

The JOURNAL

Trolley Track Extension to Ross Pendergraft Park



Inside:



*William Murphy
Cravens*



*Hangin' Times in
Fort Smith, Part 4*



*Capt. Edmund
McKenna*

Vol. 27, No. 1, April 2003

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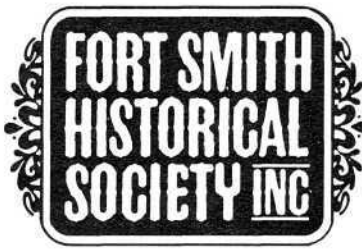
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March 3, 2003

TO: Members and Friends
Fort Smith Historical Society

As we begin our 27th year, I am pleased to report that we still have a very viable Historical Society and your Board is active as well as enthused about the challenges ahead of us. Membership has seen a slight increase and increased membership is vital to sustaining this organization. Tell your friends and neighbors about the society and the outstanding *Journal* published twice a year. We are working on many new stories for future journals. Among the ongoing items being researched are: furniture manufacturing business in Fort Smith in the 1880's and 1900's; Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company; Berry Dry Goods Company; Speer Hardware Company; Federated Welfare Association; first airport in Fort Smith; glass making business in Fort Smith; and our series continues on those outlaws that Judge Isaac Parker "hung".

Anyone with information about the articles being researched now or have areas that need to be documented and published in the future, please contact the Editor of the *Journal* or me. Preserving the history of Fort Smith is a never ending task but one that needs to be done and is being done as long as our members and the public continue to support the Society. Those involved in the preserving of Fort Smith history do so with pride and enthusiasm. There is nothing better than reading a well told story about those that were here before us who helped build this great city. Any help you can give is appreciated.

Thank you for 26 years of wonderful support. Tell your friends about us and get them to join. If you want to help in research, call us. If you have questions, call us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Charles D. Raney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Charles D. Raney
President

“The Place is Well Fortified...”:
Massard Prairie and the
Confederate Attack on Fort Smith
July 27 and 31, 1864

By Frank Arey

With the failure of General Frederick Steele's Camden Expedition in April 1864, Confederate and Federal troops in Arkansas and the Indian Territory reversed their roles. Federal troops assumed a defensive posture in an attempt to hold the Arkansas River against the Confederates. Emboldened by their successes against Steele, Confederate forces became more aggressive in their operations.¹

This role reversal was particularly evident at Fort Smith, a fortified post and adjoining town bearing the same name. Fort Smith is situated on the Arkansas River, on the Arkansas side of that state's border with what was then known as Indian Territory. In the summer of 1864 Fort Smith experienced this renewed Confederate aggressiveness following the Camden Expedition. That the post remained in Federal hands is partially due to a sustained effort to strengthen the post's fortifications.

***Federal Improvements
To The Defenses***

Federal efforts to improve Fort Smith's defenses began in February 1864. Major-General Samuel R. Curtis ordered the construction of field works in order to protect the Federal supply depots at the post. Initially he planned for two “field forts,” but he quickly expanded the works to include “square earth-works on three elevated points back of the town.” Curtis directed that work begin immediately.²

