

# The JOURNAL

## *Fort Smith Becomes A National Historic Site*



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Museum in the  
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*Vol. 26, No. 2, September 2002*

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# The JOURNAL

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COVER: Ladybird Johnson dedicates Fort Smith National Historic Site

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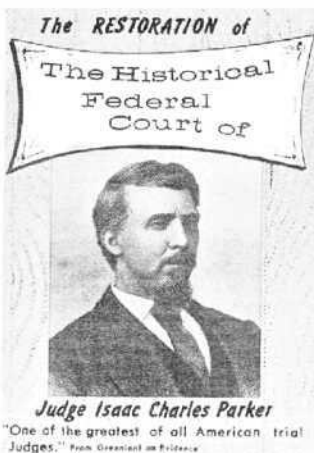
# Fort Smith Becomes A National Historic Site

(Compiled from articles in *Fort Smith National Historic Site Dispatch*)

By Julie Northrip and Emily Lovic

On Thursday, September 13, 2001, Fort Smith National Historic Site celebrated the 40th anniversary of its designation as a unit of the National Park Service.

The Congressional resolution, signed by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy on September 13, 1961, marked the beginning of transferring operational control from the local historical organization to the National Park.



Judge Isaac Charles Parker

The story of the restoration of Judge Parker's courtroom, gallows and Belle Point, begins with the City of Fort Smith. In January 1955, Mayor H. R. Hestand appointed a board of citizens to study the possibility of preserving what remained of the historic court. A report was made in September 1956 detailing the restoration plan and Public Historical

Restorations, Inc. was formed to carry out the work. Circuit Judge Paul Wolfe was elected president and Chester Nelson was named architect.

A city-wide fund-raising campaign was held, but the \$8,000 raised fell short of the estimated cost for the project. A.F.L.-C.I.O. building trade unions of Fort Smith came to the rescue. Plasterers,

plumbers, painters, carpenters and the electricians crafts volunteered their labor without charge. Work was commenced on September 9, 1956 and an opening ceremony for the restored courtroom and gallows was held on May 26, 1957.



The Old Courtroom

RESTORED AND OPERATED BY  
Public Historical Restorations, Inc.  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Judge Parker's Courtroom

In 1958 civic minded Fort Smithians drew up plans to interest the federal government in acquiring the site of the 1817 fort at Fort Smith. To do this they knew they would have to show, not only that the site was of national significance, but that some physical vestiges remained. Clyde Dollar, a qualified historian and amateur archeologist, was stationed at Fort Chaffee and able to conduct an initial excavation in 1958 to identify the location of the fort. A later excavation in 1963 delineated the shape and extent of the fort.



President John Fitzgerald Kennedy accepting from Mayor Bob Brooksher a deed from the city of Fort Smith the deed to property that would come to be known as the Fort Smith Historic Site.

When President Kennedy signed into law the bill (Public Law 87-215, H.R. 32) authorizing the establishment of Fort Smith National Historic Site it provided for the maintenance of about 15 acres, ten of which the city would donate. The law appropriated \$319,000 to acquire the other five acres.

In a ceremony held at the Fort Smith airport on October 25, 1961, President Kennedy accepted from Mayor Bob Brooksher a deed from the city for the property that would come to be known as the Fort Smith Historic Site.

Sadly, before the Park could be dedicated, President Kennedy was assassinated and the country had plunged into a time of uncertainty and change.



Ladybird Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Johnson, in a ceremony at the site, dedicated the park on October 24, 1964.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson had been President for less than a year when his wife, Ladybird, in a ceremony held at the site, dedicated the Park on October 24, 1964. Mrs. Johnson presented an American flag, the symbol of our country, to the park. This flag with the original box remains in the Park Collection.



American Flag presented to the park by Ladybird Johnson.

The Fort Smith Historic Site celebrated its 40th anniversary in the shadow of the World Trade Center bombing.

The children who gathered on the lawn during the anniversary celebration to listen to programs and music and eat cake may not remember an autumn afternoon at the park, but they will always remember where they were on September 11, 2001.

(For more history of the barracks building on the site, which was built in 1851, in 1872 used as a courthouse with a jail in the basement, 1875-1891 courthouse of Judge Isaac C. Parker, 1887 three story jailhouse attached to courthouse, 1890 second story added to courthouse, its restoration and use during the years following restoration, see article, *Fort Smith National Historic Site*, on pages four, five and six of Volume 3, Number 1, April 1979 of *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*.)

## Visiting Notables Share Spotlight

(Times Record, October 22, 1964)

Preparations got underway early today for the reception of Mrs. Lyndon Johnson who dedicated the National Historic Site here this afternoon at the Old Judge Parker Courtroom.

Site preparation was under the direction of Charles Marshall, in charge of the National Park Service regional office of Williamsburg, Virginia.

More than 60 chairs were set up on the speaker's platform, decked in red, white and blue banner. About 800 folding chairs were set up on the lawn for visitors.

A section of the grounds was roped off, but there was much space for visitors who came from the surrounding area.

Sharing the platform with the First Lady were Mrs. Harold Kellam, Mrs. Clifford Davis, Mrs. Jack Cranes, Tom Harper, Mrs. Orval Faubus, Congressman Jim Trimble, Mrs. J. W. Fulbright, John McClellan, Mrs. Orville Freeman, Mrs. Robert McNamara, Mrs. Willard Wirtz, Mrs. John McClellan, Senator J. W. Fulbright, Congressman Wilbur Mills, Mrs. Morris Unsell, Morris Unsell, Mrs. James Yarbrough, Harold Kellam, Mrs. Ben Geren, Mrs. Hugh Bland, Hugh Brewer, Lloyd McDonald, Tom Norris, George Hartzog, Jr., Judge Paul Wolfe and Mrs. Wolfe, Mayor James Yarbrough, Mrs. Tom Norris, Hugh Bland, County Judge Ben Geren, two Secret Service Agents, Mrs. Hugh Brewer, Mrs. Lloyd McDonald, Mayor Allen Ray Toothaker, Donald W. Reynolds, Karen Carlson (Miss Arkansas), Mrs. John Woods and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Nelson.

Entertainment for the program which started at 1:30 p.m. was provided by seven high school bands from Northside, Southside, Greenwood and Ozark, Arkansas and Vian, Sallisaw and Spiro, Oklahoma.

Tom Norris, superintendent of the historical site, gave the welcome address on behalf of the National Park Service, and master of ceremonies was Judge Paul Wolfe, who also introduced the guests.

Mayor James Yarbrough extended welcome to Mrs. Johnson and her guests, the three cabinet members and members of the Arkansas congressional delegation, and proclaimed October 27, 1964 "Fort Smith Historic Site day." He also proclaimed Mrs. Johnson and the three cabinet wives honorary citizens of Fort Smith.

Tom Harper, National Democratic Committeeman, introduced Senator J. W. Fulbright and other national dignitaries and their wives. Congressman Jim Trimble introduced Mrs. Johnson, who in turn introduced the cabinet wives.

Mrs. Johnson presented the proclamation for the historic site to George Hartzog, Jr., director of the National Park Service.

Weather for the event was good, partly cloudy skies and the temperature near 70 degrees, with a slight easterly wind.

# Hangin' Times in Fort Smith



By Jerry Akins  
(Part III)

Part one of *Hangin' Times in Fort Smith*, published in volume 25, Number 2 of *The Journal*, covered the seven hangings that occurred prior to May 1875 when Judge Parker's term began.

Part two, published in Volume 26, Number 1, began with Judge Isaac C. Parker's address on Saturday, June 26, 1875 to William J. Whittington, the first man he sentenced to hang, and covered all of the eight men who were convicted of murder in the spring session of the Western District Court.

Part three begins with the six men who were condemned to die on April 21, 1876.

They were:

Aaron Wilson, negro  
Isham Seeley, Chickasaw  
Gibson Istanubbee, Chickasaw  
Orpheus McGee, Choctaw  
Osey Sanders, Cherokee  
William Leach, white

It also covers execution of four men on September 8, 1876. They are:

Osey Sanders  
John Valley  
Samuel Peters  
Sinker Wilson

**DOOMED  
SIX MEN CONDEMNED TO  
DIE AT ONE TIME  
FOUR INDIANS, ONE NEGRO  
AND ONE PALEFACE**

(Fort Smith *New Era*, 2-9-76)

On Saturday, February 5, 1876 six men faced Judge Isaac C. Parker to hear themselves condemned to die on April 21, 1876. The six men were; Aaron Wilson, negro; Isham Seeley, Chickasaw; Gibson Ishtanubbee, Chickasaw; Orpheus McGee, Choctaw; Osey Sanders, Cherokee; William Leach, white.

Judge Parker addressed the first man in the same tone and with many of the same sentences

as he had John Whittington on Saturday, June 26, 1875.

## Aaron Wilson

Aaron Wilson, "a full blooded negro" and of "Herculean strength" stood immobile before the bench, betraying no emotion while he listened to the judge's address. When asked if he had anything to say before the court pronounced sentence on him he replied that he had applied for witnesses who did not appear and on whose testimony he had relied and that he was not guilty of the charges against him. After Wilson's remarks the court resumed with Judge Parker describing his crime in picturesque language and admonishing him to seek redemption as he had others before him.

Aaron Wilson was a native of Virginia and had served five years in the U. S. Army, having been discharged about a year previously in Indian Territory.

Wilson was convicted of the murders of James Harris and John Franklin Harris, father and son near the Wichita agency in Indian Territory. The Harris's were traveling to Texas through Indian Territory on their wagon loaded with goods. Wilson followed them for some distance and then at night killed the father, James, while he slept. The son, John Franklin, about 12 years old, awakened to the killing of his father and tried to escape. According to the reports Wilson overtook him after a chase of about 175 yards. While the young boy pleaded for his life Wilson shot him. One report said that the boy was "literally riddled with buckshot."

After the murders Wilson took the horses from the wagon, hid the wagon and dressed himself in clothes that he took from the wagon. He gathered some other loot and went to the Wichita agency where he told the Indians that he had taken the things from two white men that he had killed. He had the mistaken belief, based on his assessment of Indian character, that his acts would recommend him to them.

The Indians, however, were repulsed by his deeds and reported him to their agent.

Wilson later denied all knowledge of the killings but the circumstantial evidence was enough to remove all doubt of his guilt. A brother of the murdered Harris identified the stolen property. And then there was the dog. Harris's dog had followed his owner's horses and belongings when his master had been murdered. The dog was introduced as evidence and identified by Harris's brother.

After Judge Parker's address and the sentencing Wilson was escorted back to the prison under a "very strong force of Deputy Marshals." He had expressed that he would risk death by being shot attempting to escape rather than by hanging.

### THREE INDIANS

Next to enter the courtroom were Isham Seeley, Gibson Ishtanubbee and Orpheus McGee. *The New Era* was most unkind in its description of these men; "The appearance of these three children of Lo would sadly disappoint those whose knowledge of the noble red man is derived solely from Cooper's stories or similar creations of fiction. In fact they were a shabby set; two of them under-sized, the third large and burly; all of an indefinable dirty color, with a very small amount of intelligence discernible in their physiognomies. It was plain that the brute predominated in their organizations fitting them for the heinous deeds they will have to suffer death for." Another description is more benign, simply saying that Seeley and Ishtanubbee could be mistaken for brothers, being about the same age and height, about five feet, eight inches, "not remarkable for bloodthirsty or ferocious countenance." Both Seeley and Ishtanubbee were about the same age, about 25.

#### *Seeley and Ishtanubbee*

Isham Seeley and Gibson Ishtanubbee were tried for the same crime, the murder of an Indian doctor named Funny and his negro cook, a woman named Mason. Had it not been for the murder of the woman, a U. S. citizen, their trial would not have been in the Federal Court because crimes by an Indian against an Indian in their own tribal area would be tried by the tribal court.

Nearly four years before the sentencing the two men had gone to the home of Funny, the Indian doctor, near Stonewall in the Chickasaw nation. Reportedly, they had threatened Funny's life sometime in the past. Nevertheless, they had gone to the old man's home to stay all night and been accepted. During the night Ishtanubbee had

split the doctor's head with an axe and Seeley had beat the woman to death with a gun barrel that was used to prop the door shut. A nephew of Funny, Chiwaha, found the bodies of the victims the next day. He and Baptiste Williams, a grandson of Funny, were chief witnesses.

Their loot consisted of a few articles of clothing, boots, a dress and a pair of pants. Next morning after the killings the murderers told other Indians near their home that the items belonged to Funny and that they had killed him. They later burned the items and their neighbors kept their secret. The criminals might have gone free if Ishtanubbee had not told Kitsie Cobb, a woman with whom he lived, of the incident. The two later had a disagreement and Cobb turned the murderers in.

When asked if they had anything to say as to why sentence should not be pronounced on them Ishtanubbee said that he had been convicted by malicious testimony and that he had never killed anyone. Seeley said that he could say nothing that would do him any good. Neither showed any emotion when sentence was pronounced. The entire proceeding was carried out with Major John Page, a Choctaw, acting as interpreter.

#### *Orpheus McGee*

Orpheus McGee, Choctaw, about 23 years old, was next to stand for sentencing. Judge Parker announced that a motion in his behalf for a new trial had been overturned and that the address that he had made to the other two Indians were intended for him as well.

McGee and his brothers David and Charles lived near the mouth of Boggy Creek, on the Red River, in Choctaw Nation. The three along with their brother-in-law, Moses Homer, were "known throughout the country as a wild and reckless set of men." Also in that area lived the Alexander brothers, Robert and W. V., white men, who often aided the authorities against the McGees and other lawless types.

About April 20 or 22, 1875 the three McGees and Moses Homer murdered and robbed Robert Alexander within a mile and a half of his house. One report says that Alexander left the home of a Mr. Miller a little before dark to shoot some wild turkeys that he had heard. A short time later Miller heard a gunshot. He waited supper on Alexander until after dark. Next morning Miller and W. V. Alexander found Robert where he had been shot, apparently by someone on horseback.

The McGee brothers bragged to some of their friends of their deeds and a few months later Orpheus was arrested. Some of the dead man's belongings, his guns, were found in the possession of Orpheus McGee.

Moses Homer was killed in the attempt to capture him. David McGee was brought in during November 1875 just after Orpheus had been shot four times while trying to escape from the Federal Jail. David was tried and cleared of the murder charge. Charles McGee was killed by law officers who were trying to arrest him for another offense.

### **Osey Sanders**

Osey Sanders was the next to face Judge Parker that Saturday in February of 1876. His crime was detailed in *The New Era* in Victorian verbiage and style that modern language cannot compare to. So, the details of his crime will be related verbatim, misspellings, punctuation and all, as it appeared on February 9, 1876.

"Osea Sanders, a full blood young Cherokee, middle size, light complexioned, stood up, considerably agitated. His case is a very bad one, he being convicted of a most

### **HORRIBLE, REVOLTING AND FIENDISH MURDER.**

"On August 6th, 1875, he in company of one Wm. Matier, also Cherokee, approached the house of an old neighbor, Thos. H. Carlisle, a white man, but married to a Cherokee woman.

"Carlisle was an intelligent, industrious farmer in very good circumstances, living about 50 miles north of this place, near the State line in Cherokee nation. He was sitting on the porch of his house, after the days labor, in the cool of the evening, in company with his wife, who was in very delicate health, and several children. He directed a little son to step down and open the gate for the young men, who were well known to all the family, the latter rising from their seats and offering them to their visitors.

"But, oh, horrible to relate, the pen almost refuses to record the hellish deed, which immediately thereafter took place and changed a scene of domestic peace and happiness into one of blood, crime, and despair. For on reaching the porch the two fiends, who had kept their weapons in readiness, with the utmost premeditation deliberately shot down their unsuspecting host before the eyes of his

### **HORROR STRUCK FAMILY.**

A more treacherous savage deed was rarely ever perpetrated.

"The poor wife and children fled in despair to the fields. Late in the night they got some neighbors to return with them to their dwelling and found their husband and father cold in death at the foot of the porch. The fiends had also taken off with them about fifteen hundred dollars in

national Cherokee scrip, and among some other articles, the shoes off the feet of the murdered man, and which were found two days afterwards on the feet of Sanders."

*The Weekly Herald* tells essentially the same story with only slight variations, such as naming a daughter who opened the gate and Mrs. Carlisle returning with her children instead of going to, and returning with, neighbors.

Sanders was captured by Cherokee authorities on August 8th, two days after the murder and turned over to U. S. authorities. "Sanders was identified by Mrs. Carlisle, who, to add to the terrors of that fearful night, was delivered of a child." The Carlisle children also identified Sanders. Sanders accomplice, Matier, was killed in the attempt to capture him.

When asked if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced upon him, Sanders professed ignorance of having committed the crime, said he was convicted by false testimony and felt that he was innocent and his mind perfectly easy as to the future.

