill, 1882)

Grigsby, Jean. Sinkler, Sinclair, St Clair Family Updates (PO Box 339) Beeville, Texas 78104

Federal Judge William Story

by Russell P. Baker, 1998

Reconstruction era Arkansas U. S. District Judge, William Story, who was forced from office by charges of corruption early in 1874, was born in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, on April 4, 1843¹, the son of John P. and Elizabeth Story². Although he grew up "without any particular aim in life", he later "read" for the law in Milwaukee. During the Civil War, he served in the Union Army, and afterwards "provided himself with a carpet-bag and struck out for Arkansas", eventually settling in Fayetteville in Washington County. Here he became the law partner of Lafayette Gregg, a former Union Army,³ who later served as a justice on the Arkansas Supreme Court⁴. In addition to his legal interests, Story became an early investor in Arkansas real estate, purchasing a lot in Fayetteville for \$238 in 1867 and selling it some months later for \$1500⁵. On March 27, 1867 through Gregg's influence, Story, although he had "little legal experience", was appointed by Governor Isaac Murphy, as judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in northwest Arkansas⁶. He replaced Judge Elias Harrel, against whom articles of impeachment were pending⁷. Of Story's legal abilities, one contemporary source stated that "[they] were probably superior to those of any of his predecessors [in this office]"; however, the source continued, Story "was deficient in force of character; and to his misfortunate [he] entered upon public life at a time when executive ability was imperatively demanded"⁸. On July 23, 1868 Story was appointed by Governor Powell Clayton as judge of the Second Judicial District in eastern Arkansas⁹, where he evidently acquitted himself in an "able, faithful, upright and impartial" manner¹⁰. During this term Judge Story continued to invest in real estate, especially in Little Rock property¹¹.

On March 3, 1871¹² at the tender age of "only twenty-eight summers", he was appointed by President Grant as Federal judge for the Western Judicial District of Arkansas, a court before which he frequently practiced¹³. Story's appointment raised eyebrows in several quarters. Little Rock's Arkansas Gazette carried a story from several out-of-state newspapers recounting the events of the Judge's life and commenting that he "was not a very promising specimen of the Story family [of

Wisconsin]"¹⁴. Story relocated to Fort Smith, where in the fall of 1872 he purchased 20 acres from the Catholic Church for \$2000¹⁵. However, as time passed Story found himself out of his depth as a Federal official. He "rarely held court and routinely set bonds for convicted felons awaiting death sentences"¹⁶. By the beginning of 1874, his court was in a shambles. Charges were being made that it operated an organized system of robbing "the government, jurors and witnesses"¹⁷. Story himself faced charges that he padded his expense accounts, mishandled court funds, and accepted bribes¹⁸. Faced with impeachment proceedings he resigned his office early in January of 1874¹⁹ and left the state. His only Arkansas legacy was being the immediate predecessor of "Hanging Judge" Isaac Parker.

Judge William Story married Ada B. Olin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in October of 1871²⁰. They became the parents of at least two children: Ada B. and William. By 1880 he and his family were living in Ouray, Colorado.²¹ For a discussion of his court and its problems see *Western Judicial District of Arkansas, Letter from The Attorney General ... 43D Congress, 2d. Session House of Representatives, Ex. Doc. No. 175 (1875)*.

FOOTNOTES

¹ "U.S. Department of Justice: Letters Received from the Western District of Arkansas 1871 - 1874", Roll 3, frame no. 247 on microfilm at the Arkansas History Commission, hereafter cited as Justice Letters.

² 1850 U. S. Census, Waukesha Town, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, p. 276. For the names of other members of his family see Sebastian County, Arkansas Deed Records Book F, p. 505 - 511.

³ *Arkansas Gazette*, April 22, 1871, p. 2, col. 2 and John I. Smith, *Forward From Rebellion Reconstruction and Revolution in Arkansas 1868 - 1874* (Little Rock, AR, 1983), p. 60, hereafter cited as Smith.

⁴ *Arkansas Gazette*, April 30, 1871, p. 1, col. 2 and Clio Harper, *Prominent Members of the Early Arkansas Bar ...* (Little Rock, 1940), p. 146, an unpublished bound typescript in the files of the Arkansas History Commission.

⁵ Washington County, Arkansas Deeds Book R, p. 543 and *ibid.*, Book S, p. 120. This lot was purchased from Gregg on October 29, 1867 and resold to Gregg on September 25, 1868.

⁶ C. G. Hall, *Historical Report of the [Arkansas] Secretary of State 1958* (Little Rock ?, Arkansas,

1958), p. 231, hereafter cited as Sec. of State's Report, and *Arkansas Gazette*, April 30, 1867, p. 1, col. 2.

⁷ *Arkansas Gazette*, April 30, 1867, p. 1, col. 2.

⁸ [Goodspeed's] *History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin and Sebastian Counties, [in Northwest] Arkansas* (Chicago, IL, 1889) p. 448 - 449.

⁹ Sec. of State's Report, p. 221.

¹⁰ *Arkansas Gazette*, April 18, 1871, p. 4, col. 4.

¹¹ Pulaski County Deeds Book "Y-2", p. 160 - 161 and 618 - 169; *ibid.*, Book "M-2", p. 462; and *ibid.*, Book "D-3", p. 263 - 264 and St. Francis County Records Deed Book M, p. 628- 631.

¹² Justice Letters, loc. cit.

¹³ *Van Buren Press*, November 15, 1867, p. 2, col. 3 and May 15, 1868, p. 2, col. 1.

¹⁴ *Arkansas Gazette*, April 22, 1871, p. 2, col. 2.

¹⁵ Sebastian County Deed Records - Fort Smith

District, Book D, p. 284 and *ibid.*, Book F, p. 505 - 511. His property seems to have been an investment involving several members of his family.

¹⁶ Mary M. Stoberg, "Politician, Populist, Reformer: A Reexamination of 'Hanging Judge' Isaac Parker", *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, vol. XLVII, No. 1 (Spring, 1988), p. 10 - 11, hereafter cited as Stoberg.

¹⁷ *Arkadelphia Southern Standard*, January 17, 1874, p. 2, col. 1 and *Fort Smith Western Herald*, January 15, 1874, p. 5, col. 2 - 3.

¹⁸ Stoberg, loc. cit.

¹⁹ Justice Letters, Roll 4, frame no. 1. His letter of resignation was dated January 17, 1874. See also Smith, p. 113.

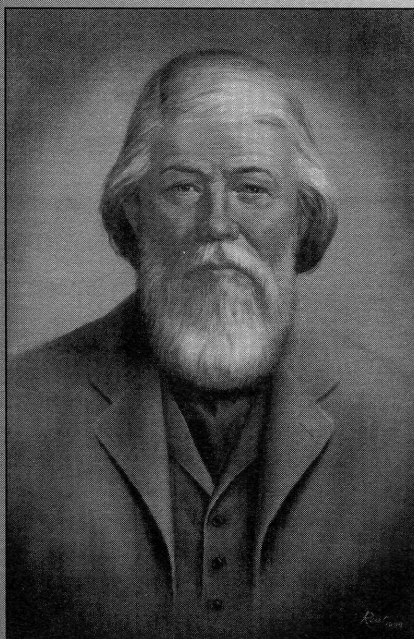
²⁰ *Van Buren Press*, October 31, 1871, p. 2, col.1.

²¹ 1880 U.S. Census, Ouray Town, Ouray County, Colorado, p. 153.

Portrait of Eaton Tatum Presented to County

Freed Little of Houston, Texas, presented an oil portrait of his great-great grandfather Eaton Tatum to the Sebastian County Courthouse, on behalf of his family, January 26 at the Sebastian County Quorum Court meeting.

The painting, a part of a collection of photographs of people who have served in the judicial section of Sebastian County, was accepted by Chancery Judge Jim Spears and will hang in the courthouse.



Portrait of Eaton Tatum before framing.

(Photographs courtesy of Mary Vertrees, great-great-granddaughter of Eaton Tatum)

Tatum was born in 1792 in South Carolina, and after service in the Missouri militia, in 1843 was granted land in Actus, now Jenny Lind, Arkansas.

As chairman of the land commission, Tatum was charged with creating Sebastian County in 1851 from Crawford, Polk and Scott Counties.

The act creating the county, located the temporary seat of Justice at the house of Eaton Tatum and he held the first county government meeting in his living room. He afterward laid out a town there, which, upon the suggestion of Charles A. Hinkley, a member of the bar, was named Jenny Lind in honor of the celebrated songstress of that name.



Left to Right: County Judge David Hudson, Chancery Judge Jim Spears and Freed Little.

Sweet Woman

By Carol Woods, Chairman of the Oak Cemetery Commission

For many years it has been the subject of rumor - the tombstone located in Oak Cemetery marked "Sweet Woman."

How did the final resting place of Mrs. Laura Tabor, a 35 year old wife and mother of four, become so entangled with the scandal surrounding the murder of the mistress of a local man ten years later?

How do rumors start and continue for several generations, particularly with no apparent basis in fact?

Two people are buried in lot 11, block 24, Oak Cemetery, which is enclosed by a wrought iron fence. The tombstone on the lot says "Sweet Woman". There is no name or date.

The *Fort Smith Elevator* in its death notices of September 9, 1887, (page 2, column 5) reports the death of:

MRS LAURINE E. TABOR, aged 35 years and eleven months, died at her home in this city on Friday morning last, after a long illness. The immediate cause of her death being softening of the brain. Her funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, and was largely attended. Deceased was the wife of B.H. Tabor, President of the American National Bank of this city and daughter of M.H. Oliver, of Eureka, Mississippi. She removed to this city with her husband about six years ago, and here resided until July, 1816, when Mr. Tabor removed to Birmingham, Alabama, where they resided some nine months, and then returned here to reside permanently. She leaves four children. Mr. Tabor has the sym-

pathy of many friends in his sad bereavement.

The Birnie Funeral Home Record Book 1, Page 340 shows the following:

Record #1734, September 2, 1887

Deceased: Mrs. L.F. Tabor. age 35 years, 11 months.

Died September 2, 1887. Buried September 3, 1887

Paid by Mr. B.H. Tabor, Fort Smith. Arkansas.

City death records give the same information. Dr. Bailey was the attending physician.

Birnie Funeral Home Record Book 2, Page 653.

Record #2701, April 28, 1898

Deceased: Nellie Tabor, age 8 years

Died April 27, 1898. Buried April 28, 1898

Paid by Edward A. Tabor.

These are the two who are buried in the lot with the tombstone "Sweet Woman."

The above research was done by Sue Clark, of Natural Dam Arkansas, who spent over four years researching Oak Cemetery and its residents, and whose burial index, Oak Cemetery, was published several years ago.

Undoubtedly the inscription "Sweet Woman", with no name or date, is a most unusual one. But why it should have sparked the rumor that this was Maude Avery Allen, the mistress of Fagan Bourland, there is no way of knowing.

Mrs. Julia Bourland, Fagan Bourland's wife, shot and killed Maude Allen in April of 1897. It was widely reported at the time that the murdered woman body was shipped to her home town of Independence, Kansas.



And the Independence, Kansas' newspaper of April 24, 1897, reports that "The remains of Maude Avery came in by the Santa Fe last evening from Ft. Smith, Ark. and were at once taken to the cemetery.

Most of our readers will probably remember that Maude was shot in the breast at Fort Smith about a year ago by a woman whose enmity she had incurred. She recovered from this wound, but as appears by the *Globe-Democrat* of yesterday, she was shot twice and instantly killed by the same woman at Fort Smith on Thursday afternoon."

Maude Avery was the maiden name of the woman shot by Mrs. Bourland, who was later

acquitted by a jury. Let us hope that this lays to rest for all time the mystery of what happened to Maude Avery Allen and who is buried within the wrought iron fence beneath the tombstone "Sweet Woman."

This research was undertaken this past summer by Chris Marley, an intern with the Parks and Recreation department of the City of Fort Smith, to confirm Mrs. Clark's earlier research and to find out what had happened to the body of Maude Allen.

The Oak Cemetery is operated by the Parks and Recreation department of the City of Fort Smith, with the advice of the Oak Cemetery Commission. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Pleasant Redmon Davis

Pleasant Redmon Davis, a transplanted Arkansan, spent the first half of his life in North Carolina and Tennessee, but lived the remainder of his years as a successful businessman in Fort Smith.

Davis was born in 1839 in North Carolina, but moved with his family to Tennessee when he was still quite young. He spent his childhood in Tennessee and was living there when he married. Three weeks after his marriage, he enlisted in the Confederate Army and, as many other young men of the time, left his bride behind to serve under the flags of his state and the Confederacy.

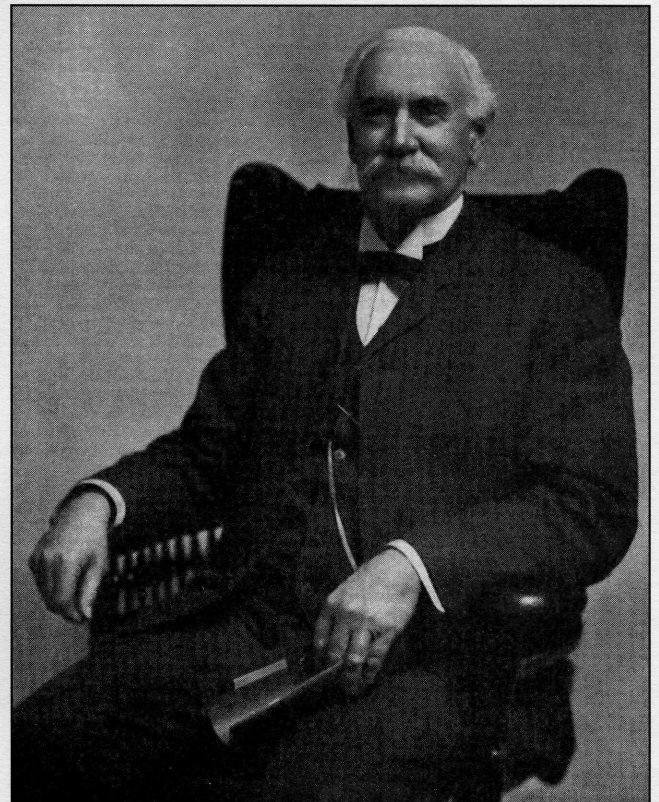
Davis saw action in one of the war's most remembered encounters, the Battle of Shiloh. He was wounded during the battle, taken prisoner and removed to enemy territory. Davis was incarcerated at Cincinnati throughout most of the remainder of the war, and released only two weeks before Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered.