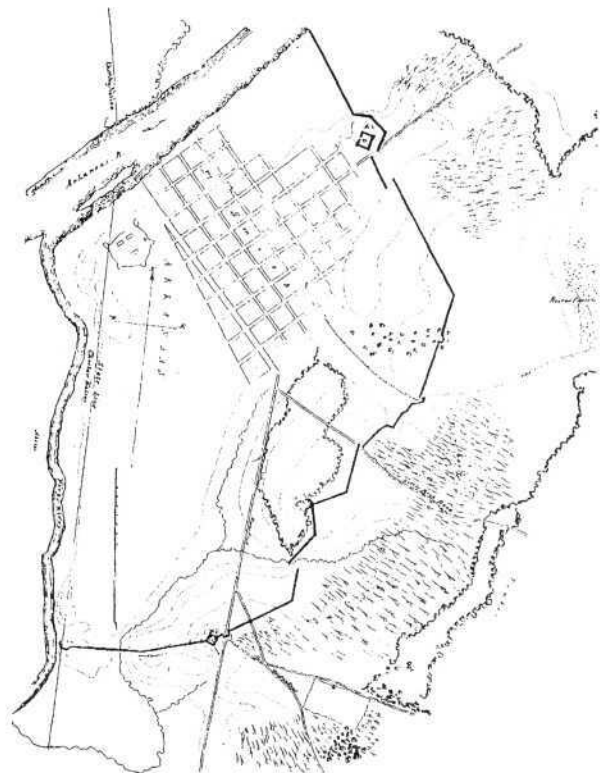
Work proceeded under the direction of Captain Anton Gerster, an engineer on assignment from the 27th Missouri Volunteers; soldiers detailed from Fort Smith's garrison provided the necessary labor. On 9 April 1864, Gerster reported on the progress of construction:

Fort No. 2, on the Texas road, is nearly completed, and two 12-pounder brass guns are mounted. Mechanics are now employed in building the drop bridge, which will be completed in a short time. Fort No. 3, near the Catholic convent, is progressing finely, and I

think it will be completed, with the exception of the rifle-pits, in ten to fifteen days. Fort No. 4, on the Van Buren road, is progressing fast, but as it is the largest work of all, and calculated to contain quarters for 500 men, it will yet require thirty to fifty days till completed.

The engineer also reported on the progress of a stockade, blockhouse, and batteries. He made no mention, however, of a complete line of trenches or “rifle-pits” around Fort Smith.³

From 21 March to 16 May, 1864, the Federal garrison at Fort Smith was on reduced strength. Brigadier-General John M. Thayer marched out on 21 March with approximately 5,000 men to join Steele and participate in the Camden Expedition, leaving a small force behind to hold the post.



Fort Smith showing fortification line and fort number 2 in 1864. Map drawn in 1865 by Anton Gerster, engineer for General Curtis. Map made available by Tom Wing, used by permission of Fort Smith National Historic Site.

Thayer returned to the post on 16 May. In the interim Colonel William Judson commanded the troops at the town, while Lieutenant Colonel A. W. Bishop commanded the post.⁴

Federal fears of an attack on the reduced garrison appeared justified on 11 May 1864, when two spies brought news of an impending Confederate advance. Judson and Bishop responded to this report by intensifying their efforts to complete the fortifications. On Bishop's order "all business houses in this city were closed and the citizens ordered to report to the breastworks for duty." The townspeople "worked like men" on the fortifications and "point[ed] with pride to the nearly completed defenses." However, no attack materialized, and Federal fears subsided with Thayer's return.⁵

Thayer continued the effort to complete the fortifications. On 28 May 1864, he reported that "[t]he place is impregnable, the forts are nearly completed, and a continuous line of rifle-pits, with an extensive abatis [runs] from the Arkansas around to the Poteau River." On 11 June 1864, Thayer elaborated on the state of the forts. All were about finished, including the "two main forts ... on the Texas road," and "are strong, excellent works, with the various appurtenances complete, quarters, magazine, water, &c."⁶

Evidently the fortifications were impressive. A local reporter "made the rounds of the Forts" sometime in late July or early August 1864. The reporter noted that the former engineer, Gerster, was "entitled to much praise for his scientific skill exhibited in the construction of the works." However, the reporter declined to describe the fortifications, apparently for security reasons. "If our rebel friends outside wish to inspect them, *let them try*. They will receive a *warm* salute."⁷

The Confederate Attack At Massard Prairie

Whether they intended to inspect the works or not, Confederate forces made their presence known at Fort Smith in late July of 1864. After helping to repulse Steele's Camden Expedition, Confederate troops from the Indian Territory pushed up north to the Arkansas River and east to the Poteau River, and harassed Federal communications and foragers. They also looked for an opportunity to reclaim Fort Smith for the Confederacy.⁸