The court then addressed him "very earnestly" and sentenced him to hang on the same day, April 21st, as the others.

Between February and April 21st the Cherokee authorities made "strenuous efforts" to get Sanders taken from U. S. Court jurisdiction and tried by a Cherokee Court. Their argument was that the victim was an adopted citizen of the nation and that therefore the tribe had jurisdiction. *The New Era*, on May 3, 1876, expressed this opinion; "Should this ruse be successful, Sanders will very probably not only go free, but it will establish the fact, that other Indians hung for murdering white men, adopted citizens, in the Territory, suffered death unlawfully and every white man in the Territory is at the mercy of an Indian assassin."

### **William Leach**

Last to face the judge that day was a white man, about 35, native of Georgia, "Whose intelligent countenance strikingly contrasted with the stolid, apathetic or brutal features of his fellow prisoners. He served in Fort Pillow Forrest's command during the rebellion and his cold, steel gray eye denotes him to be a resolute, dangerous man." (*New Era* 2-9-76)

Leach showed some emotion and nervousness on entering the courtroom and glanced around the densely packed room. As those condemned before him had, he professed innocence and blamed his conviction on false and malicious testimony. His motion for a new trial had been overruled.

Leach had lived in the Cherokee Nation for several years, about 25 miles from Fayetteville, near the state line. He had moved his family there from Georgia after he had traveled through the Indian Territory and Colorado.

He had served the 39<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry and was wounded three times at Jonesboro, Ga. He was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Georgia where he stayed until the surrender. He went back to farming, but was captured by some men dressed as Federals, but claiming to be Rebels, who robbed him. He followed them to Chattanooga where they were arrested and his property restored.

After that he was charged with the murder of his wife's brother and a man named Quarels, but was acquitted. He claimed that if he had ever killed anyone that it had been in battle. He also said that he had lived peaceably in the territory and had no trouble with the law. However, in the proceedings of the U. S. Court as reported in *The Weekly Herald*, 6-28-73, "June 19, U. S. vs. Wm. Leach, retail liquor dealer and selling liquor to Indians, jury verdict, guilty." And on 7-28-73 "July 11, U. S. vs. Wm. Leach, selling liquor to Indians and retail liquor dealer not paying tax - sentenced six months in penitentiary at Little Rock and fined \$1000 and costs." So, his veracity is questionable at the least.

On March 8, 1875, in the Cherokee Nation, Leach had murdered a white man, named H. Watkins, a wagonmaker, resident of Washington Co., Arkansas. The two had started from Cincinnati, Arkansas together, Leach on foot and Watkins riding. They had stopped at Freeman's blacksmith shop west of Cincinnati where, it was noted by two people that Leach wore shoes and Watkins, boots. Watkins had been in possession of a violin and a small four-barrel pistol and Leach, a gun.

About eight miles west of Cincinnati Leach shot Watkins from behind, dragged the body to a large log, piled brush on it and set it afire. The body was not found until April 9, 1875. The fire had not consumed all of the articles and identification was made by scraps of clothing like what Watkins was known to have been wearing, part of a violin bow, screwdriver, pistol and boots. It required the testimony of seventeen witnesses to make the chain of evidence complete.

William Leach was convicted December 14, 1875 and the following is the description of that scene as reported by *The Weekly Herald*, 12-25-75:

"Convicted. On Monday morning the jury in the case of U. S. vs. Leach, murder, came into court with a verdict of guilty.

"The wife of the convicted man was in court

when the verdict was read, and to describe her feelings, and manifestation of distress and agony, when she heard it, is beyond our ability just now.

"If guilty, the anguish of that loving wife and her boy must be more than death to the husband and father; if innocent, he can only feel that in his conviction, she has been robbed of him, who would protect and comfort her.

"The scene in court on that occasion, will not soon be forgotten by those there, and they will tell it to others, until it may reach many now steeped in crime, to whom it may serve as a warning, that if not for ourselves, for those we love, and who love us; we should shun evil company."

Mrs. Leach, for days before the execution, begged the Marshal to allow her to spend a night in the prison. That request he refused for, among other reasons, there had been threats of rescuing the prisoners.

Leach, himself, however, received his sentence without evidence of emotion and was returned to the prison below the courtroom where he and the other condemned were soon observed "enjoying their dinner with evident relish."

#### **THE GIBBET A LIFE FOR A LIFE**

So announced *The Weekly Herald*, April 22, 1876, with the headline and fifteen sub-heads telling the history of hangings by the court and proclaiming, emphatically, again, Fort Smith's innocence in the events. And the fourteenth sub-head announced;

#### **The Sentence of Osey Sanders Suspended by the President At the Eleventh Hour**

On April 19, 1876, two days before Osey Sanders was to hang this telegraphed message arrived;

"Washington D. C.  
"April 19, 1876"

"J. F. Fagan:

"I have this day granted reprieve to Osey Sanders, sentenced to be hanged on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. Suspend the execution and acknowledge receipt.

"U. S. Grant"

"So," as *The Weekly Herald* put it, "the sentence was suspended and the man was not."

The sentence was remitted to June 2, 1876 and at that time remitted again. However, they were only postponing the inevitable.

By early dawn of April 21, 1876 all of the approaches to Fort Smith were crowded with the people coming in to witness the execution. They represented all of the ethnic groups from the surrounding area and the territory and were estimated to be from 3000 to 5000 in number.

But U. S. District Marshal J. F. Fagan had made sufficient preparations to deal with such a crowd and to prevent escape or rescue. Deputy Marshal W. S. Whittington, in charge of a force of volunteers attached to the Marshal's office, had things in such good order that the event passed off in orderly fashion.

The scaffold was enclosed around the area in which the court officers, guards and others were permitted. On the scaffold preparations were made for the accommodation of clergy and press.

The press was represented by the three local papers, the *Gazette* of Little Rock, two papers from St. Louis and the *Chicago Times*.

At 11:00 A. M. the signal was given and the prison doors were opened. The five doomed men, in irons, started their walk to the gallows. They were escorted by a strong guard composed of Deputies Stirman, Wilkinson, Topping, Sharp, Rutherford, Twyman, Cox, Tinker, Neis and Donnelly. The Marshal was in front of the procession and in command and the ministers preceded the prisoners. When the prisoners arrived at the scaffold they ascended without showing fear or emotion and took their places with Wilson on the right and McGee on the left, the others in between, facing the crowd.

The sentence and death warrant was read to each man in order. William Leach's was read to him by G. W. Pierce, jailer, and to the Indians, McGee, Seeley and Ishtanubbee, by Ed Krebs, Chickasaw and Choctaw interpreter. Deputy Wilkinson read the sentence and warrant to Aaron Wilson who could read and understand the English language. Only Leach showed any emotion.

From the scaffold the condemned men spoke to the crowd; Leach first. He admonished all to not do as he had and put off repentance too long. He forgave all and felt that he was forgiven.

McGee spoke next expressing the same thoughts, ready and willing to go and sure of salvation.

Ishtanubbee said that he did not fear anything ahead, was prepared to exchange this world for the one to come, that his was the gain; he loses his life but saves his soul.

Seeley said that he had led a very bad life and, too late, was sorry. But, he had found mercy in coming to Christ for it. He warned parents to bring their children up right.

Aaron Wilson said he was not afraid to die and proclaimed his faith in the Catholic Church. He thanked all the officers for the way they had treated him. He forgave all and hoped to be forgiven.

At "11 1/2 o'clock" the formalities were over and the friends of the condemned shook hands all around and bid them a long last farewell. The hoods, gowns and ropes were then put in place and 11:53 o'clock the drop fell. Shortly thereafter the crowd began to disperse. The bodies hung for 16 minutes and then were examined by the physicians present; Dr. Worth Bailey, surgeon in charge, and 17 assisting physicians.

It would be four and a half months before there was another hanging; Osey Sanders would be among them.

Note: Judge Parker had arrived in town on the day that the fall term of the court began. He had gone to St. Louis, Mo. to visit his family. He had intended to bring his family along, "but for the arrival, not entirely unforeseen either, of a little stranger in his family who decided to remain for the present *in loco*. This happened last Friday week." (*The New Era*, 9-29-76, birth occurred 9-16-76)

Sources: the Fort Smith *New Era*  
the Fort Smith *Weekly Herald*

### **Four More Executions - Murder cries aloud for vengeance**

(sub-head *Weekly Herald*, 9-9-76)

On Friday, September 8, 1876, for the second time that year, a procession of condemned men marched to the gallows. As the *New Era* stated under it's headline, "Four Indians Stretch Hemp for the Murder of Four Whites in Oklahoma." Only one of the four, John Valley, confessed his crime and said that he was worthy of his fate. All of the others claimed to be innocent victims and martyrs of the white man's cruel law. Only one of them, Osey Sanders, committed his crime for any significant monetary gain.

### **Osey Sanders**

Osey Sanders had, by order of President U. S. Grant, evaded the gallows on April 21, 1876 and again on June 2nd. But his argument, and that of the Cherokee Nation's Court, that his victim was an adopted Cherokee and the case therefore subject to tribal law and not the U. S. District Court was not accepted. His last petition for pardon was denied by the president. He was accordingly sentenced to hang on September 8, 1876.

Failing in his argument of jurisdiction Sanders went back to his original plea of ignorance of the murder. He claimed that he knew nothing of the crime until the day of his arrest, August 9, 1875, saying that he had been at home sick on the day of the murder.

On September 7, 1876 Sanders made a statement to the authorities detailing his version of his activities on the day of the crime and on the day of his arrest. On the day of his execution about an hour before the prisoners were led to the gallows he made an additional statement and requested that it be published in the newspapers. The statements were published the following week.

In his first statement Sanders credited his attorneys, Duval and Cravens for faithfully defending him and extended his thanks to the jailer, Maj. Pierce for his "uniform goodness" to him. He said that he had no unkind feelings toward anyone and asked that his friends not "entertain any ill" towards those who had caused his death. All through his statement he expressed his faith that he would see Jesus and that he had no fear of death.

"I am prepared to meet death. I am tired and want to sleep. Soon my troubles will be over and I will be where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

On September 8, 1876 Sanders declared that he did not know "the least particle" about, and was innocent of, the murder of Thomas Carlyle. He said that he first heard about the murder the day after it happened from a little boy named Young Pig. He had just gotten up from his bed, he and his children having been sick that day and the day before. He claimed that both he and one of his children were sick with a very high fever. Between the time he was informed of the murder and his arrest he had gone to the home of a neighbor for medicine but otherwise stayed home until his arrest.

While at the Carlyle home after his arrest Sanders was sick and vomited. Sheriff Ross kept him there all night because he was too sick to travel. On arriving at Tahlequah next day the sheriff obtained medicine for him and they stayed there for two days. On the way to Fayetteville Sanders was still sick.

He went on to say that Almighty God knows that his words are true and that if he had a confession to make that he would make it now and not wait until he got on the gallows. He had written to his friends and asked that if the real murderer was ever found that they "ought to let him alone - as I will pay for it with my death."

The fact, as the jury saw it, is that Sanders and his accomplice, Matier, killed Thomas Carlyle in the presence of his family for about \$1500 in cash and Cherokee scrip. Matier had been killed while resisting capture but confessed to the killing before he died. Sanders, while on the way to Fort Smith, wanted to confess if he would be used as witness and not be prosecuted.

Sanders was said to be a man of considerable influence in his tribe and there were rumors that there were fears among some that, on execution, he might make some confessions that would implicate others in "some deeds of darkness." However, he made no such confessions.

### ***John Valley***

John Valley, a Peoria Indian, about 27 years old and married, was convicted of the murder of Eli Hacket, a white man, in the winter of 1873. Hacket, a few days before his murder, had a quarrel with a brother of Valley about an annuity due Hacket's daughter. Hacket's daughter by his Indian wife had been living with Valley's brother and both men claimed the money. The Indian Agent, on learning that the girl was Hacket's daughter, gave the money to Hacket. That disagreement apparently was the cause of the killing.

Hacket was visiting at the house of a man named John Beavers when John Valley went to the house. Valley, Hacket, Beavers and his wife were seated around the fire engaged in conversation when Valley, without warning, shot Hacket. Valley fired twice and at the first shot Hacket jumped up and grabbed his breast and ran out. Valley then sat down and remained there for a few minutes.

Hacket made it to the gate of the home of Frank Boyer where he fell. "The inmates of the house hearing some groaning, made a search and found him lying at the gate almost unconscious." They took him into the house and applied hot irons to his feet (a practice at that time to revive an unconscious person). Hacket had been at the Boyer house a short time when Valley came to the house. There he made attempts to shoot Hacket again but was thwarted by the people living at the house. Valley left the house boasting to people he met along the way that he had shot Eli Hacket and that he "would learn him how to cheat his brother any more." Hacket died about midnight of the next day.

All of the aforementioned incidents occurred in the winter of 1873 but Valley was not indicted until May 9, 1876. He was convicted on May 20, 1876 and sentenced on June 21, 1876 to hang on September 8, 1876.

### ***Samuel Peters***

In October of 1875 Sam Peters, a Choctaw, 28 years old, went to the home of Frank Pages and tried to trade for a pistol. He failed to make the trade and rode off in the direction of the home of a family named Hanson.

Peters and Hanson had had a disagreement before and Hanson had accused Peters of stealing. Peters went to the home while Hanson was away and murdered Charity Hanson, the wife, a white woman, while she held her four-month baby in her arms. She was found the next morning, still holding the crying baby. The condition of the crime scene showed that there had been a terrific struggle.

There was a mountain of evidence against Peters and though it was all circumstantial it was enough to convince the jury to return a verdict of guilty.

### ***Sinker Wilson***

Sinker Wilson alias Flyer Wilson alias Acorn, a Cherokee, was described as appearing to be at least 30 years old but claimed to be 22 years old. That claim was made in an attempt to deny that he was the person who murdered Datus Cowan, a white boy, in 1867.

Wilson had been convicted of the murder of Cowan at the November 1867 term of court while the Western District Court was located in Van Buren, Arkansas. He was sentenced to hang on February 7, 1868 but escaped from the Van Buren jail. After his escape he returned to his home in the Saline district, married, and continued his old habits. He lived free until April of 1876, nearly nine years. Had it not been for the fact that he had been guilty of other offenses since his escape he might have remained at large. He was suspected of burning a neighbor's house and that neighbor informed on him.

Wilson was arrested and brought to Fort Smith for trial. This trial was on the question of identity. Wilson claimed to be only 22 years old and therefore, being only 12 or 13 years old at the time of the murder, could not be the murderer. However, his appearance and the fact that he had married within a year of his escape and other evidence convinced the jury that he was the same man convicted. He was found guilty on June 2, 1876 and the sentence of death was revived and imposed on June 21, 1876 to be carried out September 8, 1876.

At 11 A. M., Friday, September 8, 1876 the signal was given and the prison doors opened and the condemned and their entourage started the walk across the garrison grounds to the scaffold in front of the old powder magazine. The doomed were preceded by their clergy and guarded by G. S. Pierce, U. S. Jailer; Deputies R. Topping, J. R. Rutherford, J.C. Wilkinson and John Porter in advance with Deputy Fowler and a body-guard on each side. They mounted the scaffold "with firm and fearless tread, manifesting comparatively no emotion."

On the scaffold were Rev. Father Lawrence Smyth for John Valley, Rev. W. A. Sample, Presbyterian, for Sanders and Wilson, Rev. Waldrop for Peters and

Rev. Greathouse. After the sentences were read by the proper officers Sanders, Wilson and Peters addressed the crowd briefly through interpreters. Singing and prayers then followed, joined in by the three men just mentioned. The four men were then arranged on the trap, the ministers shook hands with them and retired. The arms and feet of the condemned were pinioned, the ropes placed around their necks and the black caps placed over their heads. At 12:00 o'clock the drop fell. In 11 to 13 minutes all four were pronounced dead by Doctors Dunlap, Duval, Price, Pierce, Davenport, Main, Massey and Evans.

The crowd was much smaller, estimated to be fewer than one thousand, at this hanging and the newspapers gave less detail of the procedures preceding these hangings. In the past the papers had published details of the trials and sentencing as well as the hangings. There had been three multiple hangings in the span of a year. Between September 3, 1875 and September 8, 1876 fifteen men had met their doom on the gallows at the old garrison site. Of those fifteen, nine of them had hung in less than five months (five on April 21, 1876 and four on September 8, 1876). The people and the newsmen may have become sated with the sight. However, there were no hangings for the rest of that year of '76 and none at all in 1877 and none for most of 1878. They would have two years and three months plus a few days to recover their morbid interest. There would be no more hangings until December 20, 1878 when two men would hang. From then on the executions would be more of an annual event rather than weekly or monthly as misguided imaginations would lead us to believe.