The war ended, Davis returned to Tennessee and his wife. In 1870, Davis moved his family to Fort Smith where he opened a general merchandising store. The store endured the economic upheavals of the late 1800s, growing as did the Davis family. Davis and his wife eventually had 10 children who were supported by the family business. Davis operated the general store until his death July 7, 1910.

As Arkansas celebrated its centennial, the business Pleasant Davis began 66 years before

was still in Fort Smith, operating as Reynolds-Davis Grocery Co.

Southwest Times Record, Fort Smith, Ark., Feb. 23, 1986 From the *Faces of Arkansas*, a weekly Sesquicentennial feature of the *SWTR Lifestyles*.



Pleasant Redmon Davis

Sebastian County Officials Continued: County and Circuit Clerks

Duties of County Clerk

The County Clerk is the official bookkeeper of county government, serves as secretary of the Board of Equalization and handles many of the administrative details of each election for the County Board of Election Commissioners.

As clerk of the County Court, the clerk has the duty of keeping a regular account between the Treasurer and the county. The clerk charges the Treasurer with all monies received and credits the Treasurer with all monies dispersed. In addition, the clerk keeps an accurate account of all financial transactions within the county and files all documents, vouchers, and other papers pertaining to the settlement of any account to which the county is involved. It is the responsibility of the County Clerk to prepare all checks on the Treasurer for monies ordered to be paid by the County Court and to keep complete and accurate records of all these financial transactions ready for the court's inspection at any time (ACA 16-20-402).

The County Clerk shall serve, unless otherwise designated by county ordinances, as the secretariat of the Quorum Court. These duties involve keeping a complete permanent record of the proceedings of the Quorum Court including minutes, ordinances, resolutions and an index to provide easy access to the information (ACA 14-14-903).

As clerk of the Probate Court, the clerk files all instruments making them a matter of record in descendent estate cases, and swears in all witnesses in contested estates. The clerk, also in this capacity, maintains all records relative to adoptions and guardianship cases within the county. Although Probate Court is a court of equity and is presided over by the Chancery Judge, prior to 1937 it was a function of the County Court, and under the amended procedure, the County Clerk still operates as the clerk of the Probate Court (ACA 16-10-104, and 16-10-109 thru 16-10-110).

The County Clerk serves as the secretary of the Board of Equalization and records the min-

utes of their meetings (ACA 26-27-307). Also, he/she is responsible for extending the taxes in the information provided by the Assessor and the Board of Equalization (ACA 26-28-101 thru 26-28-108).

The clerk became the official voter registrar with the adoption of Amendment 51 to the Arkansas Constitution in 1966. The clerk maintains an accurate and up-to-date voter registration list within the office and stores the ballot boxes between elections. In addition, the clerk handles most of the administrative details of each election for the County Board of Election Commission (ACA 7-7-301).

The County Clerk also maintains birth and death records for the Bureau of Vital Statistics and provides birth and death certificate application forms for individuals with the county (ACA 20-18-102). The clerk issues marriage licenses (ACA 9-11-201), and keeps a record of all firms in the county which have incorporated (ACA 4-26-502). The clerk issues special license allowing certain activities outside the city limits (ACA 26-76-202).

Duties of the Circuit Clerk

The Circuit Clerk is the clerk of the Circuit, Chancery Court, and Juvenile Court and usually acts as the ex-officio recorder of the county.

The administrative duties of the Circuit Clerk are to maintain a record of all proceedings of the Circuit, Chancery and Juvenile Courts and to prepare the dockets for these courts (ACA 16-20-101, 16-20-103, 16-20-302, 16-20-307, and 9-27-301). The Circuit Clerk prepares summons, warrants, orders, judgments, and injunctions authorized by the Circuit, Chancery and Juvenile Court for delivery by the County Sheriff (ACA 16-20-313). The Circuit Clerk also maintains a file of all cases pending in either court, as well as a record of all past court cases and their dispositions (ACA 16-20-303). In addition, the Circuit Clerk acts as a secretary to the jury commission by keeping a list of all prospective jurors (ACA 16-32-105).

The Circuit Clerk is also the ex-officio county recorder; and is responsible for recording deeds, mortgages, liens, and surety bonds, and many other orders and instruments which involve property within the county (ACA 14-15-402).

The Circuit Clerk maintains a record of many miscellaneous items, and files certain licenses. The Circuit Clerk also swears in all notaries public and files regulations of state agencies which license trade or professional workers.

* Indicates Circuit Clerk

1851-1856	John Carnall
1856-1862	C. C. Burton
1862-1864	J. A. Brown
1864-1866	S. H. Payne
1866-1872	Wm. Patterson
1872-1874	G. N. Spradling
	*S. A. Williams
1874-1878	J. H. McClure
1878-1880	W. J. Fleming
1880-1882	J. B. Forrester
	*W. J. Fleming
1882-1888	J. H. McClure
	*J. P. Stallcup
1888-1892	A.A. McDonald
	*J. A. Bell
1892-1894	*William H. Burton
1894-1896	C. H. Howe
	*W. H. Burton
	(Died before qualifying. J. R. Wright appointed and J. P. Durden elected November 27, 1894.)
1896-1900	*J. P. Durden
	T. N. Reed
1900-1902	*R. B. Rutherford
	T. N. Reed
1902-1908	*John E. Tatum
	(Resigned February 8, 1908 and R. A. Harper appointed)
	T. N. Reed
1908-1910	*Claud Hoffman
	Ezra Hester
1910-1912	*C. L. Hoffman
	Ezra Hester
1912-1914	*C. L. Hoffman
	R. O. McConnell
1914-1919	*Atlas Harper
	R. O. McConnell
1919-1923	*S. A. Lynch
	L. Hopkins -
1923-1926	*S. A. Lynch
	W. J. Dearen
1927-1934	Earl Dawson
	*Oscar Durden

1935-1942	Jerry Bell
	*Paul Lynch
	(Resigned, Mrs. Rubye Lynch appointed Nov. 30, 1942)
1943-1946	Jerry Bell
	*Davis McGehee
1947-1948	Wyatt Wilkerson
	*R. L. Martin
	(Resigned. Luther Hopkins appointed January 1, 1948. He died and Mary Hopkins Jones appointed Sept. 2, 1948)
1949-1956	Wyatt Wilkerson
	*L. A. Joyce
	(Resigned August 29, 1955, Paul Paul Pace appointed)
1957-1958	Paul P. Pace
	(Resigned March 1948. Grady Templeton appointed March 1, 1957)
	*Otis Harris Jr.
1959-1962	Herman Jones
	*Otis Harris Jr.
1963-1964	Herman Jones
	*Ted Ferguson
1965-1972	Glenn Thames
	*Otis Harris Sr.
	(Resigned, Louise Patton appointed Sept. 1, 1972)
1973-1978	Ruth Carmack
	*Paul T. Brown
1979-1980	Ruth Carmack
	*Nancy Brewer
1981-1984	Ruth Carmack
	(Resigned, Vita Sue Graham appointed March 1, 1983)
	*Nancy Brewer
1985-1992	Betty Jaber
	*Peggy Watson
1993-1996	Doris Tate
	*Peggy Watson
1996-1998	Doris Tate
	*Nancy Brewer

Genealogy News and Tips

By Janice Bufford Eddleman

NEW ARKANSAS WEBSITE

The Arkansas Genealogical Society now has a website on the internet. To access the site just type in the address:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~args>

There is also an Arkansas mailing list sponsored by the AGS. To subscribe to the list if you have e-mail, simply address an e-mail to:

AGS-I-REQUEST@rootsweb.com

In the body of the message type the word:
subscribe

just as it appears here.

ARKANSAS SCREEN SAVER

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System, has developed a computer screen saver using images from Arkansas history. It is available in both PC and Macintosh versions and sells for \$19.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. The screen saver can be ordered from the Center at 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN THE STATES

The 1999 Conference in the States of the National Genealogical Society will be held in Richmond, Virginia on May 12 - 15. Registration brochures can be had by writing to the Society at 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, Virginia 22207-2399 or by visiting the Society's website at:

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

ARKANSAS ANCESTRY CERTIFICATES

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has added a new classification to its Arkansas Ancestry Certificate Program. Certificates are now available in Colonial (up to January 1805), as well as the previously issued Territorial, Antebellum and Nineteenth Century classifications. To receive an application form, send your request along with two first class stamps to the Society at P.O. Box 908, Hot Springs, Arkansas 72902-0908.

ARKANSAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL SEMINAR

The Arkansas Genealogical Society will host its 37th annual fall seminar and book fair on

Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22, 1999. Friday night will feature several different speakers from which you may choose two lectures. Mr. John Colletta, a national known speaker from Washington, D.C., will conduct the Saturday program. For further information, contact the Society at P.O. Box 908, Hot Springs, Arkansas 72902-0908.

NEW AT THE HISTORY COMMISSION

The Arkansas History Commission and Archives has a new, valuable genealogical research tool. Thanks to a donation from the Arkansas Genealogical Society, the Commission now has the complete collection of the Draper Papers on microfilm. The Commission is located at One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

NEW WEB PAGE CELEBRATES FORT SMITH BLACK HISTORY

Residents, historians, and descendants of Fort Smith residents are invited to explore some of the African American history of Fort Smith, Arkansas in a new web site that celebrates the presence of African Americans in Fort Smith since the early days of the city's history.

[Http://www.angelfire.com/ar/freedmen](http://www.angelfire.com/ar/freedmen) is the address for this web site.

Visitors to the site are encouraged to also begin to visit links to other Arkansas Black history sites. Tips on how to research your own family history are also featured on the site to get you started in documenting your own genealogy. Other tips are linked from this page.

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.

LYNCH, MARTIN, ROGERS

Am trying to find burial place of Sarah A. (Martin) Lynch. She was the wife of Joseph W. Lynch of Franklin County, Tennessee; Marion

County, Illinois and Parker County, Texas. They had two sons, John M. Lynch and William R. Lynch whose descendants lived and live in Fort Smith. John M. Lynch was a probate judge there. Samuel Arthur Lynch married sisters, Blanche Alma Rogers and Mamie Rogers. William R. Lynch's son who was William Wilson (W.W.) Lynch married Mamie Rogers and they were later divorced. William Wilson, Samuel Arthur, Mamie Rogers and Blanche Alma Rogers Lynch are all buried in Forest Park Cemetery in Fort Smith. Would any of the descendants of these Lynch family members know where Sarah A. (Martin) Lynch might be buried?

Don Martin Thomas
447 North 200 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

MILLER

Looking for information on the Miller family who lived in Van Buren, Arkansas in 1850 and 1860. The 1850 census lists: Jacob Miller (age 50), Synthia (23), Texanna (7), Coffee (4), William (2), no name (1/12, Mississippi Blunt (12), John Brawley (21) and James Milton (22). The 1860 census lists: Jacob Miller (60), Cynthia (38), Texanna (18), William (11) and Mississippi Brawley (23). Jacob was in Sevier County in 1840 and in Garland County in 1830. If Coffee died, where is he buried? What was Cynthia's maiden name? When and where were Jacob and Cynthia married?

Dale C. Stinnett
1209 S Western
Amarillo, Texas 79106

DAMERON, STOVER, WARD

Need information about Confederate military service of Yancy La Dameron, his death and burial. He was born in France (?) and supposedly died in 1864 in Fort Smith of wounds received in the Civil War. His wife Nancy Jane Stover was born June 10, 1829 in Georgia, the daughter of John Henry Stover and Charlotte Ward, both of whom were of mixed Cherokee ancestry. The son of Yancy and Nancy Dameron was John Lafayette Dameron, who was born in Fort Smith on October 17, 1854.

Ann K. Gossett
P.O. Box 889
Fredrick, Colorado 80530-0889

(Editor's Note: The Arkansas History Commission, 1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock,

Arkansas 72201 has a copy of the COMPILED CONFEDERATE INDEX and will check it for you.)

DRAKE, SPEARS

Seeking information on my great-great-grandmother Centhia (Cynthia) Ann Drake who married Thomas P. Spears in 1875. She died in 1919 in Faulkner County and appears on the 1900 census there. However, I believe she was born and married in the Fort Smith Area.

Frieda H. Hardee
905 N. Deer Creek Dr., East
Leland, Mississippi 38756

FINLEY, KERSEY

Need information about Winfield Scott Kersey born ca. 1847, possibly in Georgia. He married Shelia Jan Finley and they had at least three children: Charles, Samuel and Lou. Lou was born in December 1870 in Hackett.

Rebecca Tracy
P.O. Box 94
Fraser, Colorado 80442-0094

BROOKS, MAY, SEYMOUR, TAYLOR

Seek information about John Chandler W. Seymour (b. 1816, Perry, Wyoming County, New York; d. after 1870 in Fort Smith). He was the son of Joseph Willard Seymour and Dorcas Taylor and married Octavia Susanne Brooks, the daughter of Col. Edward Brooks and Margaret May, on November 13, 1845 in Detroit, Michigan. They had three children: Elizabeth, William W. and Margaret, all born in Detroit, Michigan and who all died in Fort Smith ca. 1860 -1870. John Chandler was a bank cashier and was a member of the Michigan State Historical Society.