In late July Confederate Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper received a report of Federal cavalry encamped in an exposed position at Massard Prairie, five miles south of Fort Smith. This force consisted of two hundred members of the 6th Kansas Cavalry organized into four companies and commanded by Major David

Mefford. These cavalrymen occupied this position to scout the surrounding countryside, provide security for the post, and graze their horses on the prairie. Thayer's entire command suffered for lack of both horses and forage; in order to feed their serviceable horses the Federals were compelled to take the risk of grazing them some distance from Fort Smith.⁹

On 26 July, Cooper ordered Brigadier General Richard Gano and others to attack the Federal camp. Cooper devised an elaborate plan of attack and withdrawal, complete with ambushes, and assigned various commands to undertake the different aspects of his plan. In compliance with Cooper's orders, six hundred Texas and Indian cavalrymen gathered by dark on 26 July at Page's Ferry on the Poteau River, about ten miles southwest of the Federal camp. Gano realized that this command was smaller than Cooper's plan required, so Gano modified the plan by personally leading the entire assembled force on the attack. The Confederates traveled all night, arriving in the vicinity of Massard Prairie before daybreak on the morning of 27 July. While still a half mile from the Federal camp they formed for an attack.¹⁰

Mefford's Federal cavalrymen were encamped on the south side of the prairie in the edge of the timber. He posted pickets on the approach to the camp to warn of impending attacks. Those horses not in use by the pickets, or out with scouting patrols, were allowed to graze on the prairie. Thus, on the morning of 27 July the herd of horses had been out grazing since daylight, and by about 6 a.m. the herd was three-quarters of a mile southwest of the main camp.¹¹

At sunrise Gano's command advanced and drove in Mefford's pickets. The Federal pickets raced back to their camp, firing as they withdrew, with the Confederates right on their heels – the Confederate advance reached the camp almost simultaneously with the pickets, within five minutes after the first alarm of an attack was given. However, a report from one of the Federal cavalrymen on picket duty alerted Mefford; the approaching sound of gunfire confirmed this report. Mefford successfully formed his dismounted cavalrymen into line before Gano could charge; he also ordered that the horses be retrieved from the prairie.¹²

Some of the Federal junior officers exercised their initiative in responding to Gano's initial attack. On the Federal right flank Lieutenant Jacob Morehead commanded Company B. As soon as the alarm was sounded, Morehead sent for the herd of horses and formed his company so as to protect the horses as they were brought in.

Lieutenant William Burgoyne, the 6th Kansas' adjutant, ordered messengers to report the attack to Fort Smith and to a neighboring Federal cavalry regiment two miles distant. Burgoyne also dispatched ten men to hold a slight rise located to the left of the Federal camp to protect that flank.¹³

Gano spoiled these Federal efforts. The Confederates attacked from the front of Mefford's position, and on both flanks; Confederate Captain William Murphy Cravens wrote that Gano's command "immediately surrounded the grove" of trees containing the Federal camp. Despite Morehead's effort to secure the horses on the right, "before the horses could be brought up the enemy charged on us, which stampeded the herd and left the men on foot to fight as best they could." Similarly, the Confederate envelopment on the Federal left swept away the party dispatched by Burgoyne to hold the rise.¹⁴

The Federal cavalrymen now had no choice but to fight dismounted like infantry. Mefford formed two of his companies, E and H, to the left of the camp; his other two companies, B and D, formed on the right of the camp. The 6th Kansas was well armed: each man carried a Sharps carbine, and there were enough revolvers on hand for each man to carry two apiece. The Sharps carbine was an efficient breechloading weapon, superior in quality to most of the weapons carried by the poorly armed Confederates. For a time, the Federal cavalrymen held their ground; Company B repulsed "three distinct charges of the enemy."¹⁵