But the District Court for the Western District of Arkansas would not be idle. The court would be busy processing some of the 13,000+ cases that were adjudicated before Judge Isaac C. Parker in his twenty-one years on the bench.

Sources: National Archives, *The New Era* of Fort Smith, *Weekly Herald* of Ft. Smith.

### ***PAUL R. KRONE***

Paul R. Krone was the first photographer in Fort Smith. He was the first to make photographs on paper, not only in Fort Smith, but in the state. His outfit was sent to him from Europe by his brother, who was then a photographer to the German Emperor.

(From *Fort Smith, Arkansas Souvenir of the Queen City of the Southwest* by R. H. Mohler 1898)

# *Some Strickland Family Stories*

*(Editor's Note: The following material was submitted by the great-grandson of John McAfee Strickland, David N. Strickland. According to Mr. Strickland, there were ten Strickland children only four of whom survived the Civil War. Near the end of the war, John McAfee Strickland, his brother George W. Strickland and his sister Mary Elizabeth Strickland were placed in the Union Orphanage run by Rev. Springer in Fort Smith. The first part, Mother's Statement, was made by Mary Elizabeth Strickland Forsyth and the second part is taken from the De Leon, Texas Free Press of February 19, 1926. JBE)*

## **Mother's Statement**

My name is Mary Elizabeth Strickland-Forsyth. My father's name was John Strickland, born, I think, in Tennessee and he married my mother, Margaret Land, in Alabama. Four children were born there - Joseph, William (called Bill), Moses Calvin and myself. I was born October 1, 1850. I do not mean we were born in Alabama, but somewhere in the South, I believe in Georgia.

When I was three weeks old my father, who was employed by the Government as a scout, went in this capacity to locate three Indian tribes - Cherokees, Creeks, and Osages - on land in the new Indian Reservation or Territory, and took his family with him. After locating these tribes he crossed back into Arkansas and located on a government claim of 160 acres six miles from Cane Hill, which was the county seat but I cannot recall the name of the county (Washington County, 1926). We were also only six miles from the state line between Indian Territory and Arkansas. South of us on the Arkansas River was Van Buren where there was a fort, and across the river probably 18 miles was Fort Smith.

On this place near Cane Hill were born John McAfee, James, George, Lewellyn, Nancy and Margaret, who was the youngest. While we lived at this home the war was going on and the Rebels occupied Fort Smith. William enlisted in the Union Army. The Bush Whackers came and arrested my father and took him to Fort Smith to be tried as a spy; before the soldiers at Van Buren could take Fort Smith and

rescue him, he had been shot by the Rebels.

My mother was not well when my father was arrested, and she went to bed and never got up. After she died, our Uncle William Land sent for us to come to him at Fort Smith, where he was a soldier, as the Union forces had captured this fort from the Rebels. We had a yoke of oxen and a wagon, and my brother Moses drove us to the fort; from there Uncle William sent us down to his wife, Aunt Lou, in Scott County. Here Moses and two other children died from the hardships we went through. Uncle William died in the hospital at Fort Smith just before the close of the war, then Aunt Lou brought us back there (Fort Smith) and put us in the Orphans Home. Two more of the children took measles on this return trip and died in the Home.

William was discharged from the Army at the close of the war. He came to Fort Smith and took me, John and George to Uncle Strickland (father's brother) about eight miles from Fort Smith.

One of Uncle Bill's neighbors, Nathan Ballard, took us to stay with him as Uncle Bill was sick. John and George stayed there, but Dr. Duval in Fort Smith sent for me at brother William's request and I lived with his family until I was sixteen years old and was married then at his (Dr. Duval's) house to James Alfred Thompson (called Thomphill in army) of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. A Canadian by birth, a bugler in the Infantry. He was transferred from Fort Smith to Fort Riley, Kansas, with his company then to Fort Bascom, New Mexico, where my son James Alfred was born (1868). Then to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where my daughter Amanda Sophia was born. I stayed there when my husband was sent to Fort Rice (Dakota), at which place he was drowned. I was sent word.

Later I married to Thomas Hall Forsyth (soldier also), and to us were born 13 children - 3 sons living and six daughters. With my first two children making eleven children (as four infant boys died and one girl at birth. Notes ASC).

Eighteen years ago in February 1908 we came to San Diego, Calif. from Fort Bayard, New Mexico (Silver City or Lone Mountain Ranch) where my husband Thomas Hall Forsyth died March 21 or 22, 1908.

After I was married and went away from Fort Smith, Arkansas, I wrote to Mrs. Duval about my brothers but she wrote me that she had lost track of them. It is nearly sixty years since I heard from or about them.

Mary Elizabeth S. Forsyth

(James Alfred Thompson was in the U. S. Army under the name of Tomphill. A. S. Condon, daughter of Mary E. and James A. Thompson.)

Typed in the original by a teacher, Miss Elizabeth Johnson, who lived with Mrs. M. E. Forsyth. Copied 2-5-1926 at Fort Bayard, New Mexico by Amanda S. Condon.

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(Note from letter to Amanda S. Condon by her mother)

You can tell your correspondent, W. A. Strickland, as much of this story as you see fit, or all of it, except the explanation of your father's change of name. His name was James Alfred Thompson, but when he went to get our marriage license he had been drinking and he gave his name as James Alfred Thomphill, which made me a lot of trouble when I had to prove his death in getting my pension.

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I think I've done pretty well for a 75-year-old woman to remember all that I have put down on paper today, besides a good deal more that I did speak of.

### **REV. J.M. STRICKLAND TELLS STORY OF EARLY HARDSHIPS AND OF FINDING SISTER RECENTLY SIXTY YEARS LOST**

A story not without its trials, (illegible) and keen human interest is sent by Rev. J. M. Strickland of this city. The occasion for the incident being related at this time is in the fact that only recently Rev. Strickland found his sister, Mrs. Mary E. Forsyth, 2551 L Street, San Diego, Calif. whom he had not seen nor heard of for a period of sixty years. He supposed that she was long since dead. Rev. Strickland is planning to make the long journey out to San Diego in May, where the writer (illegible) of those little vine-clad cottages among the flowers and trees of Southern California and an old lady age 76, waiting anxiously for the promised visit of her brother, aged 73, with whom she knew such hardships in their childhood days.

But let us begin at the beginning.

It was in those turbulent days of the early sixties when a band of bushwhackers, under cover of darkness, took the father of a family of ten children from their home near Cane Hill, Ark., and killed him at Fort Smith. The mother languished in illness for about a month after the death of the husband and father, then passed out into the Great Beyond. One child died before the children, driven by want, were forced to leave their home. They went to the home their uncle, Wm. Land, or rather to the home of his wife, for he was away in the war and soon died in a hospital at Ft. Smith. He left his wife and two children. The widow bravely faced the world with eleven mouths to feed. But production was at a standstill in the south. Only a few old men, women and a multitude of children were left. Hunger stalked abroad in the land. With hunger came disease and death.

### **Buried His Brother**

At this time Rev. Strickland was about nine years of age. He recalled an incident of that period that the writer considers unparalleled for its pathos and tragedy. One of his brothers, aged 13, contracted pneumonia from exposure by reason of being under nourished and scantily clad. The brother died. Women fashioned a crude pine box and placed the body therein. They placed the improvised coffin on a home-made slide and hitched a pony to it and our own J. M. Strickland, doubtless sobbing for his lost older brother, rode the pony as it pulled his brother to the grave. It does not require a vivid imagination to picture the tragedy and heartache of those little children as they followed the strange funeral procession across the bleak hills of Arkansas on a cold winter day, all of them perhaps suffering from being too scantily clad. The women and older children lowered the body into the grave and heaped up the mound.

The children remained with Mrs. Wm. Land in Scott County, for about two and a half years. They were finally reduced to a state of starvation, as were many others near the close of the war. Northern Arkansas was more or less neutral territory, lying between the opposing armies. The government established orphanages or refuge houses. One of these was at Ft. Smith. A northern preacher named Springer, was placed in charge of the home and the government fed the inmates. It was to

this sanctuary that five women and twenty-one children made their way in 1865, and in the party was Mrs. Wm. Land and her two children and the remaining ones of the ten Strickland orphans.

### **Walked 46 Miles to Orphanage**

The party started out with a small yoke of oxen driven (sic) to an old wagon. Most of them walked. The distance was forty-six miles. They had no food and but little money. Hogs were plentiful in the hills of Arkansas during the six days required to make the journey they killed three hogs which were eaten without bread or salt. Rev. Strickland said they cut the meat in strips and roasted it over camp fires, each one roasting his own meat on the end of a sharpened stick and they ate with a relish, too, he said.

Before reaching Ft. Smith, the yoke of steers gave out and they discarded the wagon, driving the animals on before them into town.

The military orphanage over which Rev. Springer presided was a large old residence, the Latham House, the owner being absent. Mrs. Land and the children stayed there for about a year, working at whatever came to hand for their sustenance. Rev. Strickland, now perhaps eleven years of age, working in the commissary, issuing out food. Three of the Strickland children died of measles during an epidemic. At the end of the year, the war being over, the government attempted to send the refugees north. Many of them rebelled, among them all the children of the Strickland and Land families. They left the orphanage and made their way as best they could, there being only four of the ten who survived the war period, three boys and one girl.

Shortly after their leaving the orphanage the only sister, Mary Elizabeth Strickland, then 16 years of age, married and moved with her husband to Kansas. Her brothers heard from her for about two months, then they became scattered and lost from each other and never heard again. Sixty years passed. Now the remaining members of the scattered family are about to be reunited.

### **Found Sister After 60 Years**

It was by the merest chance that Rev. Strickland heard of his sister's whereabouts. His son, Rev. W. A. Strickland, was pastor of the Baptist church at Balko, Okla. Rev. J. A.

Land was pastor at the neighboring town, Forgan, Okla. Rev. J. A. Land's father died at Ft. Beard, N. Mex. He went to attend the funeral and met the daughter of Rev. Strickland's sister, who lived at Ft. Beard. Land knew something of the history of the Strickland family. The Ft. Beard woman, of course, knew that of her mother. She wrote to Rev. Strickland and they confirmed the relationship.

Rev. Strickland said his sister is mother of eleven children and has twenty grand children and three great grand children. She was born in 1850 and he in 1853. The other and only remaining brother is G. W. Strickland of Gravitt (sic), Ark., who formerly lived three miles southeast of De Leon for a number of years. The third brother died somewhere in Texas about fifteen years ago.

Rev. Strickland is among the staunch old pioneers of Comanche County. He came to Texas when 22 years of age, making the journey with horse and wagon. He married before leaving Arkansas and brought his young wife and one child across the prairies to make their home in what was virtually a wilderness. Eighteen days were required to make the trip. He settled on the Scott farm, on Copperas creek, about eight miles from De Leon, although there was no De Leon for some years after he came. Comanche was a mere village in 1875 when he landed here. There was no railroad west of Fort Worth. There was a store at Hazel Dell and couple at Sipe Springs in '75, he stated, and the only churches in the county were at Van Dyke and South Leon. The last Indian raid in the county was made in 1873, he stated, the redskins killing a man named Leslie between De Leon and Comanche. De Leon was begun about 1878. The railroad was built to De Leon in 1880.

Rev. Strickland has been a student and minister for many years. His pioneer ministry doubtless contributed in a large measure to the molding of ideals of good citizenship, and of laying broad and deep the structure of religious faith which characterizes those of his denomination throughout this section. It is said that a man's religion should begin at home. This must be true in his case as two of his seven sons have followed his worthy example and are active in the Baptist ministry and one is an evangelistic singer.

# Genealogy News

by Janice Bufford Eddleman

## GETTING STARTED IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Genealogy, the researching of family history, is the fastest growing hobby in the United States for many reasons. In a sociological sense, perhaps in this mobile world in which we live, we all have a need for the feeling of belonging that the extended family once gave to individuals. But, to most of the family historians with whom I am acquainted, it is simply fun -- a puzzle to which you must first find the pieces, a mystery to be solved, a piece of history to be unraveled. This article is intended to help you to get started in the fascinating field of finding out who you are; who your ancestors were, both great and small, and some of the useful ways this knowledge can be used such as family medical histories.

You may want to do some reading on your own about genealogical research. The National Archives offers a number of free pamphlets on family history research. Write to them at General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Services, Washington, D.C. 20408 and ask for their genealogical research packet. Check your local bookstore for one of the many "how-to" books available on genealogy. Some are inexpensive in paperback. Of course, your local library will also have books on the subject. One which you must take a look at is a book entitled *The Source*. For help from the internet, check out <<http://www.dhc.net/~jw/guide.html>>.

Another good way to get help with your research is to attend and/or join your local genealogical society. Most societies welcome guests. Check your local library or newspaper for societies' meeting times and places. You will find that family historians like to help each other.

You are the beginning "twig" on a vast family tree. Start with yourself, the known, and work toward the unknown. The place to start is right in your own home. Take a box and make your way around your house collecting such things as family Bibles, baby books, wedding books,

birth certificates, marriage licenses, autograph books, scrapbooks, military papers, newspaper clippings and photographs.

Your next step is to find out all the other information you can from your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Involve your whole family and write down or tape record all they tell you. However, you must remember that these are facts for you to prove. Memories fade and stories often get confused over the generations. For example, my grandmother, who was 63 when I was born, told me that her grandfather was a Confederate soldier from Kentucky who was captured by the Yankees. When he failed to return home at the end of the war, her grandmother loaded the family on a flatboat and came to Arkansas. He returned shortly after they had left and came to Arkansas after them and returned the family to Kentucky. Her story proved to be accurate except that the family had moved to Arkansas in 1854 and the wife took the family back to Kentucky at the end of the war and my Rebel great-great grandfather followed after them.

You will also want to search for others that are researching the same families. Advertise in the local genealogical and historical journals of the area in which you are interested. Both the local genealogical society Frontier Researchers (P.O. Box 2123, Fort Smith, AR 72902-2123) and the Fort Smith Historical Society (P.O. Box 3676, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676) run queries for individuals looking for ancestors at no charge. You might also try a letter to the editor of the local newspaper in the area in which you are interested. Most national genealogical magazines have sections devoted to getting together people who are working on the same families. You can search these magazines in the Genealogy Department of the Fort Smith Public Library. You can also "surf the internet" to find kindred spirits working on the same genealogies you are. Some internet servers have special genealogical interest groups and there are many family web sites and lists.

Use your browser to find those which are of interest to you.

A lot of different records can be used to discover your ancestors -- birth, marriage, divorce and death records, family Bibles, church records, land records, wills and probates, census records, military records, newspapers, cemeteries -- and there are a lot of places to search for clues and pieces of your puzzle. In this area, we are lucky to have many good resources for the investigation of our ancestors. The Fort Smith Public Library has a fine Genealogy Department, as does the Fayetteville Library. In Fort Smith, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints maintains a good research facility in its stake library at 8712 Horan Drive. There is also the Special Collections of the Mullins Library at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and, of course, the Arkansas History Commission at 1 Capitol Mall in Little Rock. Be aware that most genealogical libraries do not circulate their material. You can't check out the books, so be prepared to do your work at the library. The internet also offers many places to search. Among the best ones are Rootsweb <[www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com)> and the Family History Library <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>. However, please be aware that not everything you find on the internet is the absolute truth. Make sure that the information that you find there can be backed up with proof.

Once you have collected some information you are ready to start recording your information. You will be primarily concerned with four key items: names, dates, places and relationships. To record these, genealogists use two forms -- the family group sheet and an ancestor chart. These forms are available from many sources. You may get copies of the forms from a local Church of Latter-Day Saints, genealogical companies by mail (One which has a free catalog is Everton Publishers, P.O. Box 368, Logan, Utah 84321.) or download them from the internet. (Two sites that offer these are <[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)> and <[familyeducation.com/printables/index/](http://familyeducation.com/printables/index/)>.) However, you do not have to have forms to begin your hobby.

At the top of a sheet of paper, write the husband's name, followed by his date and place of birth, the date and place of the marriage, the date and place of death and burial (if applicable). Next record the name of his father

and the maiden name of his mother. As you record each piece of information, note the source from which you obtained the information. Stack the source material in a pile and take it to a copy machine. Copy the source and file it with your family group sheet.

Skip a line or space and do the same for the wife. Skip another line and do the same for the children beginning with the oldest child and also recording the sex of the child. Now, you have a family group sheet.

Perhaps, it should also be mentioned that genealogists have a peculiar way of writing dates. The day is written first, followed by the month, then the year. For example, 13 December 1996. Do not make the mistake of using numbers for the month or not writing the whole year. No "12/13/96," please. This may confuse even you in years to come.