Lissa S. Josephson
3458 Voyager Circle
San Diego, California 92130

UNRECOGNIZED HISTORICAL FIGURES

I am trying to write a book about little known people that history has by passed with little or no recognition. I am looking for soldiers, patriots, inventors, athletes, etc., such as Frank Finkel a survivor of Custer's Last Stand or "Big Hawk Chief," a Pawnee Indian from Oklahoma who broke the four minute mile barrier 80 years before England's Roger Bannister. If you know of such an individual, please contact me.

Russell May
Route 2 Box 12
Lowell, Ohio 45744

BUSBEE, RAYBURN, TERRIL

Seeking information about my great-grandmother's parents. She was Eula Anna Rayburn Busbee and was born to Samuel Rayburn and Sarah Elizabeth Terril on October 11, 1870, in Knoxville, Arkansas. Other family members were born at Uniontown and Adona.

Yvonna Coulter
Route 2, Box 66
Henryetta, Oklahoma 74437

HOLT, LEWIS, STRICKLAND/STRICKLIN, SUDDUTH

Am researching these families in the areas of Fort Smith and Waldron. Would like to find, in particular, records of Shanklin Monroe Sudduth whom, I have been told, was a sheriff and his father, Thomas M. Sudduth, supposedly a marshal. Also, need marriage record of Shanklin Monroe Sudduth who married Dollie Holt in Fort Smith in November 1902.

Mrs. Becky (MaGaha) Jeffries
2512 Bellaire Drive
Moore, Oklahoma 73160

(Editor's Note: In Arkansas, the County Clerk's office houses the marriage records and the Sebastian County Clerk has computerized the marriage records and can quickly look up a record for you.)

ENGLAND

Seeking genealogical information about the John Bannister England (b. 1849) family.

Kathryn Davis
450 Parman Road
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743

EVERHART, WILLIAMS, CHILSON

Seeking information about the parents of my great grandmother's parents. She was Ardella "Della" Everhart, born March 7, 1862 in Ohio, married Thomas Ensign Chilson on July 1, 1880 in Dover, Pope County, Arkansas. Her brother was Gail/Gailard Elsworth Everhart, born ca 1863 in Upper Sandusky, Ohio and married Dollie Leona Williams in 1898 in Fort Smith. He is said to have been a sheriff there.

Roger A. Chilson
P. O. Box 1964
Keystone Heights, Florida 32656

PAGE

Searching for the father of James Admiral Page. On November 15, 1858, real estate belonging to him was sold as part of his estate. A check

of early land records showed William Page and Madison Page as land owners in Sebastian County in 1840. Were either of these men his father?

Mike Page
Box 92, Medicine Hat
Alberta, Canada
T1A 7E8
E-mail: lazy_sun@telusplanet.net

FLIPPIN

I am working on the Flippin family history and would like to correspond with anyone working on that line. Many of the Flippins lived in Fort Smith and worked on the railroad.

Dorothy Flippin
7725 Oloshu
St. Louis, Missouri 63111-4006

BECK

My great-grandfather was Surry Eaton Beck (a/k/a Sut Beck and White Sut Beck). He was involved in the Goingnake Courthouse Shoot-out in the Cherokee Nation in 1872 and I would like to have more information about him and that incident. (See Difficulties in Cherokee County on page 34 of this issue.)

Pamela A. White
800 North A Street
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

FORT SMITH IN 1922

I am writing a book based on a journal kept by my aunt in 1922 when she and her husband took a trip out west in a Model T Ford. She described Fort Smith on the morning of July 7, 1922 as "well laid-out with beautiful residences and pretty lawns." I would be interested in any information that can be provided to me about the area in that time period.

Frances Jacobs
264 Popular Ridge Road
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631

EDWARDS, HEARD

I have recently found that my great-grandparents, Bailey Larue Heard and Sarah Augusta Edwards Heard, are buried in Gentry Cemetery. Would like to contact the caretakers of this cemetery or anyone else having information about the Heard and Edwards families.

Thomas R. Swinney
2033 E. Glencove Circle
Mesa, Arizona 85213-4629

BARBEE

Looking for information on Benjamin Gray Barbee, also known as Ben or B. G., who was a marshal in the Woodward, OK area. Was he related to deputy marshals Ed and W. H. Barbee?

Thelma Noland
R.R. 2, Box 388-1
Beggs, OK 74421-9571

PETTIGREW

Need names of wife and children of Deputy U.S. Marshal James C. Pettigrew. In 1889 Goodspeed listed him as jailor for the Federal Court. He is listed on the 1898 register for the Department of Justice as a constable for the Northern District of Indian Territory.

Debra K. Casto
P.O. Box 633
Poca, West Virginia 25159

ROGERS

Need information on Willie Brooke Rogers (also known as B. B. Rogers) born 6 January

1874 in Austin, Mississippi. In 1891, at age 17, he lied about his age and was the youngest U.S. marshal/bounty hunter for Judge Isaac Parker. My grandmother's brothers met him (near the White River Arkansas) when he was bringing a prisoner from Tennessee to Fort Smith, Arkansas. He is in the last reunion picture of Indian Territory Deputy U.S. Marshals at Fort Smith listed as B. B. Rogers.

Shirley Smith
16966 Lake Parkway
Yorba Linda, CA 92686

YOUR ANCESTORS

There might be some among them that you wouldn't care to know. But there's another matter which requires a different view – If you could see your ancestors, would they be proud of you?

(Source Unknown)

Directory for Cemeteries, Locations, Publications And List of Death Source Reference Material for Sebastian County, Arkansas – July 1997

This List of Cemeteries, Locations, Publications and Source Reference Material for Sebastian County, Arkansas, has been compiled by Historian, Wanda M. Gray, Commissioner, Arkansas History Commission. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and has a Master's Degree from the Oklahoma City University. She has compiled seven books on her native Scott County, Arkansas and resides at 5634 Collins Lane, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72904. She is currently inventorying all of the cemeteries in Sebastian County, Arkansas. Any corrections or additions to the list will be sincerely appreciated.

INTRODUCTION

The work projects of a historian often come about by necessity, such is the case with this document. As the need for current, reliable cemetery information, is the underpinning of all credible county research, early in 1997, the project to inventory all of the cemeteries in Sebastian County was launched.

Several years ago, Ms. Chris Allen, saw the need and documented many of the cemeteries. Her work fulfilled a critical need and its importance cannot be over estimated, as some of the inscriptions on the tombstones will never be read again and many are missing. The converse is that many new grave markers have been laid on old graves, as a result of the intense interest of so many people to find the graves of their ancestors.

The ability to find Sebastian County death and burial information has been greatly enhanced by the presence of many funeral home and public records in the Fort Smith Public Library. These records were placed in the Genealogy Department as a result of the efforts of former librarian Wanda Karrant and a Frontier Researchers' committee led by the late Virginia Rotert.

The inventory and publication by Sue Clark of one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in the area, Oak Cemetery, has aided hundreds of researchers in Sebastian County.

The foresight by historian and researcher, Wanda McGehee, in seeking out and publishing the burials on Fort Chaffee lands' was an outstanding and meaningful accomplishment.

The completion of a list of cemeteries, with their locations, is just another research tool, to assist individuals in finding the cemeteries in which their ancestors are buried, as well as provide a necessary document to aide this historian in finding the burial sites in Sebastian County.

A review of the shelves to prepare of a list of research tools available, at the Fort Smith Public Library, will help us all to more diligently and thoroughly perform our Sebastian County, Arkansas research.

Bonner Cemetery: Cemetery Records of Sebastian County files: Pitsco, undated, Fort Smith Public Library. Location: Exit Highway 71 South onto Highway 10 West and travel to Hwy 253, exit south, proceed 5.7 miles, exit left by blue metal building across from coal washer. Cemetery is located one half of a mile back into the forest along the electric line right-of-way.

Buggy Hill Cemetery: v.II *Cemeteries of Scott County*: Gray, 1997. Also, see DAR v.2. Location: South of Mansfield, Arkansas. Exit U.S. Highway 71 onto Hwy 96, go 0.5 mile, Exit Hwy 96 [aka Howard Street] south onto Hwy 378, go 1.6 miles exit right onto Byers Road, go 1.0 mile, exit right to burial ground.

Bull Cemetery [on Norried farm]: DAR v.5. Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997 Personal documents of Wanza Presson, Witcherville. Location: East of Dayton, north of Apple Blossom Road, in wooded area on the Norried farm.

Burkett Lane Cemetery: Location: Travel Hwy 96 north of Lavaca to Burkett Lane, exit left, proceed to the end of this street, a cemetery is mapped as being on the left, at the street. However, all that is visible are two gates to pastures, one on each side of the end of the lane. The name is designated by the location only, until further inquiry can be made.

Butler Cemetery: Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Also, personal documents of Wanza Presson, Witcherville. Location: Northeast of Dayton community; in a field to the left of the curve in the first curve where 252 intersects with Dickson Road.

Calvary Cemetery: Also known as the Catholic Cemetery. Burial ground for both Catholic and Jewish. Computer Listing of Burials: Fort Smith Library presented by the Catholic

Cemetery Association. Location: Lexington and G Streets in the 800 block, Fort Smith.

Carruth Cemetery: Location: on Highway 96, northeast of Lavaca, approximately halfway between Lavaca and Arbuckle Island Road, situated a few yards off the highway on your left, but visible.

Carter Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Centerpoint Cemetery: DAR v.6. Location: Hartford Township.

Center Valley Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Central City Cemetery: see Morris Cemetery, *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Cherokee Chapel Cemetery: Unconfirmed. Location: Arkoal (community west of Huntington).

Clark Cemetery: Location: Southeast of Slatonville. Exit south Slatonville from Hwy 235, onto Riddle Creek Loop [east], proceed to a "y" in the road, continue right [south] on Hwy 24, exit left onto Sugar Loaf Mountain Road, exit right onto Clark Road, cemetery on right at end of road.

Clark's Chapel Cemetery: DAR v. I. Location: North of Dayton. At Witcherville exit U.S. Hwy 71 east to Hwy 39, first street to left is Witcherville Cutoff, exit left [north] to East Clark Chapel Road, exit right to Clarks Chapel and Cemetery on the right [south].

Coleman Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Cornish Cemetery: Originally at Fort Chaffee, removed to Liberty Cemetery.

Cowne Family Cemetery: Unpublished manuscript Gray, 1997. Location: Greenwood, inside city limits, in 700 block of North Main Street at the corner of Summitridge Drive.

Cross Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.II*: Gray, 1997. DAR v. 1. Location: 1.0 mile south of Greenwood, exit U.S. Highway 71, turn left at West Denver Road, burial ground on right.

Dake Family Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I*: Gray, 1997. Location: North of Midland, a few yards west of Highway 253, on Montreal Cutoff Road, left side when traveling west – see county map.

Dawson Cemetery: DAR v. 1. Location: Milltown area. Travel east of Greenwood on Hwy

10 about five miles to junction of 209 [Milltown Road], exit south [west] to Mount Harmony Road, cemetery is short distance on right [north]. Or, it can be found northeast of Dayton.

Dayton Cemetery: v.II *Cemeteries of Sebastian County*: Gray, 1997 Location: East of Witcherville on north side of Highway 39. Exit onto 39 from south U.S. Highway 71, at north end of Witcherville.

Dearen Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Douglass Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.II*. Gray, 1997. Also, see DAR v.2. Location: West of U.S. Highway 71, exit right, [west] Bonanza Road, go 0.3 mile, burial ground on left or south side of paved road.

Elmore Cemetery: DAR v. 1, v.2. aka Mt. Zion. Location: Milltown area. Travel east of Greenwood on Hwy 10 about five miles to junction 109 [Milltown Road], exit right [south] to Mount Harmony Road, exit right [west], cemetery a short distance on left [south].

Evans Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I*: Gray, 1997. Location: Excelsior community, behind Excelsior Baptist Church. Exit south on Highway 253 off of Highway 10 West, exit left on Old Excelsior Road, exit right on Smokey Road, burial ground on left.

Falconer Cemetery: DAR v.6. Location: on Old Greenwood Road, between Highways 22 and U.S. 71 South.

Forest Park Cemetery: Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: 5001 Midland Blvd., Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Gentry Cemetery: DAR v.2. Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: Greenwood, west on North Main Street.

Gilliam Cemetery: DAR v.5. Location: west of U.S. Highway 71 South, approximately 16 miles south of Fort Smith. Exit right Palestine Road to Young Ridge Road, cemetery on right at junction of Nickletown Road.

Green Family Cemetery: Location: It is at the east end of the Lavaca Cemetery which is next to the United Methodist Church on Davis Street, in Lavaca, Arkansas.

Green Floyd Bethel Family Cemetery: v.II *Cemeteries of Sebastian County*: Gray, 1997. Location: South of Mansfield, Arkansas on the north side of Spur Lake. Travel south of Mansfield on Highway 378 for 2.0 miles, at the "y" in the road at an "s" curve, take the right fork and go 0.5 mile to a small road through the forest, exit left

and travel a few yards, the burial ground will be on your north or left a few feet from the road.

Greenwood Memorial Cemetery: DAR v.2 . Location: City of Greenwood.

Grober Cemetery: DAR v I . Location: East of Bonanza a short distance toward Highway 71. Previous literature listed as unnamed.

Hackett Cemetery: See Hickory Ridge Cemetery, v. I *Cemeteries of Sebastian County*: Gray, 1997. DAR v.4 . Location: Hackett, city limits.

Hardesty Family Cemetery: DAR v.4 . Location: Sebastian Lake Estates north of Hackett.

Hartford Memorial Park Cemetery: *Cemeteries v.7*. Location: junction of Highways 45 and 96, at Hartford.