However, with superior mobility, an open prairie, and a three-to-one advantage, the Confederates quickly gained the upper hand. One Confederate reported that four-fifths of the attackers remained mounted; in an open prairie, Mefford's dismounted men could not take cover from the mounted Confederates who could flank his force at will. The Confederates even used their mobility to counter the superior Federal Sharps carbines. Burgoyne of the 6th Kansas reported "the enemy charging upon [Mefford], delivering their fire, then retiring out of range of his Sharps rifles."¹⁶

Inevitably, the Federal cavalrymen began to give way. Morehead, hard pressed on the Federal right flank, noticed that Mefford had begun to fall back across the prairie with the two companies on the Federal left. Morehead knew that he could not hold his position with his small command, so without orders he began to fall back toward Mefford. As he did so, Company B lost "several men captured by the enemy that was advancing through the timber in the center of our camp."¹⁷

The Federal cavalrymen retreated across the prairie, fighting as they went; the Confederate troopers swirled around them, pressing their advantage on all sides. Mefford withdrew his men in the direction of a house on the prairie that was approximately one mile from his camp. "The men behaved splendidly, repulsing repeated charges of the enemy's cavalry," Burgoyne reported, "Mefford ... stimulating them by his example." At some distance from the house, Morehead reported, "the enemy closed in on all sides, taking many more of our men prisoners." Still, some Federal troops broke out "fighting and falling back to the house. There the men that were left were overpowered and captured."¹⁸

There can be no doubt that this brief action was a Confederate victory. Although some Federal cavalrymen did manage to find horses and escape, and others escaped by hiding in the thick brush, most of Mefford's command was taken prisoner. Federal casualties included ten killed and fifteen wounded; Cooper reported Confederate casualties of seven killed and twenty-six wounded. The Confederates reported taking 127 prisoners, including Mefford. Some of these prisoners managed to escape shortly after their capture, and returned to Fort Smith "in a very destitute condition, the rebels, according to their mode of warfare, having stripped them of most of their clothing."¹⁹

Gano moved quickly to consolidate his victory. Fearing a counterattack by Fort Smith's garrison, the Confederates rounded up their Federal prisoners and quickly marched them away from the prairie. The Confederates collected "200 stands of Sharps' rifles [and] 400 six-shooters," which greatly supplemented their armament. Cravens wrote that his fellow Confederates took everything that could possibly be of use: "[T]he soldiers came back, especially the Choctaws, loaded with clothing and plunder of every kind. Guns, saddles, pistols, camp kettles, buckets, cups, blankets, hats, boots, and the ponys fairly groaned under their tremendous freightage which in bulk at least would often have exceeded the ponys themselves." Other items, such as tents, were burned.²⁰

The Federal garrison did react to the attack, but not effectively. Thayer sent a force in pursuit, but Gano had an hour and a half head start; after following the Confederates for five miles, the Federal force halted and returned to what was left of their camp at Massard Prairie. As for the Confederates, Cravens wrote that "[w]e got back to camp about the same time we left camp ... the evening before having been gone about 24 hours."²¹

A Pause In The Action

Both sides contemplated their next moves. Thayer expressed confidence in his ability to hold Fort Smith; he predicted that the Confederates would attempt to hold his garrison in place, while covering for raiding parties crossing the Arkansas River further upstream. As it turned out, Thayer was right. Cooper, encouraged by the success of Gano at Massard Prairie, opted to further test Fort Smith's defenses while covering both a raiding force and an effort to remove Southern families from Sebastian County. Consequently, Cooper personally led a larger force back toward Fort Smith on 29 and 30 July 1864.²²

The Confederate Advance Against Fort Smith

At sunrise on 31 July the Confederates began their effort to test Fort Smith's defenses. A diversionary force took position in the bottoms of the Poteau River, on the Indian Territory side, and harassed the garrison in the post with rifle fire all day. However, the main Confederate effort involved a drive up the Texas road. Confederate Brigadier General Stand Waite led his Cherokees in the advance; Gano's brigade and other commands were placed on the flank or in reserve.²³