Ancestor charts are sometimes called pedigree charts and actually are the same thing as the pedigree charts that animal breeders keep about their animals. In short, these charts are the ones that trace our direct ancestors -- our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. The charts come in a number of forms but the standard pedigree chart of a certain number of generations is the most popular.

You will notice abbreviations on the charts. These are the standard ones used by genealogists; "b." for date of birth, "p.b." for place of birth, "m." for date of marriage, "p.m." place of marriage, "d." date of death and "p.d." place of death. Sometimes you will also see the abbreviation "bur." This is a space for the name of the cemetery and its location.

At the top of the chart, usually in the upper left hand corner, there is a place for you, the compiler, to fill in your name, address and the date. I like to include my telephone number and my e-mail address as well. Also on the top of the page, usually in the right hand corner, you will find a line marked "Chart No." Since this is your first chart, starting with yourself, mark it as "1."

Number 1 on this first chart is yourself. Record your date of birth as we did on the family group sheets -- day, month, year -- again using numbers for the day, spelling out the month and writing the whole year. Since space is limited it is okay to use three letter abbreviations for the month. For example, 15 Feb 1997. Record the place of your birth including the county name. Do the same for your marriage.

Some forms such as this one do not have a designated line for the place of marriage, but you can usually squeeze it in. Since you are the one filling out the form, we can assume that you do not need to fill out a date and place of death for number 1. Number 2 on the chart is your father and Number 3 is your mother. A good rule to remember is that the men always go up and the women go down. Thus, Number 4 is your father's father and Number 5 is your father's mother; Number 6 is your mother's father and Number 7 is your mother's mother. Fill them in as you did your own information. Continue on to the right of the form following this method.

If you reach the end of the chart, it is easy to continue to another chart. Simply number the next chart "2" and start it with the person you ended with on chart 1. You will notice on the far right side of the form that there is a line "Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_." Fill in the number of the chart to which you are continuing this person.

A couple more hints about ancestor charts. First, I do not list sources on this chart. That's just laziness on my part and the fact that I find most pedigree charts crowded. I footnote every fact on my family group sheets and just refer to them when I want to quote a source. If you wish to note your sources on your pedigree chart, they may be listed on the back of the page. Secondly, until I have the "proof" of a fact, I always write it in pencil on my charts. That way if what I believed to be true turns out to be false I can easily correct it. Once a fact is verified by a document, I then feel free to either type it in or write it in ink.

The second most popular charts are the "fan" charts. These come in a vast array of sizes and styles from those that resemble trees to huge wall charts. These are basically filled out the same way the standard pedigree charts are. You start with yourself at the bottom and go up with the men going to the left of the chart and the women to the right. Usually these are used for decorative accents or for long lines of ancestors. I have two that are eight feet by three feet hanging in the "playroom" where I keep my genealogy just so that I can rapidly see all the surnames on which I am working.

The ancestor/pedigree charts, like family group sheets, can be purchased from genealogical supply companies or downloaded

from the internet. Many Family History Centers located at the local Churches of the Latter-Day Saints also have forms available.

Now that you know how to fill out a family group sheet and an ancestor chart, it is time to start to learn how to research and find those bits of information which are lacking. Genealogists, like all other researchers, use a variety of sources for their work. These sources can be divided into three classifications - primary, secondary and oral.

Primary sources are those things which were recorded at or near the time that the event occurred. For example, a marriage license recorded in the county courthouse at the time of the marriage is a primary source, as are events recorded in a family Bible at the time they happened. Primary sources are often the most accurate since they were done at the time of the event and not later when sometimes memories fade. Generally, these are the best sources and the ones which you want to use, whenever possible, in proving your family tree.

Secondary sources are those that are recorded or copied at a time removed from that of the actual event. They are not to be ignored, but remember that they often tend to be less accurate than primary sources. Into this category fall such things as copied census records and delayed birth certificates. When you use secondary sources, try to back them up with primary sources.

Oral sources are those things which people may tell you about your family. Often they are accurate, but remember that memories fade and stories get changed in retelling from one person or generation to another. Listen carefully and record what your relatives tell you, but also check the stories against the primary sources.

One thing that cannot be stressed too much is to cite your sources. Personally, probably because it was a part of my education as a history major, I use footnotes. Every bit of information is given an upper case number which then matches a number listing the complete source (i.e., "Book 2, Page 3, Sebastian County Marriage Records, Upper District, County Courthouse, Fort Smith, Arkansas" or "Oral interview, Cora Jeffrey, 26 April 1965"). Using footnotes, you and everyone else who

has access to your work will immediately know where you got the information. While you are making notes record the source, especially if you are working in a library. I find that it is helpful to record the name of the library also. There is one note from a book that I consulted early in my family-treeing days that I deeply regret not more fully documenting. As my research developed, I found that there was much more in the book that I could have used, but, alas, I do not know the library and have not been able to find the book in the ones I usually frequent. It could have been many different libraries because, as you will discover, genealogists stop for libraries and cemeteries like some people brake for garage sales and flea markets.

It is also helpful to keep some sort of research log. A sheet of notebook paper will do. Just jot down every source that you search and the data for which you were looking. This saves time in the long run because you can tell at a glance if you have previously checked that source. It can also save you the embarrassment of asking for the same information from the same source more than once.

To summarize, remember to try to consult primary sources whenever possible; use secondary sources to guide you to those primary sources; keep a research log and **always cite your sources!**

The next step once you know the generalities of sources are to locate the sources or "proofs." The most often used records to literally prove one's ancestry are:

(A) Wills and probate records (court records relating to the disposal of the property of a deceased person)

(B) Deeds and land grants (deeds show land ownership; land grants were the first deeds issued by the U.S. government to the first owners of a particular piece of property)

(C) Birth records (official government records of births; sometimes kept by cities, counties or states)

(D) Marriage records (official government records of marriages usually kept in the counties)

(E) Death records (official government records of deaths usually kept by cities, counties or states)

(F) Church records (varies by denomination)

(G) Census records (official enumeration

of the population kept by the U.S. government since 1790; information varies from year to year)

(H) Emigration records (records of people entering a country, includes ship passenger lists)

(I) Military and pension records (records of military service and/or pensions received for that service; includes widow's pensions)

(J) Bible records (information written in family Bibles by the people who owned them)

(K) Newspaper records (information in newspapers of the era being researched)

(L) Cemetery records (tombstones or cemetery association records; could also include funeral home records)

Which records you want to search depends upon what information you are trying to find. The following may help you decide. The letters in the "Search In" column refer to those in the list above.

#### IF YOU WANT TO FIND: SEARCH IN:

Birth Dates	C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L
Marriage Dates	D,F,I,J,K
Death Dates	A,E,F,I,J,K,L
Parents of a Person	A,C,D,F,G,K,I,J
Wife's Maiden Name	D,F,G,I,K,J,L
Where a Person Came From	B,C,E,H,I,K (If using B, one has to guess and then hunt in the area guessed for a deed.)
Names of Children	A,F,G,I,J,K

You now have enough basic information to begin your ancestor hunting. However, you will quickly find that genealogy is a continuous learning process, an addictive hobby and a fun mystery solving search.

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#### **ARKANSAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY TO CELEBRATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY AT FALL SEMINAR**

The Arkansas Genealogical Society will celebrate its 40th anniversary at its annual fall seminar at the Holiday Inn Airport--East in Little Rock on Friday, October 11, and Saturday, October 12, 2002. Friday's program will begin at 4:30 p.m. with registration and a book fair.

Classes will be held that evening from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m. with an anniversary reception in between. The evening classes from which one may chose are "Accessing Online Genealogical Databases" by David Burdick, "Overland Migration Trails into Arkansas" by Lynda Suffridge, "Finding Family Photos Online" by Lynn Ewbank, "Arkansas Church Records" by Jan Eddleman and "Maximizing Your Research at the Family History Center" by Susan Boyle. Saturday's program features nationally known speaker Tony Burroughs whose topics will include "The Nature of Genealogy," "Mysteries of the Soundex," "The Internet--Hype Versus Substance" and "Creating Order Out of Chaos." For more information or to register log on to the AGS website at <[www.rootsweb.com/~args/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~args/)>, contact Jan Davenport at 1 Cinnamon Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72120-1627 or call 501-835-3961.

Also, in celebration of its anniversary, AGS will release for sale its latest publication--an index of delayed Arkansas birth certificates. These "priors" have not heretofore been indexed and thus were almost impossible to access by name only. A group of dedicated AGS volunteers under the guidance of the State Health Department has indexed them and the index will be available both on CD and in book form.

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### **LAND RECORDS AND INFORMATION**

The Division of Land Survey of the Arkansas State Land Office has recently released a new brochure which gives a brief history of surveying, information on the structure and purpose of the office, location and contact information, pricing information and a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. This office maintains original survey markers and survey record documentation among other things. Under the leadership of the current Land Commissioner Charlie Daniels, the State Land Office has released or made available to the public many land records including the original surveyors' notes. The office is also working to help Arkansas celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. For more information, visit the office's website at <[www.state.ar.us/land/land.html](http://www.state.ar.us/land/land.html)>.

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### **ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION AND ARCHIVES NEW WEBSITE**

The Arkansas History Commission and Archives has an updated website that includes bibliographies, photos and much more. Give them a visit at <[www.arkives.com/](http://www.arkives.com/)>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **101 BEST GENEALOGY WEB SITES**

*The Family Tree Magazine* published in its August 2002 issue a list of the 101 best web sites for genealogical research which can be downloaded at <[www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2002](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2002)>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ATTENTION DONATHAN FAMILY RESEARCHERS**

Dr. R. Donathan Ivey, 55 Crestview Lane, Crossville, Tennessee 38555 has a great deal of information on the family of his grandfather, Henry Francis Donathan, who was either a U.S. Marshal or a Deputy U.S. Marshal out of Judge Parker's Court. His father and grandfather were both in the Confederate Army and were both killed by "bushwhackers" during the war. His family lived mostly around Booneville and Blue Mountain, Arkansas as well as Poteau and Eufala, Oklahoma. Dr. Ivey will be glad to share this information with Donathan family researchers.



### **BROWN**

Need information on Bennet Brown or Abraham Bennet Brown and his wife Mary Kerr Brown who lived in Sebastian county from about 1886 until 1910 or later. I found Bennet on the 1910 census. I believe Mary is deceased by then. Their children are William, James, Andrew and Susan Brown. Susan is wife of Peter Kern. -- Betty J. Whaley, 2675 Georgetown Lake Road, Anaconda, Montana 59711.

# *Did You Know . . .*

.....that your Fort Smith library system has over 150,000 books, cassettes, CDs and videos? (This includes 1,400 CDs, 3,600 videos, 3,200 audio cassettes and 400 magazines)

.....that 34,881 people in Fort Smith have library cards? And, in 2001, 6,389 people applied for a library card?

.....over 2,000 kids participated in last year's Summer Reading Program -- 300 more than the preceding year? And 1,056 of them were at the new branch libraries?

.....your library was visited 423,973 times in 2001? That's 100,000 more visits than last year. And 757,493 items were checked out. The new main library building was visited 237,955 times since it opened on February 23, 2001?

.....that the library offers weekly story hours for pre-schoolers at each branch? The main library averages 50 kids a week at its story hour; the branches another 60. That's over 100 children a week attending regularly scheduled library programs. Another 800 kids attended special summer programs.

.....the library staff answered 76,403 questions last year?

.....that library computers were used 68,723 times in 2001 -- up 50% from 2000? That's adults and kids using the internet, word processing programs, games and library databases.

.....the Genealogy Department was used 6,946 times last year by people from all over the country?

.....that the library offers computer classes, genealogy classes, author visits and current events speakers?

.....that bookmobile patrons check out about 3,000 books a month?

.....the library system has six meeting rooms that are used regularly by over 100 organizations?

## **FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY** **[www.fspl.lib.ar.us](http://www.fspl.lib.ar.us)**

### **Main Library**

3201 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903  
479-783-0229 TDD 479-785-1413  
[www.fspl.lib.ar.us](http://www.fspl.lib.ar.us)

#### **Hours:**

Monday-Thursday—9:00-8:00  
Friday—9:00-5:30  
Saturday—10:00-4:00  
Sunday—1:00-5:00

#### **Genealogy Department Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday-Saturday—9:00-5:30  
Tuesday—9:00-9:00; Sunday—1:00-5:00

### **Dallas Street Branch**

8100 Dallas Street  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903  
479-484-5650

#### **Hours:**

Monday-Friday—10:00-6:00  
Saturday—10:00-4:00

### **Miller Branch**

8701 South 28th Street  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72908  
479-646-3945

#### **Hours:**

Monday-Friday—10:00-6:00  
Saturday—10:00-4:00

### **Windsor Drive Branch**

4701 Windsor Drive  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72904  
479-785-0405

#### **Hours:**

Monday-Friday—10:00-6:00  
Saturday—10:00-4:00

*Time schedule subject to change.*

# *In Loving Memory*

## **HUNTER WRIGHT**

Hunter Wright, 90, of Fort Smith died Tuesday, April 9, 2002 in Fort Smith. He was a life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, a Navy veteran, a member of the Central Presbyterian Church, a retired employee of Riverside Furniture factory, a professional trumpet player, a member of the first Fort Smith High School Band and of the Fort Smith Symphony for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Artie Mae Wright; two grandchildren, Greg Goldsborough of Chicago and Brad Goldsborough of Kansas City, Kansas; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Community Rescue Mission, 518 North Third Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

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## **DR. ROBERT THOMPSON**

Dr. Robert J. Thompson, 80, died May 28, 2002 in Fort Smith. He was retired physician, a member of First United Methodist Church, the American Medical Association, Arkansas Medical Society, Sebastian County Medical Society and the American Academy of Family Practice. He was chief of staff of both St. Edward Mercy Medical Center and Sparks Regional Medical Center, past president of Sebastian County Medical Society, an assistant professor at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, and was a veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters, Dianne Manering of Orangevale, Calif. and Barbara Karber of Lavaca; a sister, Mary Minta Thompson of Fort Smith; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Reynolds Cancer Support House, 3324 South M St., Fort Smith, AR 72903 or First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901.

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## **MARY ANN EVANS**

Mary Ann Evans, 88, of Fort Smith died February 17, 2002 in her home. She was born August 16, 1913, in Fort Smith, and was the widow of Otis D. Evans. She retired after 30 years as a social worker for Arkansas Social Services, was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church, Poets Roundtable of Arkansas, and the Fort Smith Historical Society. Her biography and some of her poetry were featured in Volume 17, Number 1, April 1993 issue of *The Journal*.

She is survived by three sons, David M. Evans of Key West, Fla., Francis J. Evans of Charleston, S.C. and Dan V. Evans of Fort Smith, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Community Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 607, Fort Smith, AR 72902 or a charity of the donor's choice.

## **STEWART CONDREN**

Stewart M. Condren, 83, died May 10, 2002. He was a life member and past president of the Fort Smith Historical Society, was retired from First America Federal Savings and Loan and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Van Buren. He had a dual membership in the Belle Point No. 20 and Van Buren No. 6 Blue Lodge, was treasurer for Scottish Rite 33rd Degree, York Rite, Red Cross of Constantine, a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, past president of Arkansas Savings and Loan League and Arkansas Financial Services Association, also a long-time worker for Boy Scouts of America.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son, Dr. Mike Condren of Memphis, Tenn.; a sister, Lavern Graham of Fort Smith and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Van Buren, 108 South 10th St., Van Buren, AR 72956.

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## **DON HART**

Don Hart, 62, of Fort Smith died April 14, 2002 in New Edenburg. He was a retired coach after serving the Fort Smith Public School System for 31 years, 26 of those years spent at Southside High School. He was an active member of the Faith United Methodist Church, a member of the Arkansas Coaches Association and a member of the National Retired Teachers Association.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara of the home; a daughter, Dawn and husband, Toney Brasuell of Benton; two sons, Todd Hart of Cabot and Judd and wife, Misti Hart of Benton; his mother, Levell Smith of Poteau, a brother, John E. Hart of Fort Smith and eight grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Faith United Methodist Church, 2901 Massard Road, Fort Smith, AR 72903 or to send on-line tribute go to [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com).

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## **HENRY WALKER**

Henry E. Walker, 92, of Fort Smith died April 1, 2002, in his home. He was born May 12, 1909, in Augusta. He was a life member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, a retired director of Research and Development for Fourco Glass Co., a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Fort Smith, was Volunteer of the Year for Spring Hill Elementary in Van Buren and received the governor's volunteer of the year award.

He is survived by a daughter, Becky Walker of Fort Worth, Texas; three sons, Steve of Cameron, Mo., Ed of Fayetteville and Randy of Newtown, Conn; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gideons International, P.O. Box 971, Fort Smith, AR 72902.