Hemsby Cemetery: Location: Travel east of Fort Smith on Hwy 22 to junction of Hwy 252, exit north-proceed several miles to Craft Road [past Sullivan Road], exit east (right) and proceed about 3 miles, it is on a hill in a curve, on the right side of the road, just prior to entering Franklin County. Mr. Lick Reed, 82 years old, called this cemetery, Hepsey. A survey of the graveyard did not reveal anyone by the name Hepsey or Hemsby buried there.

Hickory Ridge Cemetery: Location: Travel Hwy 22 east of Fort Smith to junction of Hwy 252, exit left [north] to junction of Sullivan Road [Hwy 217] exit right. Proceed some distance, this is a large burial ground on the left side of the road, with the white, wrought iron sign centered in the graveyard.

Hill Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Hood-Weindel Cemetery: DAR v.6. *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992 Location: Fort Chaffee. Moved to White Cemetery.

House of Light Jewish Cemetery: Index: Clark, Fort Smith Public Library. Location: Lexington Avenue, Fort Smith-south side by fence on North "H" Street side.

Howard Hill Cemetery: Location: Greenwood area. Exit east from U.S. Hwy 71 south of Fort Smith onto Howard Hill Road, cemetery located where road intersects with Gate Nine Long Ridge Road.

Huntington Memories Cemetery: DAR v. Location: West Browntown Road, north of Huntington, exit west from U.S. Highway 71 South, cemetery on south, rock wall.

Island Cemetery: Location: on Highway 96, east of Lavaca, on the left of the highway, just

past Arbuckle Island Road and one building, on the left side of the highway. Previously, referred to as Arbuckle Island Cemetery. The sign on the fence says: "Island Cemetery." [there are no cemeteries on Arbuckle Island.]

Indian Cemetery: Unconfirmed. Location: Bonanza.

Indian Rock Road Cemetery: Unconfirmed. Location: North side of Indian Rock Road, exit Hwy 45 south of Hackett at Indian Rock Road proceed almost to Oklahoma state line.

Jackson Cemetery: Earlier, known as Redford. DAR v.3 & v.5 *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.III*: Gray, 1997, unpublished manuscript. In the DAR volumes it is the same cemetery but inventoried on different dates, by different persons with the directions being given from opposite end of Gap Road. The smoothest ride will be to travel west of Hartford, on Highway 96 West 1.5 miles, exit right on Gap Road onto dirt road, proceed .3 miles, graveyard on left [west]. The burial ground fronts Gap Road.

James Fork Cemetery: DAR v.4. Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: Proceed west of Mansfield on Hwy 96 to Patterson Road, exit left [east], graveyard short distance in field on north [gated]

Jenny Lind Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v II*: Gray, 1997. Also, see DAR v.2, v.6. Location: Inside the City Limits of Jenny Lind, exit east, on next street after Old Jenny Lind Road, when traveling south, go 0.3 mile, burial ground is on your left.

Jones Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Jones Cemetery: Location: East side of Sugar Loaf Mountain Road, north of Harford short distance, east side of road.

Langston Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Lavaca Cemetery: Perpetual Care, city, Volume IV unpublished manuscript, Gray 1997. Location beside the United Methodist Church on Davis Street in Lavaca. On the east end of this cemetery is the **Green Family Cemetery**.

Leard Cemetery: DAR v.4 Location: Cavanaugh area. Proceed on I-540 West to junction 271, exit, proceed north to Rutgers Road, exit left (west) towards Texas Road to cemetery.

Liberty Cemetery: Location: Northeast of Greenwood. Travel Hwy 10 east of Greenwood to Hwy. 96, exit left [north], cemetery past are Road, on right [east].

Levi Cemetery: Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: East of Dayton, north of Apple Blossom Road.

Lewis Cemetery: May be the same.

Lewis Cemetery: Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Personal documents of Wanza Presson, Witcherville. Location: Out in a field, northeast of Dayton, on the road to Black Jack Mountain.

Lone Star Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. *The Key*: 1975: v.10 No. 1 p. 19. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Lovelace Cemetery: DAR v.2. *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v. III*, unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: Inside city limits of Witcherville, west of Highway U.S. 71, exit south of business that manufactures septic tanks.

McAlister Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee

McConnell Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee. Burials moved to Steep Hill Cemetery from Fort Chaffee.

McCoy Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate*: McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

McKinna Farm Cemetery, Old: Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Personal documents of Wanza Presson, Witcherville. Location: In a field now owned by the Barton Brothers, on the Ponderosa Ranch, off Highway 39, east of Witcherville.

McKinney Cemetery: Location: south of Milltown, East of Dayton, and northwest of Abbott. U.S. Hwy 71 South of Witcherville to junction 252 East, exit left, proceed to Dayton, curving left at Church of Christ, proceed on as hwy becomes #82, past Union Ridge Cemetery, to fork in road, take left fork to junction of Blythe Road #223. [near Logan County line]. There are several ways to get there.

McMurty Family Cemetery: Cemetery Record of Sebastian County file: Pitsco, no date, Fort Smith Public Library. Location: Southwest of Hackett, exit Hwy 45 South onto Indian Rock Road, travel 0.8 mile, exit across cattle guard at corner of Fatum Land and Indian Rock Road onto Lennier farm. It is west of the house in a pasture.

Manes Cemetery: Originally, Tate Cemetery. Cemetery Records of Sebastian County file: Stouffer & Clark, undated, Fort Smith Library. Location: about one half mile west of the water tower which is north of the town of Lavaca, Arkansas or east of Hickman Bluff Road northwest of Lavaca, on dirt road. Very secluded.

Mayberry Cemetery: DAR v.5, v.6 [duplicates]. Location: East of Barling. Travel east of

Fort Smith on Highway 22, to Barling, burial site 5 miles east of Barling, on right side of Hwy 22, situated between Hwy 255N and Bloomer.

Measles Cemetery: The Key: v.29 p.31, 1996. Unpublished manuscript: Gray, 1997. Location: a short distance from the City Hall in Lavaca, wrought iron arch with name fronting East Main Street just past where Hwy 253 intersects.

Miller Cemetery: Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Also, personal documents of Wanza Presson, Witcherville. Location: In a field on the Efurd Dairy and Pig Farm (formerly, on the old Barton farm), just before reaching the Dayton community.

Morley Cemetery: Location: Washburn area. Travel east of Greenwood on Hwy 10 to Hwy 255 junction, exit right, travel south to junction of hwy 88 [Old hwy 10] a short distance, cemetery is north of highway (see county map).

Morris Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992 Location: Fort Chaffee. There are two different cemeteries with the name of Morris.

Morris Cemetery: Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: Bloomer, exit Hwy 22 short distance east of Bloomer, look for sign on fence, exit left [north] on dirt road, proceed down lane to cemetery. There are two different cemeteries with the name of Morris.

Morrow Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Mount Harmony Cemetery: DAR v. 1 Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location and South of Greenwood. Exit Hwy 10 on 213 [Burnsville Road], to Mount Harmony Church and Cemetery, about Four miles southeast, past Greenwood City Lake, on Mt. Harmony Road.

Mount Olive Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I:* Gray, 1997. Location: Inside city limits of Midland.

Mount Zion Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.1:* Gray, 1997. Also see: DAR v.4. Location: Northeast of Hackett, Arkansas on Mount Zion Road. Mount Zion Road can be reached from either Highway 45 south of Fort Smith or U.S. Highway 71, south of Greenwood. Travel east from 45 or west from 71. Next to the cemetery is the Mount Zion Church.

Mount Zion Cemetery: see Elmore. Location: Milltown.

Mountain View Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I:* Gray, 1997. Also, see: DAR v.4. Location: North of Hackett, Arkansas, fronts Highway 45 on the west.

National Cemetery: Ft. Smith, Arkansas National Cemetery: Lester, 1995. Location: 522 Garland & South 6th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Nolon/Nowland Springs Cemetery: DAR v.4. *The Journal*, 1997. Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: Fort Smith. Exit Newlon Road, near Kay Rodgers Fairgrounds on Midland, corner of Newlon Road and Fort Lane, on north side of OK Foods property.

Nixon Cemetery: Unconfirmed. Location: Lavaca area.

Nolen, Laura A. Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Oak Cemetery: *Oak Cemetery:* Clark, 1994. Location: Fort Smith, Arkansas at the corner of Greenwood and Dodson Avenue.

Oak Valley Cemetery: *Ancestors inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992. The Key: 1976 v. 11 No. 1 p.53. Location: Fort Chaffee

Old Hickory Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I:* Gray, 1997. Location: Inside city limits of Hackett, on right as you exit the town to the south. Also, referred to as Hackett Cemetery.

Old Providence Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.II:* Gray, 1997. DAR v.5. Location: North of Slatonville community. When traveling south of Hackett on Highway 45, exit west onto paved Slatonville Road after a few miles you will arrive at the Old Providence Church and cemetery. It is on the east side of the road. If traveling from the south toward Hackett, it is only about a mile north of the Slatonville crossroads.

Old Union Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.ii:* Gray, 1997. DAR v.5. Location: In the Old Amity community, south and west of Hackett. Travel 2.3 miles south of Hackett on Highway 45 to Tyro Road, proceed down Tyro Road 0.7 mile and turn right on Amity Road, dirt road, [cemetery sign on fence "Old Union"], travel 0.5 mile to burial ground.

Pleasant Hill Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I:* Gray, 1997. Also, see DAR v.4. Location: Exit U.S. 71 onto West Hwy 10, proceed west to Wood Road, exit left [east] onto Pleasant Hill Road a short distance to Cemetery on north side of road.

Pleasant Ridge Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992.

Pleasant Valley Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.II:* Gray, 1997. DAR v.5. Location: South of Slatonville community. Gap

Road begins at the Slatonville junction of Highway 252, and goes through the gap to the highway west of Hartford. Proceed south on Gap Road 1.9 miles to the turn off to the graveyard. It is then .1 of a mile east of Gap Road. When traveling south on Gap Road, it is also .6 of a mile past Riddle Road exit.

Possum Hollow Cemetery: Location: South of Milltown: Travel east of Greenwood on Hwy 10 to junction 109, exit south, [109 becomes 252 East] continue south to Doyle Thomas Road, exit east [right], exit left onto Possum Hollow Road, cemetery short distance on north [left].

Ramsey Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I:* Gray, 1997. DAR v.4. Location: East of Hackett on the west side of Reeves Road.

Redford Cemetery: See Jackson Cemetery.

Red Oak Cemetery: Location: on East Utah Ranch Road, near Lavaca. It is a historic African American burial ground, originally on the site of an old school and church. The building is no longer standing. The abandoned state of this graveyard was redeemed by the industrious Mrs. Ray Timms, her husband, grandson and neighbors. It is now stately in its appearance and enhances the beauty of the community.

Roselawn Park-Holy Cross Cemetery: A protestant and catholic burial ground. Location: 5403 North "O" Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Shelby Cemetery: See White.

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Shiloh Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.II:* Gray, 1997. v.4 DAR. Location: West of: Mansfield, Arkansas. Travel west of Mansfield on Highway 96 to Dalmut Road, exit left, [south], after a short distance, Dalmut road curves southward and another road continues straight, take the straight road, traveling a short distance to this historic Church and Cemetery.

Slatonville Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.II:* Gray, 1997. v.5 DAR. Location: Slatonville. Travel west on Highway 252, from Highway 45 [south of Hackett] through the Slatonville junction, up a steep hill, toward the Oklahoma line. The burial ground is on the right after you top the hill. It is behind the church, partially fronting the highway, and the west end of the cemetery is in the state of Oklahoma.

Speegle Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate* McGehee, 1992. Location Fort Chaffee.

Spencer Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992. DAR v.5. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Stadium Cemetery: Unconfirmed. Location: West Hartford. Travel west of Hartford on Hwy 96 to junction of 5, exit south, [left] to West Creek Road, exit left, cemetery in a field about one and a half miles, south of the road.

Steep Hill Cemetery: DAR v. 1. Unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: South and East of Fort Smith. Exit left [going south] at Circle N Ranch on Highway 45, immediately turn right, travel short distance, exit left on Steep Hill Road then proceed eastward, after a sharp curve on hill look for cemetery on the right.

Stone Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Stroud Family Cemetery: DAR v.5. Key, 72:22. *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.III,* unpublished manuscript, Gray, 1997. Location: Exit U.S. Hwy 71 South to the West on Hwy 10, continue west 1.2 mile to junction of Nickletown Road, exit left [south] to Stroud Road, exit right [west] 0.1 mile to cemetery on left.

Tate Cemetery: See Manes Cemetery. Note: This Tate Cemetery should not be confused with the large Tate Cemetery just over the boundary line into Franklin County.

Teague Cemetery: See Willie Teague.

Union Grave: Per Luann Moore, 31 July 1993. Location on private land near junction of U. S. 71 South and Hwy 10 West.

Union (Old) Cemetery: See Old Union.

Union Ridge Cemetery: DAR v.1. Location on Hwy 252 east of Dayton.

Unity Cemetery: Unconfirmed. Location: see Stadium, except: Unity is some distance north of the road in a field.

Unnamed Cemetery (Walter Brock Farm): DAR v.5. Location: on Walter Brock farm, off of highway 45. Travel south of Hackett 2.7 miles, exit onto dirt road. travel 6.5 miles, turn left and proceed 8 miles, burials on north side of road under large cedars.

Ursula Cemetery: Location: Exit north of Hwy 22, east of Bloomer, onto South Hwy 252, proceed past Ursula Road. The Cemetery is mapped on left of highway, however; it is unconfirmed at this mapped location.

Valley View Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.I:* Gray, 1997. "Cemeteries of Sebastian Co.", misc. file: Fort Smith Public Library. Location: south of old community of Excelsior; 3.7 miles on right side of Highway No. 253 and south of Highway 10 running west of U.S. Highway 71.

Vinita Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.1:* Gray, 1997. DAR v. I The Key v.4 No. I p. I, 1969 [indexed as Hackett Cemetery]. Location: Northwest edge of city limits of Hackett.