# Book Notes . . .

Books on Genealogy, Arkansas History or books written by Arkansas authors are welcomed for review. Review copy of book will be placed in the Arkansas Room of the Fort Smith Public Library as a gift from the author and the Fort Smith Historical Society. Review copy of books may be sent to the Fort Smith Historical Society, c/o Fort Smith Public Library, P.O. Box 3676, Fort Smith, AR 72913 or directly to Amelia Martin, 2121 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72901-6243.

*THE RUMBLE OF A DISTANT DRUM, THE QUAPAW AND OLD WORLD NEWCOMERS, 1673-1804* by Morris S. Arnold. 336 pages, 30 illustrations, indexed. Cloth bound. \$35.00. Order from The University of Arkansas Press, 201 Ozark, Fayetteville, AR 72701. For more information call the University of Arkansas Press at (800) 626-0090.

Arkansas Post was founded in 1686 by the French explorer Henri de Tonty, predating St. Louis and New Orleans by decades, and was thus the first European settlement in what would become Jefferson's Louisiana. Enduring until 1934 in one form or another, the settlement's small population and precarious geographical setting on the banks of the lower Arkansas River prevented its development into a major city. Yet, it was important as an outpost where frontier Europeans, particularly the French and the Spanish, formed discernible cooperative relationships with native American peoples, especially the Quapaws.

Morris S. Arnold draws on his twenty years of archival research and writing on colonial Arkansas to produce this elegant account of those cultural intersections. With an exceptionally thorough review of primary source material and in fluid prose, he demonstrates that the Quapaws and Frenchmen created a highly symbiotic society in which the two disparate peoples became connected in complex and subtle ways -- through intermarriage, trade, religious practice, and political alliances. A detailed interpretation of "manteau aux trois villages," an early eighteenth-century Quapaw buffalo robe housed in the Musée de L'Homme in Paris, enriches the narrative.

**Morris S. Arnold** is United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit and author of

numerous articles and books on the colonial era.

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*A PIECE OF MY SOUL, QUILTS BY BLACK ARKANSANS* by Cuesta Benberry. 176 pages, 94 color illustrations. Indexed. 8 1/4" x 19 1/2" trim size. Price, \$34.95 cloth. The University of Arkansas Press, 201 Ozark, Fayetteville, AR 72701. For more information call (800) 626-0090.

Arkansas is well known for its rich tradition of upland folk arts. Little, however, has been reported from the lowland areas, particularly on African American contributions to the state's cultural heritage. *A Piece of My Soul, Quilts by Black Arkansans* seeks to rectify that oversight by drawing attention to the extensive, important collection of African American quilts in the Old State House Museum in Little Rock.

Over seventy-five individual pieces of patchwork art are presented in this publication in full-color plates, each with a commentary by the exhibit's guest curator, Cuesta Benberry. The book details the importance of quilting to black Arkansans; the quilt's uses, materials, and construction; and what each piece says about the artist and her beliefs. We are granted a glimpse into the living conditions and cultural mores of the quilters' lives. Regionalism, such as the unusual custom of renaming traditional quilt patterns for things seen in the farmyard, such as in Rooster Tail or Chicken Feet, and of piecing patchwork funerary cloths to decorate coffins are discussed.

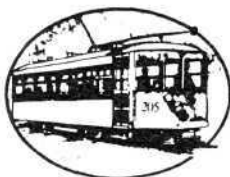
This impressive collection of cultural artifacts is placed in the larger context of the African American experience though an introduction by noted scholar Raymond Dobard (art history, Howard University), co-author, with Jacqueline Tobin, of the highly acclaimed book, *Hidden in Plain View: The Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad* (1999, Doubleday).

**Cuesta Benberry**, who for over thirty years has researched and studied quilts, is internationally known for her scholarship on quilts. She has most recently authored *Always There: The African American Presence in American Quilts* (1992, the Kentucky Quilt Project) and *Patchwork Pieces of Long Ago: An Anthology of Quilt Fiction* (1993, Collector Books).

# News & Opportunities

## FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**DUES FOR 2003 MEMBERSHIP  
IN THE FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ARE DUE NOW!!!**  
Your continuing support in helping preserve  
Fort Smith history is appreciated



## FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum has obtained the land on which the museum's parking lot and the track for the steam locomotive and dining car are located. This came about when the Fort Biscuit Company was sold at auction. The museum's bid to buy the land and the 21,000 sq. ft. warehouse next door was unsuccessful, however, the group that bought the property has sold this land to the museum. This will complete the land requirements for the present operation. Had the museum been able to purchase the building, it would have been used for a display of antique automobiles.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fort Smith



## Air Museum

(In the Phoenix Village Mall next to Furr's Cafeteria)

The Fort Smith Air Museum was chartered by the state of Arkansas on August 26, 1999. The museum received an IRS Code, section 501(c)3 tax exemption as a non-profit organization on February 22, 2000. Museum's purpose:

1. Chronicle the history of the development of aviation in Fort Smith, Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma.
2. Honor, with individual displays, the men and women who were the pioneers and developers of aviation in this area.

3. Honor with individual displays, the men and women that served in military aviation.
4. Chronicle the history of the airlines that flew into Fort Smith.
5. Chronicle the history of the Air National Guard unit in Fort Smith.
6. Chronicle the history of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in Fort Smith.

Items for display which relate to aviation in this area may be either donated or loaned for display. Also, photographs will be copied and the originals returned to the owner.

The museum also needs money to operate and pay for display cases, picture frames, and aviation artifacts and memorabilia, propellers, airplane instruments, airplanes, etc. For donations the museum will provide a letter of donation describing the donated item for use with your tax return exemption. For more information contact:

Wayne Haver, President  
Fort Smith Air Museum  
3 Glen Haven • Fort Smith, AR 72901  
PH: (479) 785-1839

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**News Chronology**  
**December 1, 2001 - May 31, 2002**  
**(Abstracted from Fort Smith Times**  
**Record)**  
**by Becky and J. P. Chancey**

## DECEMBER 2001

3rd – Eugene Little, of Fort Smith, will be one of more than 300 survivors to be honored at "Remember Pearl Harbor, 2001," the official mainland commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Hosted by the National Museum of the Pacific War and Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, the commemoration will be December 6-8<sup>th</sup> in Fredericksburg, Texas. Little served on the *USS Maryland* during the attack.

\*\*\*\*\*

6th – The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools approved Westark College's change to a bachelors degree-granting institution effective November 27, 2001.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – *Westark Trustees Approve Housing* – Westark College Board of Trustees passed a measure calling for students housing construction on the campus. Board members approved a resolution Tuesday that will allow Westark President Joel Stubblefield to finalize an agreement with Madison Communities Ltd. of Plano, Texas. The plan calls for a ground-leaser agreement with the firm in which the company would construct, operate and maintain student apartments on the campus.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – Computers found in a tractor-trailer on Interstate 40 contained illegal drugs instead of hard drives, according to the Arkansas State Police.

\*\*\*\*\*

22nd – *Police, Firefighters Find Healing* – Reaching with big hands to pat small, tousled heads, a group of New York City firefighters and police officers, all touched by the Sept. 11 terror attacks, delivered tons of donated food and supplies to Afghan orphans.

\*\*\*\*\*

26th – Two local U.S. Postal Service carriers dressed as Santa to deliver parcels Christmas morning.

\*\*\*\*\*

28th – *Main Street Arkansas* – Van Buren will be the 18th city to join Main Street Arkansas revitalization program. Main Street Van Buren announced December 27<sup>th</sup>. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program notified The Main Street Van Buren Interim Board of the decision last week. The Main Street area encompasses about a 35-block area, including historic downtown Main Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

30th – *Last Look at the Lake* – January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 will be the last day people can visit Lake Fort Smith State Park, due to construction of a new dam scheduled to start early in the year. The park will be closed for about 3 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

31st – *It's a Celebration* – Held at the New Ross Pendergraft Park, at 200 Garrison Avenue from 11 to midnight, December 31, the annual Mayor's New Years Eve Celebration and

KISR 93.7 FM Ball Drop will usher in 2002. Another event will be the free Mayor's New Years Eve Dance held from 8 to 12:30 in the Fort Smith Convention Center, 55 S. Seventh Street. James Shoffey and the Supper Club Band, will perform big band Swing and many other dance styles.

## January 2002

1st – Retail sales for the weekend before Christmas varied among local stores, but holiday sales overall exceeded projections, local retailers said on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

1st – *Investors Won't Miss 2001* – Stocks fell to unimaginable lows in a bear market worsened by terrible corporate earnings, a recession, and a terrorist attack that targeted Wall Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

7th – *Bomb Sniffing Dogs Find New Markets* – Orders for dogs that are trained to sniff out explosives are out pacing supply due to the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

\*\*\*\*\*

10th – *Fort Smith Man Banks \$10,000.00 Half Court Shot* – Michael Collyar, a recent University of Arkansas graduate drew a big roar from Tuesday Nights Bud Walton Arena crowd of 18,037 by making a half court shot. The cheers turned to boos when the U of A Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing waved the shot off, ruling that Collyar had released the ball from three feet in front of mid-court line. Moments later it was announced that Collyar would get the \$10,000.00 after all, so decided by Arkansas Athletic Director Frank Broyles and U of A Chancellor John White.

\*\*\*\*\*

12th – The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith will welcome the public into the \$11 million Stubblefield center today when the Lions and Lady Lions host Western Oklahoma State College. A dedication ceremony will begin at 11:15 AM with tours to follow.

\*\*\*\*\*

18th – Fort Smith Police Officer Adam "Buddha" Holland was named Officer of the Year at The Fort Smith Police Department's Annual Awards Ceremony.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – *NEW 479 AREA CODE* – effective January 19, west and northwest Arkansas will have a new area code, 479, under a plan ordered by the Arkansas Public Service commission.

Central Arkansas will retain the 501 area code, the northeastern and southern areas have used 870 area code since 1997. On July 20, use of the 479 prefix will be mandatory.

\*\*\*\*\*

25th – City officials and downtown merchants are at odds over the merit of the newly passed \$5.00 overtime parking fines.

\*\*\*\*\*

26th – *Partnership Provides Affordable Housing* – A new single-family subdivision will provide affordable housing for 43 families and allow Fort Smith's north side to contribute higher revenues to the city. The city of Fort Smith, non-profit Lend a Hand, Inc. and developer/contractor Ronald Ragon, LLC collaborated to build the 54<sup>th</sup> place subdivision at 2700 N. 54<sup>th</sup> Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

31st – *ALMA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER* – "If you build it, they will come." This quote from the 1989 film "Field of Dreams" can be seen as the motto of officials in the Alma School District who are celebrating the completion of the new Alma Performing Arts Center. On the north side of the high school's campus at 103 East Main Street, the 53,000 square-foot facility is sure to draw fans of the theatre, art and music, for years to come, said David Woolly, Deputy Superintendent of Schools. Built via a property tax proposal approved by Alma voters in 1994 that included additional classrooms, a new football stadium and a new cafetorium in the school district, the 1,501 seat structure's main purpose is to serve as an auditorium for the school district's drama and music departments as well as its assemblies. Also, the center will be the home of the Alma Community Theatre group, which is just forming. After that, churches, civic groups and other non-profit groups, like Fort Smith Symphony, can use the facility. For-profit groups will be allowed to utilize the center for a nominal fee.

## **February 2002**

1st – *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Basket Ball Team* has a new mascot; a fourteen month old lion named Numa Kurllee. The lion's home is Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, but his care is sponsored by UAFS. The lion was brought to the game January 31<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

13th – *Sallisaw, OK* – The Sallisaw Board of City Commissioners voted February 12<sup>th</sup> to initiate foreclosure proceedings on Blue Ribbon Downs

because the track has not kept up its quarterly payments to the Sallisaw Municipal Authority.

\*\*\*\*\*

14th – *Circle L Ranch* will offer sweetheart carriage rides from 7 to 9 PM today, starting at Garrison Avenue and 4th Streets.

\*\*\*\*\*

20th – *Fire destroyed a chapel at a Fort Smith Mission.* Just a few blocks from a downtown firehouse, The Community Rescue Mission also lost its laundry facility and a large supply of canned goods, towels, bedding and other linens. It is thought that lightning started the fire. Sam Grimm and her late husband, John started the mission in 1981 as a place to shelter families together.

\*\*\*\*\*

21st – *City Residents to the Rescue* – Donations pour in to Community Rescue Mission. The generosity of Fort Smith Community is saving the day for the homeless shelter.

\*\*\*\*\*

22nd – *Ground breaking for 78-Suite 6 million dollar Marriott Residence Inn* was held February 21<sup>st</sup>. The hotel will be just off South 74th Street behind Red Lobster and Olive Garden Restaurants.

\*\*\*\*\*

22nd – For nearly 100 years someone has been making crackers in downtown Fort Smith. What will occupy the space likely to be vacated soon by Fort Biscuit Co. (Formally housed Wortz Biscuit Co.) It remains to be seen. Fort Biscuit is in U.S. Bankruptcy court in Fayetteville and faces foreclosure in Sebastian county unless it can come up with the money to pay off a nearly 3 million dollar judgment returned against it February 20.

\*\*\*\*\*

26th – *Former Statesman to Speak.* Former Ambassador Alan Keyes will make a stop in Fort Smith to speak at the River Valley Christian School's Annual Banquet today. An author and public speaker on a wide range of national and foreign policy issues, Keyes is also an educator, and host of "The Alan Keyes Show: America's Wake-Up Call."

\*\*\*\*\*

26th – *Rail Crossing to Offer Disabled Access to Park.* Installation of a railroad crossing at the Fort Smith National Historic Site should restore handicapped access to part of the site, and put to rest a long-running dispute between The National Park Service and The Fort Smith Railroad.

\*\*\*\*\*

28th – The Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau has recently installed a Kiosk, or electronic information system, at the bureau's headquarters in Miss Laura's in downtown Fort Smith. Using the computerized system, tourists and visitors can access local web sites and find points of interest. Two similar machines are online at the Fort Smith Convention Center.

### **March 2002**

1st – *There's a new club in town, the Rivercity Red Hat Society.* A spirit of adventure and clothes to match, red hats and purple outfits for women 50 and above, the younger ones lavender clothing and pink hats. The Red Hat Society gives members a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and to go on fun outings and trips.

\*\*\*\*\*

2nd – *Rollin' without Nolan* – U of A buys out Coach Nolan Richardson's contract for 6 million dollars.

\*\*\*\*\*

3rd – *Snow makes return.* March roared in like a lion to the Fort Smith area with 2 inches of snow.

\*\*\*\*\*

5th – Turning the soil at River Valley Master Gardener projects and the land her family has farmed since 1890, Margaret Beiker Wheeler has made a pastime into a full-time volunteer effort. For her countless hours of dedication to the Master Gardener's and their community projects, Wheeler was named 2001 River Valley Master Gardener of the Year.

\*\*\*\*\*

6th – *Trust Likes School Proposal* – Fort Chaffee Public Trust members are interested in a private school's locating at Chaffee, but are not willing to commit property to the project yet. The trust met for a 45-minute special study session Tuesday, March 5th to discuss a proposal by River Valley Christian School to build a school campus at Chaffee.

\*\*\*\*\*

6th – The Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce economic data report for 2001 paints a picture of economic resiliency and a stable growth pattern, despite the nationwide recession. Three new industries and 45 new businesses were created, and 101 industries and 282 businesses expanded.

\*\*\*\*\*

13th – Little Rock – Arkansans are being asked

to donate used wireless phones to be distributed to victims of domestic violence for use in life-threatening situations.

\*\*\*\*\*

15th – Fayetteville – *Developers ready to break ground at Carnall Hall.* Agreement lets building be converted into an inn, restaurant and student laboratory.

\*\*\*\*\*

16th – 5000 people expected today in downtown Fort Smith for annual Pub-Crawl to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

18th – *Director Takes a Bow* – A surprised Mary Earnhart greeted former cast members of Children's Theatre during a reunion and reception in her honor March 17th. Earnhart directed the women in performances from the late 1950's to the early 1970's.

\*\*\*\*\*

28th – U S Attorney General John Ashcroft spoke before local and state officials March 27th at the Fort Smith National Historic Site. He said the visit is aimed at strengthening ties between federal, state and local law enforcement.

\*\*\*\*\*

31st – Fort Smith tourism officials and sites recently were honored by the state's tourism industry. Polly Wood Crews of Fort Smith, Arkansas State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commissioner was presented 2001 Tourism Person of the Year Award on March 19th at the 28th annual Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism.

### **April 2002**

3rd – An armed man apologized to his victim after robbing him Monday. A 19-year-old Fort Smith man told police he had just cashed \$150.00 worth of checks at a food store and was walking toward his residence when a man approached him and put a handgun against his side. The Fort Smith man gave the suspect his money and the suspect then apologized and left on foot.