Ward Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gate:* McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Washburn Cemetery: *The Key:* 1882, v.17 No.2 p.41-43. DAR v.I. Location: Washburn. Proceed east of Greenwood on Highway 10 to Junction of 252, turn right, south, travel about 1 mile, it is near Methodist Church.

Washington Cemetery: Location: Fronts North 54th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas. It is in the 3400 block and can be reached by exiting North 50th onto Virginia, go to 54th, exit right and proceed 0.2 mile to cemetery.

West Harmony Cemetery: Personal Files of Mrs. Burrows and Historian, Wanda M. Gray. Location: East of Poteau Mountain Road and south of West Harmony Road. It is located on the north side of Poteau Mountain southwest of Hartford.

White Cemetery: Also known as Shelby. *Ancestors Inside the Gates:* McGehee, 1992 p.111. Location: Fort Chaffee. This cemetery is combined with Hood-Weindal in this reference.

Whiteside, J. F., Tombstone: *The Key:* 1976;, v. I No. I p.37. Location: Greenwood. Tombstone originally in non-existent historic graveyard in or near the Belle Addition, one native rock inscribed 1835. This grave marker was salvaged and placed in retaining wall at home of Alex Yost.

White Bluff Cemetery: *Cemeteries of Sebastian County v.1:* Gray, 1997. DAR v.4.,v.5 Location: West side of Highway 255, 3 miles south of 1-540 west of Fort Smith and short distance north of Bonanza..

Willie Teague Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gates:* McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Willis Cemetery: *Ancestors Inside the Gates:* McGehee, 1992. Location: Fort Chaffee.

Woodlawn Cemetery: Catholic and Protestant burials. Location: 4211 Stateline Road, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Death and Burial Source

Reference Material

1. "Confederate Veterans Buried by Fentress". Copied by Mrs. Fentress 15 Jan 1935. DAR v.5 p. 20-37.
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14. Ocker Funeral Home Records: 1918-1971, Van Buren, Arkansas. Material can be reviewed at the Fort Smith Public Library, in the Genealogy Room, second floor.
15. Agent Funeral Home Records, 14 Volumes: 1938-1985. See at Genealogy Room, Fort Smith Public Library.

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17. Smith Mortuary Records: 1944-1993. See at Genealogy Room, Fort Smith Public Library.
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25. Fort Smith Times Record Obituaries: 1 September 1995-31 December 1995 and 1996-1997. See Genealogy Room, Fort Smith Public Library.
26. Forest Park Cemetery burials record: 1910-1988. Lists only date of death, age and the funeral home used.
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28. Woodlawn Cemetery burial record. Lists name of person, of garden in which body interred, section, lot, space and funeral home used.
5. Personal assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Timms, Lavaca, Arkansas.
6. Personal assistance of Lou Ann Moore, Fort Smith, Arkansas.
7. Personal assistance of Woody Green, Lavaca, Arkansas.
8. Personal assistance of Lester Reed, community north of Lavaca, Arkansas.
9. Personal assistance of Linda Gamble, City Hall, Hackett, Arkansas.
10. Personal assistance of Deborah Hudgens, Midland, Arkansas.
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18. Oak Cemetery: Sue Clark, Natural Darn, Arkansas.
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22. National Cemetery Book.

*Editor's Note: **Frontier Research** has published many inventories of various county cemeteries. Copies of all back issues are available at the Fort Smith Public Library. Also, a list of county cemeteries, locations and maps are available at the following website:*

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/GNISQuery>

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2. Field Research: Wanda M. Gray, Fort Smith, Arkansas.
3. Personal assistance of Lillie Wingfield, historian, Barling, Arkansas.
4. Personal assistance of Tommy Phillips, Hackett, Arkansas.

MEMORIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When making a gift to honor or remember someone important to you, please remember the Fort Smith Historical Society. Gifts may be made in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a birthday, graduation, anniversary, or other event. Memorial gifts are a beautiful and lasting way to honor those who are dear to us. All memorials and commemorative gifts are acknowledged with a letter to both the donor and the family of the person honored. Gifts may be made in any amount.

News and Opportunities

FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND

SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATORS 1999 ANNUAL MEETING

Date and Time:
Thursday, April 22, 6:30 P.M.

**Place: Miss Laura's,
Fort Smith Convention
and Visitor's Center
2 North B Street**

This is a joint meeting of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Fort Smith Social Studies Educators. Agenda includes presentation of Fort Smith Educators' Frontier Achievement Awards, entertainment, refreshments, tour of the newly restored Miss Laura's and a very short business meeting.

**MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
EVERYONE IS INVITED**

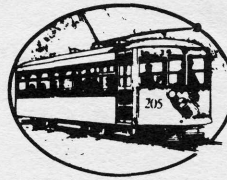
Come and bring your family and friends.

DUES CHANGE

Despite all efforts to avoid increasing membership dues, increased printing and postage costs have finally forced a change in Fort Smith Historical Society dues. Beginning February 15, 1999, the following dues schedule will be in effect:

Annual membership	\$ 25.00
Senior Citizen (55 and older)	15.00
Annual Sustaining	50.00
Annual Business Sponsor	100.00
Annual Civic Club	150.00
Life (Individual)	200.00

Limited number of Composite Index for Volumes I thru IX still available \$20.00 (for mail orders add \$2.00 mailing charge per copy).



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

The Frisco steam engine #4003 that had been at Kay Rodgers Park for 48 years was given to the Trolley Museum by the Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair Board. The engine has been moved to the old Midland Valley railroad track beside the Trolley museum at 100 South 4th Street. This 492,400 pound engine and tender were moved five miles by W. L. Swimk housemovers at his cost of \$15,000. This historic St. Louis-San Francisco railway engine #4003 was built by the Baldwin Locomotive works in 1919. It saw service on the Frisco passenger run from Monette, Missouri to Paris, Texas with stops at Fayetteville, Van Buren and Fort Smith. The engine logged 985,747 miles before retirement in 1950.

The engine will be cosmetically restored to preserve and protect it from deterioration. There are no plans to ever make it operate, primarily due to the expense and lack of track on which to operate. A metal building given to the museum will be erected just south of the carbarn where the engine will be stored and protected for viewing by the public.

The museum also has an eighty ton diesel-electric locomotive that was surplus from the Air Force. All that it really needs to run are the necessary batteries to start the engine. There will be room to store it in the same building. There are two small gasoline switch engines that make up the total of four engines that the museum has for display.

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE '99 SCHEDULE

The Fort Smith Little Theatre has set its 1999 season filled with six full performances with something for everyone. This year's schedule is:

February 11-20 Run For Your Wife by Ray Cooney.

February 21-27 Arkansas State Community Theatre Festival.

April 26-May 1 'Night Mother by Marsha Norman.

June 17-26 Moon Over Buffalo by Ken Ludwig.
August 5-14 The Boyfriend by Sandy Wilson.
September 23-October 2 The Hollow by
Agatha Christie.

Christmas Show to be announced.

Season tickets are available ranging from \$30
to \$75 per person. For more information, contact
the Fort Smith Little Theatre at 783-2966.

FORT SMITH RECEIVES AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Fort Smith received a Community Development
Award for Fort Smith's downtown redevelopment
efforts that include the \$30 million renovation of
the civic center, \$5 million renovation of the
National Historic Site and the reconstruction of
the Miss Laura's Visitor Center. Governor Mike
Huckabee presented the award during the Annual
Arkansas Community Development Awards on
October 19, 1998.

The Fort Smith Northside Housing Authority
was also recognized for its neighborhoods
improvements and for providing centers for con-
tinuing education, day care facilities, job training,
youth activities and additional police support.
Both Fort Smith and Van Buren received 1998
Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year
Awards during the Arkansas Municipal League's
fall conference in December. The Volunteer
Community Awards recognize a city's volunteer
efforts.

FAIR IMPACT HITS \$2.96 MILLION

The Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair continues
to provide superb entertainment and activities for
all ages and a multi-million dollar stimulus for the
Fort Smith Regional economy.

This year that stimulus from the nine-day Fair
totaled \$739,575. Using the conservative and
accepted economic theory that each new dollar
brought into a local economy turns over four
times before losing its impact, the economic
impact of the 1998 Fair on the Fort Smith
Regional Economy is \$2.96 million.

MACSTEEL PLANS \$23 MILLION EXPANSION

For MacSteel's Fort Smith facility, the growth
continues with the company's announcement of a
\$23 million expansion.

The expansion will increase the facility's annual
production to 420,000 tons, which is an increase
of 50,000 tons.

Construction is scheduled to be completed in
2000, with much of the work being contracted to
local firms, according to Plant Manager John
Fisher. This latest expansion will bring the com-
pany to more than \$160 million in expansions dur-
ing the past 10 years, including an expansion last
year (This does not include the initial plant invest-
ment.) The expansion will allow the plant to
increase efficiency and production of its hot-rolled
steel bars for specialized customer applications,
Fisher said.

FORT SMITH RECEIVES ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS

On August 28, 1998, Governor Mike Huckabee
announced that the Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program, an agency of the
Department of Arkansas Heritage, has awarded
\$709,432 in grants to rehabilitate historic struc-
tures and expand education in Arkansas history
and historic preservation.

Sebastian County received a \$45,000 County
Courthouse Restoration Subgrant to refurbish
exterior lights at the 1937 Sebastian County
Courthouse/Fort Smith City Hall in Fort Smith,
which is listed on the National Register of Historic
Place.

The Darby Foundation received a \$1,600
Historic Preservation Grant to remove artificial
siding from the Christian Church at 220 North
Seventh Street in Fort Smith. The church, built in
the late 1800s, fell into disrepair over the years
and is now being refurbished by the Darby
Foundation.

According to the foundation, the church should
be completed by January 2000. When completed,
the church will be named the Belle Grove
Gathering Place.

The City of Fort Smith received a \$2,000
Historic Preservation Grant for educational mate-
rials and programs for the city's historic Oak
Cemetery, which also is listed on the National
Register.

NEW THEATRE NOMINATED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The State Review Board of the Arkansas
Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the
Department of Arkansas Heritage, nominated 34
properties in 11 Arkansas counties – including
the New Theatre at Fort Smith – to the National
Register of Historic Places when it met December
2, 1998.

The New Theatre, located at 9 North Tenth Street in Fort Smith, is a two-story structure built in 1911 as a performing arts playhouse and until the 1940s hosted plays, concerts, and silent movies, as well as vaudeville and minstrel shows.

It was built in a small-scale rendition of the Classical Beaux-Arts style of architecture. "Typical of the Beaux-Arts style, exterior detailing at the New Theatre includes glazed terra-cotta brick, such as large, rusticated terra-cotta bricks, ornate trim, scroll brackets, and elaborately bordered cartouches," according to the National Register nomination. "Particularly noticeable is a decorative gargoyle depicting the Roman god Neptune that serves as the keystone for a large segmental arch."

"The design of the entrances and the theater itself were duplicates of the New Amsterdam Theater built in 1903 in New York City," according to the National Register nomination.

FORT SMITH DOUGHBOY SCULPTURE LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

In June, 1997, Fort Smith's doughboy sculpture, erected to honor World War I servicemen, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as was an identical piece in Helena, Arkansas.

Both sculptures are titled "Spirit of the American Doughboy" and were designed by American artist Ernest Moore "Dick" Viquesney. They portray an American soldier charging through "No Man's Land" with a hand grenade in one hand and a rifle in the other.

Money for the Fort Smith "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument, located in the American Legion parking lot at 4901 Midland Avenue, was raised through the efforts of the Victor Ellig Post No. 31 of the American Legion, an organization that was also active in establishing parks in Fort Smith. It was dedicated July 3, 1930, in Tilles Park. It was removed from the park in the 1980s after suffering repeated vandalism and was placed at the Ellig-Stoufer post around 1990 following restoration work.

The statue "is the single historic resource most closely associated with the Victor Ellig Post No. 31 of the American Legion and its members' efforts to reflect their perceptions of the noble character of the area's World War I soldiers and their cause," according to the nomination.

The Viquesney design was popular, with at least 136 erected in some 35 different states in the years following the end of the First World War.

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, will lead tours of historic areas across the state during 1999 through its "Walks Through History" program, as well as tours of Little Rock and North Little Rock landmarks through the "Sandwiching in History" services.

Cathy Slater announced the free "Walks Through History" tours are held monthly beginning in March and explore the history and architecture of noteworthy Arkansas neighborhoods and historic districts. Tours during 1999 will be held March 6 in downtown Van Buren, April 3 in downtown Osceola, May 1 in Fort Smith's Belle Grove neighborhood, June 5 in downtown Pine Bluff, June 26 in Newport's historic residential area, August 7 in downtown Prescott, September 11 in Monticello's North Main Street Historic District, October 2 in downtown Harrison, November 6 in Texarkana and December 4 in downtown Jonesboro. All tours begin at 1 p.m. except the June and August programs, which will begin at 10 a.m.



1998-99 CHRONOLOGY

June 29, 1998 - January 27, 1999

**Prepared by Sarah Fitzjarrald McCullough
and Amelia Martin**

**from the Fort Smith *Southwest Times Record*
JUNE**

29th – Katherine "Katy" Boulden closes her Vivian's Book Store tomorrow after 40 years in business.

30th – Fort Smith received a \$2,000 grant from the Arkansas Historical Preservation Program (AHPP) to expand the West Garrison Avenue Historic District. According to the Fort Smith Historic District Commission, current boundaries of the West Garrison Avenue District are from the 100 block of Garrison east to 525 Garrison Avenue. The width of the district includes the alley behind the fronting structures on Garrison Avenue. The West Garrison Avenue District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places April 1979. The grant will help fund the process of

expanding the district to include Garrison Avenue to 13th Street while encompassing some structures on Rogers Avenue and North A Street.