\*\*\*\*\*

4th – *Child saved by a cat's whisker.* A Fort Smith girl, whose pet calico cat awakened her Wednesday morning to a fire, escaped the burning house as flames destroyed a nearby bedroom. The cat was found later under the girl's bed, smelling of smoke but unharmed.

\*\*\*\*\*

7th – The Fort Smith National Historic Site will offer ranger led gallows programs throughout the spring. The programs are presented on the anniversary dates of executions carried out during the years that the Federal Court of Fort Smith had jurisdiction over Indian Territory.

\*\*\*\*\*

9th – Fort Smith author Douglas Kelley's first novel, *"The Captain's Wife"*, will be the focus of a week of group book discussions and programming Sunday through April 20. In conjunction with National Library Week, the Arkansas Center for the Book at the Arkansas State Library has named Kelley's book as the topic of discussion for "If all Arkansas Read the Same Book", a statewide reading program.

\*\*\*\*\*

12th – Little Rock – The family behind the Wal-Mart empire gave the University of Arkansas \$300 million dollars Thursday, the largest single gift ever to an American public university. The money, from the Walton Family Charitable support Foundation, will establish an undergraduate honors college and endow the university's graduate school.

\*\*\*\*\*

16th – *Fort Smith Student Earns Perfect Scores on 3 Standardized Tests.* – Making high marks on the ACT, PSAT and SAT seemed to be no sweat for Southside junior Jamie Kern, who made perfect scores on all three exams.

\*\*\*\*\*

17th – *Opening of First Tee Facility Celebrated.* – A large crowd, including many local civic leaders and members of the National golfing community were on hand April 16<sup>th</sup> for the opening of the Jack Stephens Youth Golf Academy, home of The First Tee of Fort Smith. Among the guests who spoke at the opening were Tim Fincher, PGA Tour Commissioner, Pat Summerall, a long time CBS and Fox Sports broadcaster, and former Razorback, and Hootie Johnson of Augusta National Golf Course.

\*\*\*\*\*

21st – Recognized as the largest English as a Second Language Program in the state, the Fort Smith Adult Education Center ESL program continues to grow. The 2000-01 enrollments of 612 students in the Fort Smith program was larger than any single program in Northwest Arkansas, where the Hispanic population has exploded over the last decade.

\*\*\*\*\*

23rd – *Director Praises Historic Site* – Calling it a prime example of a partnership between the National Park Service and local community, which she hopes to promote throughout the national park system, NPS Director Fran P. Mainella toured the Fort Smith Historic Site, April 22.

\*\*\*\*\*

26th – Second Walgreen store coming to Fort Smith. The company will be building on the corner of Massard Road and Rogers Avenue.

\*\*\*\*\*

27th – *Little Rock* – First Lady Laura Bush will visit Little Rock April 30<sup>th</sup> to address an education summit. The wife of President Bush will speak at 1:30 PM at the Summit on Early Childhood Cognitive Development at The Peabody.

### May 2002

3rd – *Local Bank, Insurance Firm to Merge* – First Bank Corp and Brown-Hiller-Clark & Associates, the largest Fort Smith area independent banking and insurance firms respectively will soon be the area's largest independent financial services provider with about 460 employees and more than \$76 million in annual revenues.

\*\*\*\*\*

4th – *Schoolhouse Becomes Courthouse* – Seventh graders at Kimmons Junior High School had the unique opportunity to watch Fort Smith District Judge David Saxon sentence two defendants previously convicted of driving while intoxicated and other related traffic charges. The sentencing was part of a drinking-and-driving prevention program put on by Fort Smith Public Schools, Fort Smith Police Department and The Sebastian County Judiciary.

\*\*\*\*\*

9th – The Lawbreakers and Peacemakers reenactment group will be part of the entertainment May 11 and 12 during the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Old Timers Day Celebration in downtown Van Buren.

\*\*\*\*\*

10th – *Children take Oath to America* – Thirty nine children and one very proud mother raised their right hands and pledged to defend and remain loyal to America during a double citizenship ceremony held at the library. Nine countries were represented in the ceremony. Most of the children in the morning ceremony were adopted abroad. The passage of the child citizenship act of 2000 allowed foreign-born children to derive citizenship based on their parent's status.

\*\*\*\*\*

14th – *Panel Returns to 2.0 GPA* – It's back to a 2.0 grade point average for Arkansas students to participate in extracurricular activities. The new requirement by the State Board of Education will become effective in the spring of the 2003 semester.

\*\*\*\*\*

16th – Fans wait in long line for hours at the Malco Cinema 12 theatre to assure good seats for the first showing of "Star Wars: Episode II–Attack of the Clones" at 12:30 PM today.

\*\*\*\*\*

19th – *Officers Have Vested Interest* – Crawford County Sheriff's Deputy Matt La Mora has less to worry about these days, now that Bubba has an armored vest. Bubba, Lo Mora's canine partner, recently received a donated bullet and knife-resistant vest from citizens group called K-9's & Kops.

\*\*\*\*\*

21st – *Oak Cemetery site for 5<sup>th</sup> annual 'Tales of the Crypt' Monday* – Traditionally drawing about 1000 to 1400 individuals each year, the tour will include a "Cast of Spirits" which are 11 people who had historical ties to the area: Jennie Reeves, Mary Le Fever, Ruth Armstrong, Shepard Busby, Samuel Morton Rutherford, Lida McGruder, Arthur Erbach, John H.T. Main, Ella Allen, John Rogers, and Henry S. Surratt.

\*\*\*\*\*

26th – Brandy Wilson, aboard Streakin' Henry, claimed the top prize last night at the Old Fort Days Futurity and Super Derby at Harper Stadium. Wilson, who co-owns the horse with her parents, completed the three-barrel cloverleaf in 17.055 seconds to win just more than \$47,470. Promoted as "the world's richest barrel race", The Futurity's total purse was \$315,772.90.

\*\*\*\*\*

27th – *Webbers Falls, Oklahoma* – Several vehicles plunged into the Arkansas River yesterday when a barge struck the Interstate 40 bridge between Webbers Falls and Gore and caused a portion of the bridge to collapse.

\*\*\*\*\*

30th – Fourteen victims have been recovered from the Arkansas River where the Interstate 40 bridge collapsed May 26<sup>th</sup>. Officials believe all bodies have been found.



A view of the Interstate 40 bridge, looking east, over the Arkansas River near Webbers Falls shows the damage done to the bridge following the barge accident.

(Times Record file photo)

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 Taylor, Robert C., M/M  
 Tennant, Lawrence S.  
 Tillery, Kenneth L., M/M  
 Toller, W.R., M/M  
 Vorenberg, S.C., Mrs.  
 Vorster, Sister Pierree  
 Walling, Robert V., Dr.  
 Weidman, Bill and Peggy  
 Westfall, Ernest N.  
 Winters, Charles E.  
 Woods, Pendleton  
 Woods, Powell  
 Wortz, Ed Dell  
 Wray, Thelma  
 Yantis, John M., Jr.  
 Yearly, Gordon A.

#### **EXCHANGE:**

Arkansas Genealogical Soc., Inc.  
 Arkansas History Comm.  
 Boone Co. Historical and Railroad Soc.  
 Bradley County Historical Society  
 Carroll County Historical Society  
 Clark County Historical Association  
 Craighead County Historical Society  
 Crawford County Genealogical Society  
 Garland County Historical Society  
 Genealogy Soc. of Stanislaus Co.  
 Grand Prairie Historical Society  
 Hempstead County Historical Society  
 Jackson County Historical Society  
 Johnson County Historical Society  
 Library of Congress, Exchange & Gift Div.  
 Lico Scientifico "A. Lamdi"  
 Logan County Historical Society  
 Mountain Press  
 NSDAR Library  
 Ouachita County Historical Society  
 Permian Basin Genealogical Soc., Inc.  
 Pope County Historical Association  
 Pulaski County Historical Society  
 Quapaw Quarter Association  
 San Antonio Genealogical & His. Soc.  
 Smoky Valley Genealogical Soc. & Library, Inc.  
 Somervell Co. Genealogical & Hisc. Soc.  
 South Sebastian County Historical Soc.  
 Texarkana Historical Society & Museums  
 The Everton Publishers, Inc.  
 The Goingsnake Heritage Association  
 Washington County Historical Society  
 Woodruff County Historical Society  
 Yell County Historical & Genealogical Assoc.

# 1902 Newspapers

## **FORT SMITH ELEVATOR**

**January 3, 1902 – December 26, 1902**

(Abstracted from microfilm in the

Fort Smith Public Library

by Dorothy Doville and Thelma Wray)

**January 3, 1902**

### **PROPERTY FOR SALE**

Two vacant lots off South Street near Fort Smith and Western Depot. \$300 each.

Ten acres of land in the city limits, surrounded by improved suburban additions, suitable of factory site or subdivision into cheap lots. Price \$4,000.

Corner lot with 2 room house close in. \$700

\*\*\*\*\*

There was a lively time at Catholic Hall Thursday evening, the occasion being a ball at which the young people danced the old year out and the new in. Joy reigned supreme throughout the night and it was a late hour when the band played the last strain.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Friday morning John A. Murrey, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Murrey, died in this city at the age of 11 months and 21 days. The funeral for the little one took place Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, services being conducted at the family residence by Rev. J.K.E. Horst, of the Lutheran Church. Internment was made at the City Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DEATH OF WILLIAM HANE**

William Hane, a resident of this city for several years, died Christmas evening at his residence, on Little Rock Avenue, near Twenty-first Street, after an illness of two weeks. He was about 59 years of age. He leaves a widow and six children. During the Civil War, Mr. Hane served in the Federal army with the First Tennessee Light Artillery. His remains were buried in the National Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **HUNTS NOTHING BUT MONEY**

The following is a dispatch from the *Globe-Democrat* of Kokoma, Ind. in which a citizen of Fort Smith figures. "Ras Sailors, a merchant of this city and his brother-in-law, Capt. George Swope, of Fort Smith, Ark., own a hunting dog that hunts nothing but money. The animal's only game is coin. Since September, the dog has found \$9.58 consisting of eighteen pennies, seventy-six nickels, twenty-six dimes, ten quarters, and one half

dollar. In gathering up coins the dog invariably places it on a pile under a pillow.

**January 10, 1902**

### **J. DAVIS IN FORT SMITH**

Governor Davis arrived in the city early Monday, in route to Greenwood, where he was billed to disgorge himself of a lot of his gall and other rot. He stopped at the Hotel Main, and during his spare moments there snorted considerably about his supposed supposition at the hands of Judge Read, Judge Rogers, Hon. J.B. McDonough, Gen. Armistead, and others who are not stuck on his style. A number of persons shook hands with him and more gathered around, many to look at him and see what sort of a fellow he was. One gentleman, Judge Sam Edmondson, received a rebuff at the governor's hands. Judge Edmondson has always been a personal friend of the governor, but a short time ago saw fit to criticize the governor's too free use of the pardoning power. For that he received the frozen cheek. This, however, is not worrying Sam to any extent. The condemnation of Davis is better than his praise, and a rebuff from him is an honor.

And just to think! The same car that bore the Bombastes Furioso governor to Greenwood bore also Mr. A.J. Kendrick, editor of the *News Record*, who a month ago the governor threatened with the penitentiary, shotgun and all sorts of things. And when the governor made his speech at Greenwood, Mr. Kendrick sat within two feet of him and took in all he said. And the shotgun was not in sight, nor was the penitentiary, nor the stripes, nor the convict camps, nor any of the horrible things with which the doughty governor had threatened the editor. The governor's reference to Mr. Kendrick was as mild as the cooing of a suckling dove. The editor was on the spot. See? Had he been away, he would have received a "roast." J. Davis is good at roasting people--at a distance, but with all his maudlin insanity, he has sense enough to know when and where to do his "roasting."

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. James A. Yadon died at Jenny Lind last Monday from consumption, aged 21 years. His remains were buried Thursday, the 9th.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Maxwell is in receipt of a letter from Mr. L. Schmidt of St. Louis, who was accidentally sprinkled with shot while hunting partridges with Mr.

Maxwell a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Schmidt has about recovered from his injuries and will be back here in a few days, a fact which is a matter of rejoicing to Mr. Maxwell.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **A NARROW ESCAPE**

Dr. Arthur Foltze had a narrow escape from death Wednesday evening. Shortly after 6 o'clock he was driving down Seventh Street, when at K Street, his horse, a very spirited animal, took fright at something and began to run defying all efforts to stop him. Reaching Garrison Avenue the frantic animal turned and dashed in the direction of the Catholic Church. In front of the Boston Store, Dr. Foltze was thrown from the buggy and being caught underneath was dragged to Pierce's Shoe Store, where the horse ran against an iron post and stopped, two of its legs being broken by the impact. Dr. Foltze was bruised considerably, but not seriously hurt. The horse was killed to put an end to its suffering.

**January 14, 1902**

#### **CARD OF THANKS**

Myself and family take this means of returning thanks to the merchants and others of Fort Smith for their generous contribution of food, clothes and money upon the occasion of the recent destruction of their home, near Cavanaugh, by fire. Our gratitude cannot be expressed in words.

Gratefully,  
Abner Landers

**January 17, 1902**

It is estimated that 1,000,000,000 acres of land are devoted to the cultivation of tobacco. The world consumes each year 6,300,000,000 pounds, or 2,812,500 tons worth \$52,000,000.

**January 31, 1902**

Capt. Earle Edmondson, at one time commander of a company raised in the Indian Territory for United States service, met death in New York City last week by falling from the third story window of a hotel. He had been drinking and it is supposed he became ill during the night, went to the window for a breath of fresh air and lost his balance and fell. Captain Edmondson formerly lived in Muskogee, where he practiced law.

\*\*\*\*\*

Edward C. Cook died at the County Farm last Friday from the effects of dropsy. He came to this city from Webbers Falls and was found at the Missouri Pacific depot suffering from his ailment. It is not known that he has any relatives.

**February 7, 1902**

The city authorities have announced a determination

to get after parties who ignore the ordinance which requires residences and business houses to be numbered. A little attention paid to this matter may save trouble and expense.

**February 14, 1902**

Women are now admitted to the two universities in Baden, but they have not been able to secure permission to study dentistry.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **CONVENT QUARANTINED**

Saturday the Board of Health made an order establishing a quarantine at the Convent on account of the development there of a case of smallpox. The person in whom the disease developed is Miss Kerens, a niece of Col. R. C. Kerens, of St. Louis. She is attending school at the Convent and a couple of weeks ago returned from a visit to friends in Missouri. Last week she became ill, and her symptoms being suspicious, Drs. Strong and Eberle were summoned. They pronounced the disease smallpox. The sisters immediately dismissed the pupils and closed the doors of the building. The physicians say the disease is mild in type and that there is very little likelihood of its spreading.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **BURGLARS ABROAD**

Tuesday night Mayor Tom Ben Garrett was awakened by somebody striking a match in his room, and upon calling out "who's there?" received the response, "me." Repeating the question, he received the same answer. This aroused the mayor and he sprang from his bed and confronted a man. The intentions of the intruder being interfered with he grabbed Mr. Garrett's pants and dashed out of an open window, carrying the garment with him. The pants were found the next morning in the yard of a neighbor. The burglar got nothing but a nickel for his pains. However, the remainder of the money in the pockets had fallen to the floor.

The same night somebody called at Mrs. Givens' residence on Sixth Street and attempted to induce Mrs. Givens to let him in. He was hunting for a man who he had followed 1,000 miles. He didn't give the name of the man he was hunting, but insisted upon entering. Mrs. Givens positively refused to let him in, however, and he finally went away.

The same night somebody got into M. R. C. Bollinger's room. The burglar first went to Mr. Bollinger's room, but disturbing Mr. Bollinger went up stairs to the room of his daughters. By the time Mr. Bollinger was aroused and got up, and the intruder, hearing him move about, hastened down stairs and made his exit through the front door, unlocking the same as he went out. He secured no booty.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE WOLF-POLLOCK WEDDING

Mr. Alfred Pollock of Little Rock and Miss May Wolf, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wolf of this city, were married on the evening of the 5th at the rooms of the Progress Club by Rabbi Wolsey of Little Rock. The wedding was largely attended and was one of the most brilliant affairs of the season. The bridal couple were attended by Mr. Mannie Pollock of Little Rock, brother of the groom, and Miss Rebecca Wolf, of Chicago, a cousin of the bride.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, which was conducted in a very impressive manner, the guests spent an hour in the parlors, and then repaired to the banquet where they partook of an exquisite collation.

The bride and groom left on the midnight train for a wedding trip to Memphis, New Orleans and other places, and after their departure the banquet hall was cleared and those present tripped the light fantastic toe for several hours.

\*\*\*\*\*

The oleomargarine bill passed the House last week and it is now before the Senate, where, it is said, it may undergo some changes. The bill makes oleomargarine, or imitation butter or cheese, transported into any state or territory for use, sale or consumption therein subject to the laws of each state or territory, notwithstanding that it may be introduced in original packages, and imposes a tax of 10 cents per pound on oleomargarine made in imitation of "butter in any shade of yellow."

\*\*\*\*\*

### BIG SNOW STORM

A heavy snow storm prevailed in this section Wednesday night. Snow fell to the depth of five inches, clinging where it fell, and doing great damage to telephone and trolley wires. Much damage resulted Thursday from the leaking of the snow through the roofs of the big buildings.

**March 7, 1902 -**

### COL. E. W. RECTOR

Col. E. W. Rector arrived in the city at a late hour on the night of the 27th, having driven from Charleston after the speaking at the place. He was met at the Main Hotel by a number of friends, who remained with him for a couple of hours discussing the situation. Col. Rector is in fine health, and with exception of slight hoarseness bears no evidence of the severe strain he is undergoing.

Col. Rector met Judge J. V. Bourland, Gov. Davis' representative, at Charleston, the governor having gone back to Little Rock to attend to official business, which all of a sudden he has discovered has been very pressing. His speech at Charleston is

said to have been a fine effort. A gentleman of this city who heard it says it was the most scathing arraignment of the governor's record, and singular to say, neither the governor nor his representative attempted to reply to anything Rector says in regard to the matter. They simply rehash the often told yarns of the governor's printed speeches and play upon the prejudices of their hearers.

Col. Rector is greatly encouraged at the outlook, having received the greatest encouragement at every place he has spoken. Besides, he is daily receiving letters from all part of the state assuring him of the strength of his cause and favor his candidacy is meeting.

Verily, the disgraceful days of Davis are numbered.

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be a baked supper at White Bluff school house Friday night, March 14, to which everybody is invited. Preparations have been made for a splendid time, and all who attend may expect to be treated royally.

**March 14, 1902**

### TOM FREER BACK

Tom Freer, son of Fort Smith's worthy police judge, dropped unexpectedly in upon his parents last Saturday morning. Tom has been serving in the regular army and his term had just expired. For the past ten months, he has been in the Philippine Islands. He had a rocky time and has seen much bad service, but is rather enamored of the service and thinks he will enlist again. He is rather thin and shows the effects of hard work, but aside from that looks well.

\*\*\*\*\*

The average duration of marriage in England is twenty-eight years. Russia with thirty years, is the only country to beat her. In France and Germany twenty-six is the average duration.

\*\*\*\*\*

Having been nearly talked to death by politicians, the farmers of Sebastian County are resting themselves by planting potatoes and sowing oats, and getting their ground ready for corn and cotton.

\*\*\*\*\*

The city authorities a few days ago loaded Arthur Jackson, a bad egg, on a car and shipped him to Kansas, where he will doubtless find more congenial company. They trust that Arthur will strike the penitentiary in a short time.

\*\*\*\*\*

### DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT

Mr. John R. Leard, one of the oldest residents of Sebastian County, died at his home near Cavanaugh last Monday at the age of 80 years. He had lived near Cavanaugh for thirty-three years, and was widely known as a man of the most

exemplary character, beloved and respected by all who made his acquaintance. His remains were interred in Leard Cemetery near Cavanaugh post office, Wednesday the 12th.

### **March 21, 1902**

The Fort Smith Construction Company was organized Saturday at the office of Wallace and Sons. The company is composed of Mike Wallace, T. J. Hays and Ed Taylor. The company has the contract for straightening twenty-three miles of the Missouri Pacific track from Van Buren to White Oak.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Frank M. Ward of this city and Miss Lula Moody of Mazzard were married in this city on the 6th inst. by Rev. C. P. Smith at the parsonage of the Central M.E. Church, South. The *Elevator* extends good wishes to the young couple.

### **March 28, 1902**

#### **LITTLE JULIA MCBRIDE**

Last Saturday shortly after 12 o'clock Julia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. McBride, died at the residence of her parents on North Sixth Street after an illness of several weeks. Her illness was severe from the start, but her parents, with their numerous friends, had hopes of her recovery until almost the last moment. Funeral services were held over her remains Sunday afternoon at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the sad ceremonies being conducted by Rev. James Brady. Julia was a bright, sociable child and being the oldest of her parents' children, their grief is deep felt. They have the sympathy of a host of friends in their great affliction.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **COL. FALCONER LOST HIS RESIDENCE BY FIRE LAST WEEK**

The residence of Col. J. P. Falconer at 620 North Street caught fire about 2 o'clock Thursday, the 20th, and in a short time was reduced to ashes. It was a large frame building, and at one time was occupied by Mr. Samuel Bollinger. It was a comfortable, well fitted Mansion, and had been greatly improved since Mr. Falconer purchased it a little less than two years ago, shortly after his removal to the city.

The fire originated in the upper part of the building, and but for lack of pressure from the water mains could have been checked without serious damage. The fire department responded with its usual promptness, but could get no pressure until the house was almost entirely in flames. When the water was turned on it could be thrown but a short distance from the nozzles, and then with no force whatever. Where the fault of this mismanagement lies has not yet been discovered.

\*\*\*\*\*

"What, my daughter marry you, a common clod of a farmer? Young man, you must be crazy," remarked the choleric old gentleman with the Mark Hanna build.

We looked to see the young man in overalls with-er up and disappear, but instead he smiled faintly, even haughtily, and jingling a bunch of loose change in his pocket, pensively remarked, "Mr. Vanderfellow, I planted twenty acres of potatoes last spring, and the crop was a success." "What?", cried the old man, surprise and remorse in his tones, "Twenty acres of potatoes? And I called you a farmer? You're an agriculturist, sir, and I'm proud to have you as a son-in-law."—*Syracuse Herald*

### **April 4, 1902**

#### **CITY ELECTION**

Very little interest was taken in the city election, only 157 votes being cast. There being no opposition to this ticket the voters saw no necessity for turning out.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **WENT BY DEFAULT**

No election for town officers was held in Greenwood yesterday. No interest was taken in the matter, and as a result the present officers will hold over for another year.

\*\*\*\*\*

A large number of miners left the depot in this city last week for New Mexico, where they go to work in the coal mines. There were mostly Italians and had come from various mining camps in this state and territory.

### **April 11, 1902**

The Fortnightly Club held its regular meeting last week at the residence of Miss Madie Johnson, and after the transaction of the regular routine business elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Miss Madie Johnson, president; Miss Ida Apers, first vice president; Mrs. J. K. Kimmons, second vice president; Mrs. J. D. VanWinkle, secretary; Mrs. H. C. Mechem, treasurer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sebastian County will send a good delegation to the state convention. Instead of paying any attention to the echoes of General Davis that none but anti-Jones men should be placed on the delegation, the convention at Greenwood last Saturday selected true and tried Democrats regardless of whether they had supported either Jones, Clarke, Rector or Davis in the primary contest.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **CAVANAUGH POST OFFICE DISCONTINUED**

Cavanaugh post office, on the Line Road about six miles from this city, is to be discontinued.

This office has been in existence for a long time, and being in a populous community has always received a large amount of mail. It is one of the two offices which were within the limits of the rural free delivery system. The other was Mazzard, also a very old office. For many years Joe Moody was postmaster there and when he settled up with the government, his accounts balanced to a cent. The discontinuance of the office at Cavanaugh will give the carrier on route No. 3 considerably more work to do.

**April 18, 1902**

#### **PENSION FOR MRS. PARKER**

Last Saturday Mrs. I. C. Parker received a telegram from Senator Jones stating that a bill had passed the Senate providing for a pension for her of \$5,000. There was very little opposition to the bill, the great services rendered by Judge Parker during his lifetime being well known to the members of the Senate.

**April 26, 1902**

There was a meeting of Fort Smith citizens held at the court house on Tuesday evening to consider the question of a street fair this fall. The meeting was well attended by many good citizens who represent every element of our population. There was a very emphatic expression of sentiment in favor of a street fair.

\*\*\*\*\*

A well known New York divine of marked rotundity of form finds it very difficult to fasten his shoes. While engaged, his wife remarked, "My dear, I think you need a valet." "Well," responded the doctor, "if I had a valley where I now have a mountain I could fasten my shoes."

**May 2, 1902**

#### **DEATH OF MRS. SHAW**

Mrs. Nancy Shaw died at her home Saturday, from heart disease, at the age of 75 years. Her remains were interred in Steep Hill Cemetery Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Shaw was the mother of Mr. Till Shaw and had lived near Fort Smith for many years. She was an excellent lady and had many friends who regret her death.

\*\*\*\*\*

John Smith P., Wharton Carnall, Erdy J. Bomford and Walter Ayres returned Tuesday from a two weeks' fishing jaunt in the Territory. They say they played thunder with the finny tribe and lived upon nothing but the choicest game trout while they were away. Their colored cook, a boy who has a reputation for veracity, says he "hoped out" their meals mightily with bacon and canned goods.

**May 9, 1902**

First National Bank of Fort Smith shows its wonderful progress in making, in today's paper, the largest statement it has ever made, which shows conclusively the confidence in which it is held by the public. It has built up a deposit account of nearly \$1,000,000, which is a very extraordinary exhibit for a bank in Arkansas to make. This bank is always in a condition to serve its patrons with all needed accommodations, and the public spirit it shows in trying to develop the country is universally acknowledged.

It is certainly a great advantage to this section to possess such an institution, and the people are fortunate in having such a bank for the safe-keeping of funds and the transaction of their business.

Mr. George T. Sparks, president, and Mr. Jno. Vaile, cashier, are the direct managers of this bank, and to their efforts, is largely due the splendid success it has achieved. These gentlemen have been ably assisted in their operations by the board of directors composed of some of the most responsible and respectable men of this city, esteemed by all who know them for their careful prudent business habits.

*The Elevator* cheerfully recommends this bank as the one to do business with.

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#### **DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY**

The Daughters of the Confederacy secured the service of Prof. and Mrs. Miller to present at the Tilles Opera House, May 23, and matinee May 24<sup>th</sup>, the beautiful operetta of Cinderella, so dear to the hearts of the little folks. The chaperones who will have the children under their care and who will attend every rehearsal are: Mesdames J. M. Sparks, John H. Rogers, Scott Robertson, T. J. Wright, Charles Boyd, I. K. Gates, Will White, J. M. Tenney, B. D. Crance, J. H. Alexander; Misses Maggie Kelley, Elizabeth Echols and Estelle Williams.

The costumes for the specialties will be furnished. The entertainment is for the benefit of the Confederate monument. We ask the parents to help by lending their children for a short time and for only a few days, in order that we may be able to beautify the last resting place of our immortal dead.

**May 16, 1902**

#### **MRS. PETERS GETS \$5,500**

Last Friday representatives of the Frisco Railroad Company delivered a check for \$5,500 to the legal advisors of Mrs. W. H. Peters, whose husband was killed a few days before in a wreck at Lancaster. The payment was in settlement of all damages sustained by Mrs. Peters through the unfortunate occurrences.

After Mr. Peters' death there was discovered,

among his papers, a paid up life insurance policy for \$1,500. None of Mr. Peters family or friends know of the existence of this policy. His wife was made beneficiary.

**May 23, 1902**

#### FATHER PAUL DROWNED

Father Paul of Subiaco Monastery drowned in the Six Mile Creek near Paris on the morning of the 15th. Fathers Paul and Etmas were on their way home from Altus. When they reached the banks of the stream it was higher than usual, but they did not realize its depth and drove into the raging water. Their buggy was swept away. Father Etmas clung to the vehicle and reached the opposite shore, the horse swimming across with it. Father Paul jumped from the buggy and went down. His body was found the next day and Saturday it was interred in the cemetery of the monastery.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the school election Saturday the five mills tax received an almost unanimous vote and only a few votes were cast against Speer and Davis, the nominees of the citizen meeting. There was no opposition from any quarter. Consequently, nobody thought there was danger and nobody hustled. Only 150 votes were cast in the city.

**May 30, 1902**

#### THE POTATO CROP

The potato crop does not make the best showing in the world, having suffered nearly the whole season for want of rain. Most of the growers say they will be content with half a crop and some doubt that the yield will reach that point.

Garrett and Stevens made the first shipment of the season from this point last Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### DEATH OF JESSE WOOD

Mr. Jesse Wood, a well known and popular citizen of Van Buren, died Sunday afternoon after an illness of five weeks. His funeral took place Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock, Rev. E. T. Edmonds of Fort Smith conducting the service.

Mr. Wood was 38 years of age and a native of Van Buren. His father was the late J. M. Wood, who was well known by all of our oldest citizens. Practically all of his life was spent in Van Buren. He was in business there for a number of years, but for several years had been traveling for the Kelly-Goodfellow Shoe Co. Lately he has been connected with the Roberts, Johnson and Read Shoe Co. His illness was due to an affliction of the liver. Early last week he submitted to an operation which it was thought would remove the abscess which threatened his life. This was followed by three more operations, the effect of which were but temporary.

Besides his widow and four children, Mr. Wood leaves a mother, three brothers, Messrs. George R., James and Henry Wood, and two sisters, Misses Maggie and Norma Wood.

*The Elevator* regrets that it is called upon to chronicle the passing away of this promising and useful man.

**June 6, 1902**

Mr. P. R. Davis was on the streets Saturday for the first time since his encounter with the burglarious Henry Williams. He still suffers from the wound in his side and, as a consequence, is pale and somewhat thin.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cards are out announcing the marriage of Mr. George Fink and Miss Kate Paden on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. at the residence of Mr. E. A. Paden, the bride's father.

**June 13, 1902**

George Carnall, son of Mr. T. B. Carnall, was severely injured Friday by a kick from a mule, but is rapidly recovering.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MR. E. F. BROCCHUS

Mr. E. F. Brocchus, a resident of this city for the past twenty years, died Saturday from cancer of the liver, aged 65 years. His funeral took place Sunday, services at his late home being conducted by Rev. J. A. McDonald. At the grave, the remains were interred with the ceremonies of the Knights of Honor, of which order Mr. Brocchus had long been a member. The pallbearers were J. M. Tenney, J. G. Miller, Hubbard Stone, Henry Trisch, J. A. Hoffman, J. A. Montgomery. Mr. Brocchus came to this city from Tennessee about 1880. During the Civil War, he was in the Confederate service.

**June 20, 1902**

Miss Mildred Lee, daughter of the great general, forfeited a fine of \$5 in Alexandria, Va., last week for riding in a car which had been set apart by law for the accommodation of colored people.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### REUNION OF SISTERS

Sunday afternoon Mrs. Salome Sengle of this city and her sister Mrs. Wertz, recently from Alsace, Germany, met at the home of Mrs. F. J. Helbling in this city after a separation of forty-eight years. Mrs. Wertz is seventy-two years of age and her sister, Mrs. Sengle, seventy-five. The joy attending the meeting of these two venerable ladies can be imagined, not described.

Mrs. Helbling is the daughter of Mrs. Wertz and Mrs. Wertz will make her home with her in the future.

### **June 27, 1902**

George P. Kelly died at Belle Point Hospital Monday morning, after a long illness from consumption. He came to Fort Smith several months ago and was ill when he reached the city. After treatment at that institution for a time, he was sent to the county farm, where he remained until he was taken back to the hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was announced that the Rev. N. R. Pittman will preach his farewell sermon at the First Baptist Church next Sunday morning. Doubtless there will be a full attendance on that occasion, for Mr. Pittman is a man whose popularity is great, not only with members of his own church, but with people of other churches as well. Mr. Pittman goes from Fort Smith to Little Rock, where he has charge of the *Baptist Advocate*, which requires all of his time and attention. Mr. Pittman is an able, conscientious, broad minded man and his departure from Fort Smith is to be regretted. His friends here wish him the fullest measure of success in his new field of labor.

### **July 4, 1902**

Mr. R. A. Lester is grading the extension of the Fifth Street car line.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Springfield team will cross bats with T.P.A.'s at the park of the latter today.

\*\*\*\*\*

A fine Newfoundland dog belonging to Mr. James Frizzell was killed by an electric car Saturday night. The dog was one of the most handsome animals in the city.

\*\*\*\*\*

Judge Rogers and Judge Boles went to Charleston during the week to visit General H. B. Armistead. They reported him to be steadily improving, although he is still confined to his room.

\*\*\*\*\*

E. D. Nickens, editor of the *Appreciator*, and Miss Julia E. Lewis, a teacher in the colored schools, were married on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June by Rev. L. J. Van Pelt. They are two of the best known and most popular of colored social circles.

\*\*\*\*\*

John H. Whittington, a Frisco employee, sustained a severe injury Tuesday. He was riding on the footboard of an engine when the engine jumped the track and smashed one of his feet. He was sent to the Frisco hospital at Springfield.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Friday M. C. Abney and Mrs. M. E. Tabney were married in this city by Rev. Mr. Elkins. There was quite a difference in the ages of the couple. Mr. Abney being 58 years old and his wife 26. The wedding took place at the residence of Mr. W. H.