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JULY

6th – Immigrants relocating to Fort Smith should have access to a Multicultural Information Center where they can receive information and education, according to the recently formed multi-ethnic committee, said J. Fred Patton, committee chairman.

7th – More than 160 jobs at the former GenCorp plant in Fort Smith have been saved by purchase of the company by an Italian manufacturer. ILPEA, Inc. announced that it has purchased the facilities in Fort Smith and Evansville, Indiana.

8th – Bill Harding, who has been serving as acting city administrator since December, was officially named as the Fort Smith administrator, pending contract revisions.

11th – Westark College will begin offering a three-year manufacturing technology baccalaureate degree program October 15.

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AUGUST

9th – Mary Martin, computer/technical services librarian with the Fort Smith Public Library, is Arkansas' MCI Cybrarian of the Year winner.

13th – Fort Smith's beloved baby doctor, Dr. Jim Thompson, died yesterday, August the 12th, at the age of 74.

15th – Another of Fort Smith's significant downtown buildings, the tornado-damaged brick building at 200 Garrison Avenue, rich in history, is being demolished by Beverly Enterprises, owners.

21st – Enrollment in the Fort Smith and Van Buren public schools was down, more than 1,000 students in Fort Smith.

23rd – An overlook at Belle Point on the Arkansas River is under construction to commemorate the five Native American tribes, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Seminole.

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SEPTEMBER

16th – Fort Smith City Directors voted to expand the dam at Lake Fort Smith to provide the area

with another water source for the next 30 to 40 years.

25th – Negotiators in the House and Senate in Washington have agreed to spend \$15 million next year to begin upgrading F-16 fighter jets used by the Air National Guard in Fort Smith and two other states. Also in the bill is \$1 million to upgrade a World War II training range at Fort Chaffee into a battleground that can host modern-day electronic warfare.

25th – McGill Center, a non-profit community development center lost \$100,000 in federal grants.

25th – The Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center's historic, castle-style front gate-house was moved in June to a new site on Arkansas 22. Rededication ceremony was held October 24, 1998.

25th – The Fort Smith Board of Directors approved a resolution authorizing a \$117,160 agreement for the extension of trolley tracks of 3,600 feet, connecting Garrison Avenue and the riverfront.

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OCTOBER

4th – Beverly Enterprises followed through on its pledge to contribute 200 Garrison plot of land in downtown Fort Smith to the city.

27th – Members of the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission will break ground today for their new \$1.3 million building at the corner of Phoenix and Old Greenwood Road in Fort Smith, next to Raymond Orr Elementary School.

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NOVEMBER

9th – Rebuilt after the Tornado, Miss Laura's reopened November 2 as the home of the Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau.

13th – Didion Mid-South Corporation was purchased by Terry Russell. Russell previously owned two foundries and is a 20-veteran of the industry. Russell is planning a \$1 million expansion of the existing facility to add the latest in foundry technology.

30th – Fort Smith found itself invaded by fire ants and public meetings are being held to inform citizens how to fight back, with the assistance of the Sebastian County Cooperative Extension Service.

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DECEMBER

9th – A heated discussion Tuesday led to a doubling of Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker's salary from \$5,000 to \$10,000; and a monthly vehicle allowance for city directors.

11th – Frisco engine traveled across Garrison Avenue Thursday afternoon to its new home at the Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

17th – Sparks Regional Medical Center and the Sparks Medical Foundation broke ground December 17 for the \$2.5 million first phase of its Phoenix Avenue East Medical Park. The first phase will provide family practice and obstetrics service when the initial 17,000 square-foot clinic opens in July 1999.

26th – Fort Smith Public Schools will begin offering day care services to babies and children of local students.

28th – Judge John Holland hung up his robe after serving 24 years in Fort Smith's circuit court.

30th – Ground broken for \$26.5 million expansion of the Fort Smith Civic Center.

31st – The continuing internal warfare between Holt-Krock Clinic and Sparks Hospital was voted the number one story of the year by the staff at Times Record newspaper.

31st – Mayor's New Year's Eve celebration, first part a Big Band Dance at the Fort Smith Civic Center, and second part, known as "The Last Hour" celebration, will begin at 11 p.m. at Harry E. Kelley Park on the riverfront with the KISR-FM 93.7 New Year's ball drop at midnight.

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JANUARY 1999

4th – More than \$200 million in new construction under way in 1999 should translate to a strong year for Fort Smith's economy.

9th – I-540 highway extension opened. It will allow motorists to travel from Alma to Fayetteville in 36 minutes, about half the time for those making the trip via U.S. 71. I-540, named John Paul Hammerschmidt Highway, now reaches from the Alma interchange with I-40 to the Missouri line. A 10-mile section of the road, from Alma to Mountainburg, opened in August 1995.

8th – State Representative W. K. "Mac" McGehee died Thursday January 7. Well-respected and well-liked, he was truly a pillar of our community. He was 56 years of age.

18th – Westark's Crowder Field gets facelift.

23rd – Mayor Ray Baker received the Noon Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award on December 22nd.

24th – The former notorious bordello, Miss Laura's, was restored and renovated. Now resting on a new firm foundation, it has served as the Fort Smith Visitor's Center for a number of years. The 1996 tornado just about did the structure in but is is now back in business.

27th – Freed Little of Houston presented an oil portrait of his great-great-grandfather, Eaton Tatum, to the Sebastian County Courthouse on behalf of his family Tuesday night, January 26th, at the Sebastian County Quorum Court meeting in the Chancery Courtroom. Tatum, considered the "Father of Sebastian County" was the chairman of the board of the Land Commissioners in the 1850s when they were charged with creating Sebastian County from Crawford, Polk and Scott Counties. Sebastian County was founded on March 15, 1851. The painting is part of a collection of photographs of people who have served the Judicial sector of Sebastian County and will hang in the courthouse.

27th – On Tuesday, January 26, Sparks, PhyCor, Inc. and Holt-Krock Clinic announced an agreement in which Sparks will purchase certain assets of PhyCor and Holt-Krock Clinic, including the Holt-Krock name.

27th – The Sebastian County Quorum Court unanimously approved \$753,580 to renovate the county courthouse in Fort Smith, which includes money to buy more downtown property for employee parking. The court also added more than \$140,359 to the sheriff's 1999 budget at the Tuesday night meeting, topping the total appropriations for the department at more than \$5.5 million, according to budget figures.

27th – Governor Mike Huckabee called a May 11 special election Tuesday to fill a legislative vacancy created by the death of Rep. W.K. "Mac" McGehee Jr.

In Loving Memory

(Obituaries abstracted from Fort Smith Southwest Times Record.)

W. K. "MAC" MCGEHEE, JR.

State Representative W. K. "Mac" McGehee Jr., 56, died in his Little Rock apartment of natural causes January 7, 1999, just days before the Legislature convened. McGehee had been elected to his second term and would have been sworn in Monday to the District 14 seat.

His funeral service was moved from his home church, St. Bartholomew Episcopal, to Immaculate Conception to accommodate a standing room only estimated crowd of 1,000 from all walks of life. Among his many civic services, he was a long time volunteer for the Boy Scouts, and roughly 50 Boy Scouts arrived in uniform to say goodbye to one of their leaders.

A native of Fort Smith, McGehee's roots go back to his great-grandfather, who used to ride with the famous federal Judge Isaac Parker's marshals in the late 1800s. He is survived by his wife, Janet; one son, Tripp; and a daughter, Mackenzie; his mother, Virginia; an uncle, Steve Creekmore Jr., and an aunt, Emily Fink.

ELIZABETH MOULTON WOLFERMAN

Elizabeth Moulton Wolferman, 101, died January 22, 1999 at her home. The daughter of Dr. Herbert and Lynn Crockett Moulton and the widow of Dr. Sidney J. Wolferman, she lived in Fort Smith her entire lifetime and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church for 89 years. She was active in many medical, civic and charitable organizations, and was presented the "Mayor's Good Neighbor Award" in 1997 for her many years of community service in Fort Smith.

She is survived by two daughters, Linda Hauptert of San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Elizabeth Hauptert of Fort Smith; four grandchildren, Lynn Lok of Los Angeles, Calif., Lee Van Sant of Sacramento, Calif., Lisa Hauptert-Jones of San Jose, Calif., and John Hauptert of Dallas, Texas; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Saint Edward Mercy Medical Center, the Fort Smith Public Library or First Presbyterian Church.

PAUL LITTLE II

Paul Little II, a former Fort Smith resident with strong historical ties to the founding of Sebastian County died January 31, 1999 in Houston, Texas. Little was the great-great grandson of Eaton Tatum who is considered the "Father of Sebastian County."

Little was an honor graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Law, and earned his doctor of juridical science from the New York University school of law. In 1953, his doctoral thesis, "Federal Income Taxation of Partnerships" was published and used as a law school text and law library reference book. After practice with Wall Street and New York City law firms, in 1959 he joined Mobil Oil Company in New York as a tax lawyer. He was later named Mobil's first general tax counsel, a position he held for 20 years until his retirement. After retirement he served as a tax consultant for Mobil.

He is survived by his wife, Rose Marie; one daughter, Mrs. John Roberts of Scarsdale, N.Y.; three stepdaughters, Rusty Speake of Salt Lake City, Rody Speake and Fran Yokopovich, both of Houston; one son, Paul Little III of White Plains, N.Y.; two brothers, Jess Edward Little Jr. of Slingerlands, N.Y., and Freed S. Little of Houston; three grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Catherine of Siens Building Fund, 10688 Shadowood, Houston, TX 77042 or to the charity of the donors choice.

(See Volume 21, Number 2, September 1997, for article on Little family.)

DR. JIM THOMPSON

Dr. Jim Thompson, 74, of Fort Smith, died August 12. He was a retired family physician, a member of First United Methodist Church and an Army veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife Sally, two daughters, Sherrie Thompson McAllister of Tulsa and Sandy Thompson MacKenzie of Dallas; one son, James Robert "Jim Bo" Thompson of Dallas; one sister, Mary Minta Thompson of Fort Smith; one brother, Dr. Bob Thompson of Fort Smith; and three grandchildren; Kate and Ken MacKenzie of Dallas and Kelly Thompson McAllister of Tulsa.

Memorial contributions may be made to charity of donor's choice.

DR. J. KENNETH THOMPSON

Dr. J. Kenneth Thompson, 87, who practiced medicine most of his life in Fort Smith, died September 4, 1998, at his home in Villa Santa Barbara, California. Burial was in Forest Park Cemetery in Fort Smith.

He is survived by three daughters, Dana Thompson Istre of Lompoe, Calif., Jill Thompson Harper of Santa Barbara and Kay Thompson Lee of Memphis Tenn; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church in Fort Smith or to St. Edward's Mercy Medical Center.

DR. ALFRED B. HATHCOCK

Dr. Alfred B. Hathcock, 67, of Fort Smith died October 1, 1998. He was an orthopedic surgeon at Holt Krock Clinic.

Hathcock was an active board member of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, and active in many medical and civic organizations. He was Scoutmaster for Troop 23, held District and Council positions for the Boy Scouts of America, was Council Jamboree Scoutmaster in 1973, founder of Rogers Scout Reservation, recipient of the Silver Beaver Award and teacher of the Boy Scout Wood-badge courses.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Jane Hathcock; one daughter, Lisa Ann Klusmeier of Fort Smith; one son, Dr. Steven Allen Hathcock of Little Rock; one brother, Charles Nelson Hathcock of Batesville; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Westark Boy Scouts of America, Rogers Scout Reservation, 1401 South 31st St., Fort Smith, Ark. 72901, or Alfred Barnett Hathcock Series, First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th St., Fort Smith, Ark. 72901.

DR. WILL A. SESSIONS

Dr. Will A. Sessions Jr., 93, a Disciples of Christ minister more than six decades, served congregations from Australia to England, Scotland, hills of Kentucky and the Arkansas Ozarks, died November 23, 1998 at his Fort Smith home.

He was the author of "The God and Country Award Handbook" for the Boy Scouts of America. Other books by Sessions include "Greater Men

and Women of the Bible" and "The Week of the Cross."

Although he officially retired in 1972, he continued to serve Christian and Presbyterian churches throughout western Arkansas well past his 92nd birthday.

Survivors include one daughter, Toveylou Sessions Talley of Green Valley, Arizona; one son, former U. S. District Judge and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director William Steele Sessions of Washington, D. C., seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

RALPH KUTAIT

The Rev. Ralph C. Kutait, 72, of Fort Smith, died October 17, 1998 in Clarksville. He was a retired Episcopal priest and a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Fort Smith.

He is survived by three daughters, Mary Ellen Robbins of Clarksville, Julia Sophia Dobbins of Fort Smith and Najla Louise Kutait of Tulsa; one sister, Nita K. Fawcett of Fort Smith; three brothers, Dr. Kemal Kutait and Jesse Kutait, both of Fort Smith, and Edward Lee Kutait of Little Rock; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church, 215 North 6th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

MARIAN KECK WINTORY

Marian Keck Wintory, 77, of Fort Smith died January 21, 1999. She was a retired teacher for the String Orchestra Program of Fort Smith Public Schools, former member of the Fort Smith Symphony, and a member of the Fort Smith Musical Cotery. She served with the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, was a homemaker and a Baptist.

She is survived by one daughter, Lynn N. Stringer of Ogden, Utah; three sons, Ken M. Wintory of Fort Smith, Stephen K. Wintory of Dallas, Texas and Dr. Terry J. Wintory of Denver, Colorado; one sister, Kathleene I. Keck of Fort Smith, one brother, Henry M. Keck II of Fort Smith; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fort Smith Public Schools Orchestra Program, P. O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72902-1948.

The Congressional Record
(April 16, 1872 - May 11, 1872)

Difficulties in Cherokee County

This is a series of letters and newspaper accounts dealing with the Going Snake Massacre that occurred on April 15, 1872. This information was gathered by the Secretary of the Interior to establish responsibility for this bloody incident. Despite charges and counter-charges by the Cherokee Nation and the United States, no one was ever brought to trial for their part in this affair. All parties involved were subsequently granted amnesty.

Washington, April 30, 1872

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge, through your reference, the receipt of a copy of Senate resolution of the 23d instant asking for certain information in regard to the acts of the United States marshals and their deputies in that portion of the western district of Arkansas now the Indian country, and also for all information in the possession of the Departments relating to the late outrages at Whitmore, Baron Fork, in the Cherokee Nation.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter to this Department from the United States attorney for the western district of Arkansas, and a copy of one to him from Deputy Marshal Donnelly, in relation to the alleged outrages referred to.

These letters contain all the information I am able to furnish touching this matter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. H. BRISTOW,

Solicitor General and Acting Attorney General.
Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, April 18, 1872

Sir. I desire to call your special attention to a very aggravated resistance of United States authority, in which, Deputy Marshal Jacob Owens and seven of his posse were murdered, and several others severely wounded, and request that you ask the President of the United States to make a demand of the chief of the Cherokee Nation for the surrender of the persons engaged in the assassination.

Some time ago one Proctor went to the house of one Chesterson, a white man, and brutally murdered his wife, who was an Indian woman, and also shot him in the head, making a very dan-

gerous wound, and fearing that the murderer of his wife would be cleared in the Cherokee Court. applied to James O. Churchill, esq. United States commissioner, for a writ. The commissioner issued a *capias* and place the same in the hands of Jacob Owens and Joseph Peavy, United States deputy marshals, and requested them to repair to the place where the trial was progressing, and if the prisoner, Proctor, was cleared, to then arrest him for the assault with intent to kill the said Chesterson, for being a white man and the United States having jurisdiction over the same.

The marshals with their *posse* repaired to the place of holding court, (in the Going Snake district,) they having previously summoned several persons (Indians) to be present to aid in the arrest, as it was generally understood that said Proctor would not surrender without resistance.

On approaching the court house the marshals observed several men go around the house with arms in their hands. Deputy Peavy then observed that they (the *posse*) had better ride to the rear of the house, as he believed there would be a difficulty. Deputy Owens then stated that he thought there would be no resistance, and they all rode up to the front of the house, hitched their horses, and started to the house. Deputy Marshal Owens instructed his men to be quiet and peaceable, when several men came to the door and fired on the Marshals, the fight then became general. The guard, jury, lawyers for defense, and prisoner participated in the fight. The marshals force being few in number and outside of the house were badly cut up, and were compelled to leave the field, leaving seven dead and one or two mortally wounded. The marshal, Jacob Owens, has since died of the effects of his wounds, I enclose a letter from Deputy Marshal James W. Donnelly, the clerk for marshal of this district, and also a report of the difficulty in the various newspapers of this city.

I have just had a conversation with L. L. Scales, an attorney employed in the prosecution of Proctor in the Cherokee courts, who gives substantially the following account of Cherokee justice as meted out by their courts. The presiding judge, Tim Walder, being a relative to the party, was disqualified from acting as judge, and the chief appointed Thomas Woolf, to act as special judge. The defendant, or some one of his friends,

approached Judge Woolf, and requested that he place twelve names on the list of jurors, (it being the duty of the judge to place twenty-four names on the list, and the defendant then selects twelve men to try him), he refused to do so on three separate occasions, and then resigned. The chief then appointed Blackhaw Sixkiller to act as judge, and he permitted part of the names to be place on the list of jurors, and they went into the trial. The trial progressed four days, and the judge was suspended on account of charges preferred against him, but was afterward restored by the chief to act, and moved the place of holding court to the school house, where the difficulty occurred, it being a better place to resist United States Marshals. The judge dismissed the *posse* of the sheriff, and turned the prisoner over to a guard of his friends. The whole thing developed the fact that a deliberate plan was formed by Cherokee authorities to clear Proctor of the crime of murder, and to resist the United States Marshals and their *posse*. The parties who resisted on this occasion are a part of the same who resisted the marshals a year ago last October, and also who murdered Deputy United States Marshall Bentz, a couple of months ago.

There seems to be a deliberate plan among that class to stand by each other to rescue a prisoner when arrested by the marshal, as they have on former occasions, and to murder the officers whenever they attempt to execute the process of the court.

Deputy Marshal Owens was one of the best officers on the force; a quiet, peaceable gentleman, esteemed by all who knew him as an honorable high-toned gentleman, and the Department has lost one of her best officers in his death. I earnestly hope that you may take such steps as you think proper to have the perpetrators brought to justice. Unless the Cherokee authorities aid the United States, it is very doubtful whether or not, with the limited force in our hands, we can make the arrests. On hearing of the resistance to the Marshals, Mr. James W. Donnelly, in the absence of the Marshals, very promptly dispatched a force to the scene of the difficulty, who buried the dead and brought away the wounded.

They report on their return that the judge held court the day after, cleared Proctor, and that Proctor had fallen back to Rabbit Trap, in the Mountains, and that he had fifty men under his command and was fortified. The marshal did not think it prudent to attack Proctor, so he sent his *posse* back to this place. and he and Dr. Pierce the surgeon, went to Tahlequah to make a demand on the chief for Proctor and those engaged with him in the murder of Owens and his

posse. We have had great difficulty to contend with in this part of the Cherokee Nation. Four persons were convicted at the May and November terms of 1871 for resisting the marshals forces in this same neighborhood. in which Marshal Bentz was murdered, and also near the place where Owens and his *posse* were murdered.

The Cherokee authorities do nothing to aid us in making arrests; in fact they throw all the obstacles possible in the way of the United States authority; and to be tried in Indian courts, as was demonstrated in the trial of Proctor, is the merest farce. No one is ever convicted for high offenses. and they have no law for assault with intent to kill.

Since the trial the Cherokee authorities have indicted several Cherokees for entering into a conspiracy to take a prisoner out of the hands of the courts, and if they are found guilty the punishment is death. They are a part of the *posse* summoned by the marshal to assist in making the arrest, and were acting in strict accordance with instructions, and were assaulted by Proctor and his party, and only acted in self-defense. I have no doubt if Judge Blackhaw Sixkiller acts as judge, and they have Proctor and his forces armed, they can convict them. In fact they threatened to take the life of anyone who furnished information or aided the marshals forces in making arrests.

Please send such information as you think proper, so that those engaged in violation of law may be brought to justice.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAMES H. HUCKLEBERRY

United States District Attorney of the Western
District of Arkansas

Hon. George H. Williams
Attorney General, Washington, S. C.

OFFICE UNITED STATES MARSHAL.
WESTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS
Fort Smith, Arkansas, April 20, 1872

Dear Sir: On the 11th of April information was filed before James O. Churchill, esq; United States Commissioner, by one Chesterson, a white man, that Ezekial Proctor, a Cherokee Indian, committed an assault with intent to kill upon him, at the same time murdering his (Chesterson's) wife, a Cherokee woman.

Colonel Churchill issued a writ for Proctor upon the charge of assault with intent to kill, and it was placed in the hands of J. G. Peavy and J. G. Owens, Deputy United States Marshals', for service, with instructions to proceed to Going Snake district court house, in the Cherokee Nation. where Proctor was being tried for the murder of

Chesterson's wife and in the event of Proctor being acquitted, to arrest him at once and bring him to Fort Smith for examination. Deputy Marshal Bentz having been killed but a short time before, while engaged on a similar service, the deputies summoned a strong *posse comitatus*, and were joined in the Cherokee Nation by several Indians, who were desirous of seeing the offender brought to justice.

On Monday the 15th, Peavy and Owens, accompanied by their *posse* arrived at the court house, and, dismounted, hitched their horse within thirty yards of the building. They then advanced. Deputy Owens cautioning his companions to be careful and make no hostile demonstrations. Upon arriving within a few feet of the building, the deputies perceived that it was filled with armed men, and that they were preparing to make an attack upon them.

Deputy Peavy called to them, stating that he was a United States officer, and that he did not desire any trouble. At this moment a gun was discharged from the building and in an instant the firing became general. In the space of three minutes seven of the marshals party were killed, three severely wounded and Deputy Owens mortally wounded and has since died. Of the attacking party three were killed and seven wounded, making altogether eleven killed and ten wounded.

Deputy Peavy assisted by Joseph Vannoy, one of his posse, succeeded in taking Deputy Owens to a house within a half a mile of the court house, and at once dispatched to me a messenger for reinforcements to protect Owens, and, if possible, to arrest the murderers, as it was reported that the Indians intended killing Owens.

I immediately raised, mounted, armed, and equipped a force of twenty-one men, whom I placed under the command of C. F. Robinson, and dispatched him at once to Mrs. Whitmire's, in the Cherokee Nation, at whose house Owens was then lying. I also sent by him a formal demand on the chief of the Cherokee Nation for the surrender of the murderers.

Upon arriving at Mrs Whitmire's, Mr. Robinson ascertained that the Indians, to the number of eighty, had taken their wounded and retreated to the mountains, and, under the circumstances, he did not feel justified in following them with the handful of men under his command.

After caring for the wounded and sending the body of Deputy Owens, (who had died before he arrived) to Cincinnati, Arkansas, Mr. Robinson sent his detachment back to this place in charge of Deputy Joe Tider, then (Mr. Robinson) accompanied by C. W. Pierce, proceeded to Tahlequah

to present to the chief the demand for the surrender of the parties.

After weighing all the testimony at my command, I have come to the conclusion that this cowardly attack upon United States Officers, in the lawful discharge of their duties, was premeditated and carefully planned.

The woman killed by Proctor was a sister to a large and influential family in the Cherokee Nation, by the name of Beck. The Becks were of course desirous of having Proctor punished, and for this reason joined the marshal's *posse* to assist in making his arrest if he was acquired in their courts. The judge of the Cherokee court was a warm friend of the Proctors, and would not permit any of the friends of the Becks to come to the court house armed, also all of Proctors friends were armed.

On Monday morning, instead of holding his court at the court house, which was quite an open building, he removed it to the school house, in which there were but few windows and from which they could fire on any person without, with impunity. He also removed the sheriff's posse and permitted Proctor to be guarded by his own relatives, Proctor himself being armed. He also permitted Proctor to place on the jury whom he (Proctor) selected. The judge was armed, as was also the jury and every man in the building. And the day after the fight he held court and acquitted Proctor of the murder of Mrs. Chesterson.

These Proctor's and their friends, among whom is this judge, belong to an association in which the members are sworn to kill every Indian or citizen of the Cherokee Nation who gives testimony or information in United States courts against another Indian or citizen of the Cherokee Nation. This association is not confined to this locality, but has its ramifications all over the Cherokee Nation. I am informed that his association was organized before the late war by one John Jones, United States Indian Agent, and I believe Indian agent for the Cherokees now, and the members were known as the "Pin Indians."

This information was given to me by a gentleman who has become a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

Taking all these things into consideration, I am compelled to believe that it was a well laid plan of resistance to the United States laws. How well it was executed you can judge for yourself.

Owing to the limited force at the disposal of the Marshal, these panics will not be brought to justice unless an organized force is sent into the Cherokee Nation. I have no expectation of any assistance being organized by the chief, as it is

hinted that he is in part responsible for the massacre of United States Officers. I am informed on reliable authority that he has used his influence to procure the acquittal of Proctor; and that he knew for several days, if the United States Officers attempted his arrest, there would be a fierce resistance and many lives lost. Knowing this, he did not inform the officers of the Government.

Mr. Owens was one of our best and most careful deputies; he was revered and respected by all who knew him, and his death will be a great loss to the Department. This affair became more lamentable when the fact that all the white men killed had families dependent on them for support, who are thus thrown upon the cold charities of the world. These outlaws should be held to a strict accountability for the desolation they have caused.

I would suggest that a company of cavalry be ordered from Fort Sill, if they can be spared, to co-operate with the civil authorities in effecting their capture, without them no good can be done, and it will be absolutely unsafe for any white man to travel thru that country.

I omitted to mention that Deputy Peavy, after the fight, was compelled to remove one of our

wounded Indian friends* to Cincinnati, Arkansas, to prevent the Proctor party from killing him. He was soon after, followed to that place by Proctors friends, who would undoubtedly have carried their threats into effect had it not been for the opportune arrival of Deputy Marshal George F. Deane, accompanied by three *posse comitas* who put the outlaws to flight.

I would also state that the party sent out under Mr. Robinson conducted themselves in a very law abiding manner, committing no acts of retaliation in the Indian country.

In the absence of Colonel Roots, I feel compelled to submit this statement to you, in order that you might take such steps in the matter as will bring it properly before the Department at Washington.

Very respectfully, & c.,

J. W. DONNELLY.

Deputy United States Marshal,
in charge of Office.

Hon. JAMES H. HUCKLEBERRY,
United States District Attorney,
Western District Arkansas, Fort Smith Arkansas.

*Surry Eaton (White Sut) Beck

Annual Business Sponsors

Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
612 Garrison • Fort Smith, AR 72901

Belle Point Beverages, Inc.
1 Belle Point Place • Fort Smith, AR 72901

Spiro State Bank
Spiro, Oklahoma 74959

Arkansas Best Corporation
3801 Old Greenwood Road
Fort Smith, AR 72923

Dr. J. P. Chancey, Jr.
314 Lexington Avenue • Fort Smith, AR 72901

Southern Wholesale Inc.
P.O. Box 10630 • Fort Smith, AR 71917-0630

Taliano's Italian Restaurant
201 North 14th • Fort Smith, AR 72901

Fort Smith Convention and Visitor's Bureau
2 North B. Street • Fort Smith, AR 72901

City of Fort Smith
623 Garrison • Fort Smith, AR 72901

Fort Smith Trolley Museum
100 South 4th Street • Fort Smith, AR 72901
Phone: 501-783-1205 or 501-783-1237

Holt-Krock Clinic
1500 Dodson Avenue • Fort Smith, AR 72901

Coca-Cola Bottling Company
3600 Phoenix • Fort Smith, AR 72903

Civic Club Sponsor

Fort Smith Jaycees

1898 Newspapers

FORT SMITH WEEKLY NEW ERA – August 5 - November 4, 1898

(Articles abstracted by Mary Lou Jacobsen)

AUGUST 12, 1898

Sunday night's rain was one of the heaviest that ever fell in this section. All of the streams in the neighborhood of the town were flooded, and in many places bridges were washed away.