Hill on North Ninth Street.

### **July 11, 1902**

#### **INDIAN TERRITORY NEWS**

The first annual reunion of the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy will be held at Ardmore, where the ex-Confederate reunion is held, on July 22, 23 and 24.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob Fitzpatrick was shot through the neck and fatally wounded at a picnic on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Roaring Creek, twenty miles from Chicasha, by Wes Devashe. The latter was arrested.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cherokee papers say that Goback Christie, a full-blood Cherokee, has not yet enrolled with the Dawes Commission. When he heard the interpreter's message, Christie went into his cabin and came out with a Winchester, remarking that none of his family would enroll so long as they had arms and ammunition. As the Christies have a reputation for marksmanship the interpreter moved on without arguing the matter.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Felix Helbling, who recently sold his place on the corner of Garrison Avenue and Third Street have removed to 517 North A Street. Mr. Helbling made boots and shoes for more than forty years in the little house he has just vacated, and if its walls had the power of speech, they could tell some tales about Mr. Helbling's customers and their styles of foot gear in the more primitive days of the city. There is one thing maybe put down as a certainty, Mr. Helbling never made a boot or shoe that did not exactly fill the bill.

\*\*\*\*\*

S. F. Wilkins, charged with whiskey selling, was lodged in Federal jail Sunday by Deputy Marshal Hill. Wilson is said to have disposed of his stock at Siloam Springs to enliven a picnic going on there.

### **July 18, 1902**

Si Grady, a tough from over the river, knocked John Donohoe down with a club in Bob Wyatt's saloon last Saturday night. Monday he had an interview with Judge Freer at the office of the city court, the result of which was a contribution of \$30 to the city. The assault upon Donohoe was without provocation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Among pensions granted by the United States government last week was one to Thos. C. Miller of Huntington for \$8 per month. A pension was also granted to Levi H. Scales of Jenny Lind for \$12 per month.

### **July 25, 1902**

"Perpetual running hole in his face" is what the Lee County *Courier* calls Governor Davis' mouth.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Barbecue Club began its second season Thursday night, the 17th, its outing being at Hardscrabble, on the Givens place, east of the city. Several parties went out by private conveyance but the larger portion of the assemblage took the tallyho method. The feast consisted of an abundance of superbly cooked beef and mutton, which was washed down with that fluid which foams around the crest of the sparkling glass. In addition there was an array of the choicest native fruits.

Those who took in the festivities were: Oscar Miles, Harry E. Kelley, Wharton Carnall, Dr. J. M. Kelleam, John R. McBride, A. E. Edie, Harry Albers, J. L. Phillips, C. A. Lick, A. H. Raymond, Bert Hall, Stuart Miller, Jackson Lee of Shreveport, T. N. Reed, Will Schultz, Lovie Miles, "Frisco" Bennett, Messrs. Arbogast and Henry of the *Times*, and Sam Givens.

#### **August 1, 1902**

The Elberta crop is large this year and the fruit exceedingly fine. Shipment has been going on all week, the consignments during the last two days being exceedingly heavy.

\*\*\*\*\*

The five acres in the southern part of the city owned by J.G. Miller have been sold to the Lester Transfer Company for use by the latter for its coal and wood yards and its transfer stables.

\*\*\*\*\*

Judge Spradling has called for bids for the building of bridges over Prairie Creek near Jenny Lind, Little Vache Gras near Central City and Mazzard Creek near Barling. These bridges are greatly needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Many people from Fort Smith and surrounding places took in the excursion to Monte Ne last Saturday, four coaches rolling out of the Frisco depot at this place. Some of these stopped for the summer and those who returned expressed themselves pleased with the resort and all its surroundings. Monte Ne is the coming summer resort of Arkansas.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **BIG PIC-NIC!**

There is going to be the biggest celebration of the season at Huntington, August 23rd. It is the second anniversary of the Anti-Horse Thief League. The privileges for this occasion will be sold Saturday.

#### **August 8, 1902**

Two fishermen at Arkansas City last week caught an alligator gar that measured 9 feet and 7 inches in length and weighed 254 pounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

The board of public affairs met Monday and awarded McLoud and Anderson a contract for furnishing the city 100,000 brick for street repairs. The price for the brick is \$9.50 per 1000.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hebrew Temple has been renovated and repaired to the extent of several hundred dollars and presents a splendid appearance. Rabbi Emmanuel Kohn, the new pastor, will hold his first service in the Temple on the 1st of September.

#### **August 9, 1902**

Merry Go Round - Cane Rock - Doll Rock - Ice Cream - Lemonade and Refreshments, and any other privileges that may be desired. Address any of the following for such information as may be wanted - S. T. Mottley, C. C. Old and R. G. Burris, Huntington, Ark.

#### **August 15, 1902**

Two escaped convicts assaulted Job Evans with bed slats at Freeman's saw mill near Gleeson last week. Evans killed one and the other escaped.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pete McLaughlin had his hand severely bitten by an alligator gar while fishing in Lee's Creek the other day. He put his hand in the water and the fish darted up and grabbed it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Col. McLoud has completed the grading of the Eleventh Street extension of his street car line and will have rails down as soon as they can be secured.

#### **August 22, 1902**

If that mirror of yours shows a wretched, sallow complexion, a jaundiced look, moth patches and blotches on the skin, it's liver trouble: but Dr. King's New Life Pills regulate the liver, purify the blood, give clear skin, rosy cheeks, rich complexion. Only 25 cents at Blocker Drug Store, 603 Garrison Avenue.

\*\*\*\*\*

Through the efforts of the ladies of the W.C.T.U., the prisoners in the United States jail enjoyed a good bait of ice cream and cake last night.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ringling's big circus is booked for this city some time in October. This show always draws a crowd.

#### **August 29, 1902**

The *Greenwood Democrat* wants to know why Greenwood cannot have a band. No reason, whatsoever, except a disinclination of the musical talent of the town to get a hump on itself.

\*\*\*\*\*

Judge Fry, Captain Jacobs and Mr. Earl Harding are at work auditing the accounts of the Fort Smith district.

### **September 2, 1902**

Gentry's popular dog and animal show will be in Fort Smith next Friday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rabbi Kohn delivered his first sermon at the synagogue last Friday night and made a strong impression upon the congregation that assembled to hear him. Mr. Kohn is a very pleasant gentleman and, although young, bears the reputation of being a ripe scholar.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Greenwood Democrat* says Bob McFarlane returned last week from Texas, where he bought some registered short-horn heifers. This shows a commendable spirit and should put farmers to thinking. Fine cattle and fine hogs are needed in Arkansas more than anything else.

### **September 5, 1902**

The campaign is over. Let's all pray that there may never be another like it.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is said that Bob Powell and Will Luce haven't shown courage enough since the election to look a hog in the face.

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday's election shows that Democracy yet reigns in Arkansas and that Powell Clayton will continue to dish out the goodies.

### **September 19, 1902**

Prof. T. A. Trusty is preparing to build a residence on three lots which he recently purchased in the Midland addition to this city.

\*\*\*\*\*

Emmett Smith was arraigned in court Friday on a charge of cutting Allen Vick with a knife several months ago. He was indicted by the grand jury last week.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ties have been distributed over the Fifth Street line nearly to the Arkansas River, and poles have been erected as far out as Midland Park. Only the lack of steel prevents the road from being completed to that point, and this deficiency will be supplied in a short time.

\*\*\*\*\*

Georgia Killion, alias Georgia Fields, one of the "dizzy" girls on Front Street, tried to kill herself with laudanum last week. Georgia is accused of stealing about \$100 from a Frisco employee and upon learning that the officers were after her, tried to shuffle off this mortal soil. She was indicted by a

special grand jury and now languishes in the county jail.

### **September 26, 1902**

John Linn, who spent several days in the city jail on a charge of insanity, was released Thursday. Investigation of his case developed nothing worse than a bad case of jimjams.

\*\*\*\*\*

Among the attractions advertised by the Boston Store in today's *Elevator* is a trunk for 98 cents, the regular price of which is \$2.25. The *Elevator* has examined this trunk, and can guarantee that it is well worth the price at which it originally sold.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is a great pleasure to enjoy the fruits of your labor. The best way to enjoy it is to buy your good wife a buggy. We have a big assortment and the price is right. Sengal Hardware Co. Fort Smith, Ark.

### **October 3, 1902**

J. R. Templeton had an arm broken Saturday on South Seventh Street by being thrown from a horse.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Matthew residence on North Twelfth was purchased last week by Mr. Bennett Brown of Huntington. It is a fine piece of property.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Border City Ice and Cold Storage Company has made arrangements for a large increase of its manufacturing and storing capacity, which improvements must be made to meet the growing demands of its trade. The plant for the manufacture of ice will be increased from forty to sixty tons per day, while the capacity for storage will be increased at a like rate. The improvements will be completed by the beginning of next season's business.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Bob Hunt, manager of the Fifth Street electric line, has in his possession a silver spike driven at the beginning of the construction of that line several years ago. The spike was driven by Mr. J. A. Hoffman, who was Mayor at the time, on the evening of Oct. 8, 1894. The city council and a number of citizens were present at the ceremonies. The existence of this spike had been forgotten until its discovery in a rotten tie several days ago by Mr. Marler, foreman of a number of the workmen.

### **October 10, 1902**

Frank James, the ex-bandit, will start the races at the Dardanelle fair which will be held October 14 - 17.

\*\*\*\*\*

At Hartford last week, Constable Lum Brown raided a U-know joint and captured four barrels of bottled beer, likewise a few bottles of whiskey.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cary Suggs, a news *Record* carrier, was severely injured Friday evening. While delivering his papers on Van Buren Road. His horse ran away and collided with a telephone pole. The horse was killed and the boy knocked off and badly bruised.

\*\*\*\*\*

The first through train from Fort Smith to Indianola went over the Fort Smith & Western railroad Wednesday night, October 1st. Indianola will probably be the terminus of the road for several months owing to the Canadian River, over which a bridge is being built. Indianola is in a good country and promises to make a good business point.

\*\*\*\*\*

One night last week Miss Zena West discovered a Negro burglar in her house. She did not scream or go into hysterics or faint, but promptly grappled with the intruder. The burglar proved the stronger of the two, however, and broke away. Miss West fired a couple of shots at the burglar as he went through the window, but unfortunately failed to hit him.

### **October 31, 1902**

Thursday night of last week footpads held up several men and succeeded in securing quite a sum of money, and later the same night three men were held up near Cherokee and relieved of the money they had about them. Officers made every effort to catch the scoundrels but failed to come across them.

\*\*\*\*\*

May Clinton, an inmate of one of the Front Street dives, tried to commit suicide last Friday by taking morphine. Her condition was discovered, however, in time for a doctor to get in his work and snatch her from the edges of the next world. A quarrel with her "admirers" was the case of her taking the deadly dose.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom Patton, who abstracted a lot of sweet potatoes and some green peppers from Andy Hendricks' house last week while under the influence of the ardent, was before Esq. Edmondson's court last Friday. He was fined \$25 and costs and sentenced to ninety days' imprisonment. Patton is said to be a quiet fellow when sober, but when he gets his tank full of bug-juice, his wits go visiting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Will McAuley, the policeman, who has been sick for a couple of weeks, is again on deck.

\*\*\*\*\*

The hunting party composed of Judge Rogers,

Mayor Garrett, O. E. Speer, W. R. Martin, John Schaap, Ed McKenna and John Ray, which spent several days in the Choctaw Nation last week, returned Saturday night. They got plenty of fresh air and exercise, but not as much game as they expected. Garrett killed a deer, and Martin shot a turkey near the depot where he took the home-bound train. Judge Rogers got a fine shot or two at a herd, but didn't raise any hair, so far as he could discover.

### **November 7, 1902**

Arrangements have been made to hold the Catholic fair in the storerooms of the former Kelleam and Rye sanitarium.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Woodmen of the World will unveil two monuments at Oak Cemetery next Sunday. T. P. Winchester and Ben Cravens will deliver the addresses.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alva Trowbridge and George McEachen have made arrangements to establish a steam laundry at North Sixth and A Streets and have purchased machinery for that purpose.

\*\*\*\*\*

The case against Oscar Schaap, charged with shooting Jesse Appleby, was dismissed, evidence being submitted on both sides showing that the boys were good friends and that the shooting resulted from carelessness. Young Schaap, however, had to pay a fine of \$25 for breaking the Sabbath.

### **November 21, 1902**

George C. Cooley, of Siloam Springs, filed a petition in bankruptcy court last week. His assets and liabilities are about \$500 each.

\*\*\*\*\*

John Pipkin, who was tried in the Poteau court last week on a charge of trying to kill John Threlkeld, was acquitted. Col. B. T. DuVal and Mr. J. B. Rutherford conducted his defense. Both Pipkin and Threlkeld are well known in Fort Smith.

### **November 28, 1902**

Three local lodges of the A.O.U.W. have decided to consolidate under the name of Fort Smith Lodge No. 4.

\*\*\*\*\*

Several more car-loads of iron for the Fifth Street car line arrived this week. Track-laying will proceed as rapidly as the weather will permit.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Thrash-Lick printing company, which for the past two years has been run by non-union labor, is now run by union men. The transformation took place at a meeting of the union last Friday night.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. W. W. Bailey carried the horns for large turnips for several days and exhibited a specimen that weighed six pounds. Monday, however, he was compelled to yield the honors to Spratt Scott, who showed up with a turnip weighing ten pounds.

### **December 5, 1902**

Leard & Mowrey last week found a snake in a bunch of bananas. The reptile was of a tropical species incident to the country where the bananas came from.

\*\*\*\*\*

Judge Falconer has had both telephones placed in the chambers of the Circuit Court room. This will be a great convenience to the officers of the court as well as the general public.

### **December 12, 1902**

Fertilize with Swift's Pure Animal Matter Fertilizers--Cheapest Because All Available--Every Pound Is Plant Food. Write for our book "Fertility and Fertilizers" and testimonials from last season's customers. Arthur G. Lee & Bro., Agents--Fort Smith, Ark. or Swift & Company, Packers, Kansas City, Kansas.

\*\*\*\*\*

William Gardiner, of Van Buren, may have some respect for the law, but he seems to have none for the law's officers. He stole an overcoat from Justice of the Peace J. G. Ferguson one day last week.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Greenwood Democrat* says that Jas. Brown, a demented man confined in the county jail there, by some means got a hole through the jail floor, made a rope of his blankets and let himself to the ground floor and escaped. It is supposed he went to his people, who live in Johnson County.

### **December 19, 1902**

The Arkansas River has been on a boom this week, owing to the heavy rains here and at points higher up.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cards are out announcing the betrothal of Mr. Louis Weinstein, of Fort Smith, and Miss Beatrice Krone of St. Louis.

### **December 26, 1902**

Last Friday, Miss Kate Sandela sold her residence on North Twelfth Street to F. D. Singleton.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. E. Long had two fingers cut off by a jointing machine at the chair factory last Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Kate Hughes, wife of Sam Hughes, the colored pressman, died Monday from consumption. Her funeral took place Tuesday afternoon.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. R. C. Patterson, who lives near Barling, reported at the *Elevator* office last Friday with the claws of an owl which he caught in a trap recently. The claws are so large that they have been taken for those of an eagle and placed alongside of each other measure six inches across. From the point of the heel claws to the longest in front they measure four inches.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last week Deputy Marshal Tow reported at the marshal's office in this city with F. W. Compton, who got into trouble at Mena by passing a counterfeit five dollar gold piece. There were several other pieces of spurious coin in Compton's pocket when he was arrested. He was examined Friday before Commissioner Armistead, who bound him over for appearance at court.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yesterday morning Rev. J. K. E. Horst preached his farewell sermon at the Lutheran Church. The congregation was large and the sermon of more than ordinary depth and feeling. Mr. Horst has ministered to the spiritual needs of the Lutherans in Fort Smith for several years and has become very popular with not only his own, but all classes of people. He leaves Fort Smith to accept a call from another city.

### **1901**

Theodore Roosevelt was elected president of the United States. The Apple blossom was adopted as the State Flower of Arkansas and natural gas was discovered in Arkansas. This year also saw further policing of members of the medical society regarding irregular advertising.

### **1902**

At the suggestion of Dr. Bourland of Van Buren, the Sebastian County Medical Society investigated the advisability of organizing a district medical society. As a result of the study made, the Tenth Councilor Medical Society was organized.

\*\*\*\*\*

A presentation of particular interest in 1902 was the discussion of "hypnotism" with illustrations by Dr. St. Cloud Cooper.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fort Smith had already become a manufacturing center.

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

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