In the city the rain fell in slabs and blocks. All of the merchants about Texas Corner had their stores flooded and some sustained serious damage. Reports of the weather bureau shows that 4 1/2 inches of rain fell during the day and night, one-half inch of which fell during the day.

The Trash-Lick Printing Company has removed its plant to the building formerly occupied by the T. J. Little Clothing House.

C. A. & H. C. BIRNIE

Undertakers and Embalmers

Burial Cases and Caskets - All sizes and prices

Telegraph orders a specialty

805 Garrison Avenue Fort Smith, Arkansas

THE SCHOOL FUND

The State School Fund now being paid to the various counties amounts this year to \$343,038.10. The number of school children in the state is 435,565. The rate of apportionment per capita is 74 cents.

Following is the school population and the amount apportioned in the counties in this section:

	School Population	Apportionment
Crawford	8,745	\$6,741.50
Franklin	6,914	5,116.36
Johnson	6,671	4,936.54
Logan	5,325	6,364.00
Montgomery	3,437	2,545.38
Polk	4,818	3,565.32
Scott	4,961	3,671.14
Sebastian	11,703	8,660.22
Yell	7,844	5,806.56

Last Friday night Joe Sykes, a colored individual, lost \$10 in a crap game in Phillips Shop on the avenue and feeling somewhat aggrieved thereat drew a knife and compelled Phillips to disgorge. The latter turned over all he had – \$16.

Sykes afterwards attempted to escape to the territory but Constable Henderson interfered and loaded him in the cooler.

SODA POP PLANT FOR SALE

One Tuff's Soda Pop Plant for sale. Will be sold for reasonable terms. For further information call on or address

T.W.M.Boone

Fort Smith, Ark.

— • —

AUGUST 19, 1898

Men's veal calf lace coin toe shoes, a good one for 90¢.

Patrick Shoe Co.

— • —

AUGUST 26, 1898

The Fort Smith Public Schools will open on September 19.

Among the many residences being erected in the city is the neat five room cottage by W. R. Mulin. It is on the corner of K and South Thirteenth Streets.

A refined and well educated teacher, 37 years old, desires to correspond with some lady not over 30 or under 21 years of age. Object matrimony. Address S. T. Malone, Shawnee, I.T.

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SEPTEMBER 8, 1898

For sale or Exchange for Fort Smith property or land near by, 160 acres near Dripping Springs, fair improvements. Will make fine fruit farm. Price \$600. Apply W. H. Dooley, 813 North 3rd Street or Wharton Carnall.

The residence of William Murray on North Eleventh Street was burned to the ground last Wednesday morning. The fire burned rapidly and everything in the house was destroyed. The furniture was covered by insurance.

Arkansas made a good showing in the battle of Manila. Lieutenant Toppan of the captured Spanish gun boat is a Helena boy and he accomplished more than was accomplished by any other vessel during this fight.

The small boy is beginning to save his nickels in anticipation of Buffalo Bill Wild West Show billed for the city on the 29th Inst.

He who kisses a maid kisses a miss, and he who kisses another man's wife kisses amiss: so the only thing left is to kiss the widows.

J. F. Upton has filed for divorce against his wife on account of her disgraceful conduct and asks for custody of his three children.

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SEPTEMBER 9, 1898 UNITED STATES JAIL

James Marshall was registered at jail this week on a charge of selling whiskey without a license. He was arrested in Newton County. Deputy Marshals Bryan and Burris reported Tuesday from a raid on moonshine stills in the Southwestern portion of Yell County. They captured 4 stills and 9 prisoners and a number of gallons of whiskey. The prisoners were taken to Dardanelle, where they were given a hearing before Commissioner Hall. Mr. Frank McKibben, Jailer, this week issued clothing to those of the prisoners who had scant apparel.

John Bibreach was lodged in jail Wednesday by Deputy Holmes on a charge of cutting government timber. He was once before the court on the same charge but jumped his bond before his trial came off.

Make No Mistake TEXAS CORNER SALOON

When you visit Fort Smith and need anything in the line of

WINES AND LIQUORS

You will find my stock very complete and my goods select. You can get better liquors for less money than from other dealers. My country friends and customers generally are invited to drop in and see me.

Courteous treatment accorded to all.

MAIL ORDERS)
GIVEN PROMPT) P.O. OKEEFFE
ATTENTION) 1018 Garrison, Fort Smith, Ark.

FOR TWENTY FIVE CENTS

We will mail the *Ladies Home Journal*, beginning with the next issue (October number) to January 1, 1899. Also the *Saturday Evening Post*, every week, from time subscription is received to January 1899, for twenty five cents, for the pur-

pose of introducing our weekly with our well known monthly.

The regular subscription to *The Saturday Evening Post* is \$2.50 per year. It was founded in 1728 and published by Benjamin Franklin up to 1765, and has been regularly published for 170 years — the oldest paper in the United States. Everybody knows the *Ladies Home Journal* with its 800,000 subscription list. *The Post* will be just as high a grade of literature and illustrations, but entirely distinctive in treatment and in kind. The best writers of the world contribute to both of our publications and the illustrations are from the best known artists.

The Curtis Publishing Corporation
Philadelphia.

Thursday night, the 1st, a reception was given at the residence of Mrs. Nance on North Fourth Street, in honor of Miss Fannie Bonham, the retiring matron of Charity Hospital. It was largely attended by friends of Miss Bonham, all of whom expressed regret at her departure, with wishes that pleasure and happiness may attend her in her new home.

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SEPTEMBER 16, 1898

The W.C.T.U. has petitioned the Navy Department to Christen the new battle ship, Illinois, with water instead of wine.

Joseph P. McIntyre, chaplain of the battleship Oregon has criticized the conduct of Admiral Sampson and Captain Bob Evans so severely for their conduct at the Naval battle of Santiago that he will be court martialed. He accuses Bob Evans of cowardice.

ELECTRIC STREET CAR PLANT

The ground has been broken for the electric street car plant, the machinery has been ordered and is on the way from St. Louis, and the manager gives assurances that within sixty days the cars will be whizzing through the city. Col. McLeod has labored under great difficulty in the prosecution of this enterprise, but at last has the satisfaction of seeing a clear field ahead.

The street car mule will soon be a thing of the past.

Henry Woods, a colored gentleman, was arrested Tuesday for securing goods on a forged order. He presented an order, purporting to come from D. B. Crespe, to D. O. Wade, a dealer in second hand goods, securing a coat and vest.

These he pawned to Babb, another dealer in second hand wares, under an assumed name. All of which goes to show that Woods is somewhat of a schemer.

THE SCHOOL CENSUS

Tom Hocott has completed the census of the Fort Smith School District and submitted his report to the president of the School Board. The report shows that in the district there are 4438 children of school age which is an increase of 400 over last year.

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SEPTEMBER 23, 1898

RETIRES FROM PRACTICE

Dr. G. W. Smith, so long and favorably known in this community as a practitioner in diseases of the eye, ear, and nose has made arrangements to retire from practice and will be succeeded by Dr. John M. Marshall, a graduate of the University of Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Smith has an enviable reputation as a physician and there are many who will learn with regret of his intention to retire from practice.

Dr. Marshall comes with the highest recommendation both as to his skill and standing as a gentleman, and we trust he may be pleased with his new home.

President McKinley is still laboring to get his whitewashing committee completed.

Bob Blakeley was before Hizzoner Judge Freer, Monday on a charge of breaking into a car and stealing whiskey from a barrel on the inside thereof. As he was caught red-handed Blakeley could make no defense so he was assessed a punishment of \$60 fine and 30 days imprisonment in jail.

Saturday was Jewish New Year, and most of our Hebrew citizens celebrated in a manner befitting the event. Most of their businesses were closed, and after the morning service at the temple by Rabbi Currick much of the day was devoted to making visits which is one of the customs of the day.

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SEPTEMBER 30, 1898

We understand Henry Adams and Jim Fondren woke Hackett City up Sunday evening by filling up with redevye and perforating the circumambient atmosphere with six-shooter bullets. They were taken in hand before they had done any serious mischief, but managed to make things lively for awhile.

Mrs. Lease, the female calamity bowler, has become a spiritualist and will deliver lectures in advocacy of that faith.

MRS. E. A. DAVENPORT

(a regular graduate)

LADIES PHYSICIAN AND MIDWIFE

Ladies boarded during confinement. A private and comfortable home. Terms reasonable. All business and correspondence strictly confidential. No. 1011 North B. Opposite St. John's Hospital, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

(Editor's note: Mrs. E. A. Davenport is listed in the 1898 Fort Smith City Directory, with offices at 305 North 11th Street. She also recorded her license to practice obstetrics in Sebastian County November 20, 1888, but later she was listed as a nurse. No where was she actually listed as a physician. She was probably a midwife nurse, even though her name was in the physician's register. That register also contains registration for other nurses, but they are all designated as such.)

Owing to complaint by the patrons of the High School about the time given pupils for lunch at noon, the school board has increased the time from twenty minutes to half an hour.

Mr. Jesse Parnell and Miss Daisy Vann were married at the office of the County Clerk on the 23rd. Both live in the territory. Mr. Parnell was one of Roosevelt's Rough Riders. He escaped capture by the Spaniards only to find himself entangled in bonds much stronger than any Don's ever were. Long life to Mr. Parnell and his fair bride.

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OCTOBER 7, 1898

Chaplain McIntyre says that when his tongue ran away with him at Denver, during the lecture in which he so severely criticized Bob Evans and other navel officers, he was laboring under the influence of quinine and brandy taken to overcome nervousness. In other words, the reverend gentleman was drunk.

MINERS WANTED

Four or five miners are wanted four or five miles west of Fort Smith on Little Rock Road: 2-1/2 foot vein; wages \$1.00 per ton; steady work. Address Thompson & Son, Fort Smith.

Schulte's big auction sale in front of Cutter's tomorrow will almost be as great event as Ringling's Circus.

A german (*Editor's note: A dance for many couples*) at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. John Vaile, Wednesday night in honor of Miss Estelle Walton was largely attended and greatly enjoyed by all who were present.

I. H. NAKDIMEN

Mr. I. H. Nakdimen, well known in business circles of Fort Smith, has located in Muldrow, where he will enter business in mercantile line. He is a clever gentleman and we trust he will do well in his new locality. The people of Muldrow will find him hot stuff in every respect.

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OCTOBER 21, 1898

At the 1st meeting of the City Council Esq. William Breen was appointed special police judge in place of Judge Frank Freer who is confined to his home with malarial fever.

BILIOUSNESS

Do you get up with a headache?
Is there a bad taste in your mouth?

Then you have a poor appetite with a weak digestion; You are frequently dizzy, always feel dull and drowsy? You have cold hands and feet? You get but little benefit from your food? You have no ambition to work and the sharp pains of neuralgia dart through your body?

What is the cause of all this trouble?

Constipated bowels.

AYERS PILLS

will give you prompt relief and certain cure.

Keep your blood pure. If you have neglected your case a long time, you had better take

AYERS SARSAPARILLA

also. It will remove all impurities that have been accumulating in your blood and will greatly strengthen your nerves.

Write the Doctor

There may be something about your case you do not quite understand. Write the doctor freely. Tell him how you are suffering. You will promptly receive the best medical advice. Address Dr. J. C. Ayers Lowell, Mass.

The Spanish government, through the French Ambassador in Washington has protested against the sailing of the *Texas* and *Oregon* for Manila. Our garlic eating brethern are so inexplicable in their ways as to render it difficult to determine whether they are humorists, diplomats, or plain dampools.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Hereafter obituary notices published in the *Elevator* will be charged for at the rate of 3 cents a line for all matter in excess of twenty lines. Under twenty lines - free as usual.

Mary Farnsworth died at Charity Hospital on the night of the 20th, aged 27 years. Her death was occasioned by dropsy.

Will Kendrick, son of Mr. W. R. Kendrick, had his leg broken last Friday afternoon while playing football at the High School.

Thomas A. Bab who runs a second hand store on Third Street was arrested last week on indictments in the circuit court. He was placed under bond which he readily gave.

Browning and Fowler, who were convicted last week in the federal court of breaking into the Burnsville post-office, were reared in the neighborhood of where the crime was committed. They belong to good families and have been well reared, and their conduct is a matter of amazement to all who know them.

MARRIED

Mr. Henry Bollinger and Miss Anna Williams were married on the night of the 10th at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. S. A. Williams, on D Street. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. F. Kraeger of Springdale in the presence of a number of relatives and invited guests. Prof. Michaelis presided at the organ, playing Mendelsohn's wedding march. After the ceremony and the customary congratulations the guests assembled in the dining room, where an elegant repast was served. During the course of the banquet the German Band appeared and serenaded the happy couple. The *ELEVATOR* extends congratulations.

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NOVEMBER 4, 1898

On or after November 1st, 1898, the Retail Merchants of Fort Smith will refund the Bridge Toll Fare paid by any person or persons for crossing either the Missouri Pacific or Poteau Bridge.

The toll will be refunded in the following manner: The person paying toll will receive a card from each bridge keeper which will show the amount paid. This card will be received by any retail merchant as so much cash at the rate of five cents on the dollar upon any bill of goods the holder of the card may purchase from the merchant up to the toll paid.

Index

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
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