Once again the hapless 6th Kansas Cavalry found itself in contact with the enemy. Second Lieutenant L. F. Stewart commanded a picket station located on the Texas road four and a half miles from Fort Smith. At 11 a.m. on 31 July, gunfire alerted Stewart to an attack on his pickets. Stewart ordered the thirty-five men at the station to mount, and advanced a half mile toward his pickets. He reported: "I met my pickets coming toward me on a run and a number of the enemy following them, at which I halted and formed in line, and after exchanging shots with the enemy I found they were too strong for the number of men under my command." Stewart withdrew toward Fort Smith, exchanging fire with the Confederates as he withdrew.²⁴

The Confederates captured the picket station's camp and garrison equipment, and a meal as well. Cravens wrote that "at camp [the Federal cavalymen] had a good dinner prepared and several camp kettles full of hot Lincoln coffee when Watie interrupted and drove them off and himself enjoyed the prepared dinner."²⁵

While Watie and his men enjoyed their meal, the Federal troops rallied and "began to show themselves on the road, and some sharp skirmishing ensued." Cooper ordered several of his scattered commands to join Watie near the Texas road, and then joined Watie himself. Captain John T. Humphreys' two-gun section of

12 pound mountain howitzers advanced and opened on the Federals, some 600 to 800 yards distant, while Gano's men deployed as flankers and Watie's previously-dismounted Cherokees remained in support. This force was sufficient to push the Federals into their fortifications at Fort No. 2 on the Texas (or "main") road, "one of the principal works in front of Fort Smith."²⁶

For a time the Confederate artillery shelled Fort No. 2 and its surrounding trench line. Private Henry K. Strong of the 12th Kansas Volunteer Infantry recorded in his diary that the Confederates "drove in the pickets on the Texas Road and commenced shelling Post No. 2." The *Fort Smith New Era* reported that "[a] brisk fire of the skirmishers was kept up for some time, the rebels at the same time throwing shells from a couple of howitzers."²⁷

The Federal Counterattack

As the cannonading continued, Thayer organized a Federal counterattack. Judson, the 6th Kansas Cavalry's commander, advanced a short distance down the Texas road in front of Fort No. 2 with a small cavalry force, a two-gun section of the 2nd Kansas Battery, and some infantry. Once beyond Fort No. 2, the 2nd Kansas artillery section, supported by two companies of the 1st Kansas Infantry (Colored), deployed for action under the command of their captain, E. A. Smith.²⁸

The ensuing artillery duel was not an even match. Smith's 2nd Kansas was equipped with 10 pound Parrott rifles, which were rifled weapons capable of throwing a shell 1900 yards when elevated five degrees. By comparison, Humphreys' two mountain howitzers were smoothbore weapons capable of throwing a shell only 1005 yards at the same elevation. Thus, the Federal artillery section had the advantages of superior range and accuracy, and it showed. Although Humphreys' howitzers fired away as the 2nd Kansas section deployed, reported the *Fort Smith New Era*, "[t]he fire from Capt. Smith's battery was splendid" when it did go into action. Strong of the 12th Kansas Volunteer Infantry confirmed the reporter's impression in his diary: "The 2nd Kansas Battery were soon playing on them pretty lively and forced them to fall back. Considerable firing with artillery."²⁹

In short order Smith's artillery commanded the field. Cooper realized the inferiority of his howitzers: "Captain Humphreys, being so unequally matched, was ordered to withdraw, and in the act of doing so a shell exploded directly amid the battery horses, killing 3, wounding 1, cutting off the leg of one of the men." Cooper's escort cut the dead horses from their

harnesses, and withdrew one howitzer by using one horse and pushing the carriage by hand. The 2nd Kansas section then turned its attention to the Confederate cavalymen, compelling their withdrawal. Smith was proud of his men: "The practice was greatly commended by the officers present, including Gen. Thayer."³⁰

Cooper decided that his men had accomplished enough for the day. By this time it was nearly dark, and Cooper was uncertain as to the strength of the approaching Federal infantry. He ordered his men to withdraw; Gano's brigade, acting as the rear guard, burned the Federal commissary stores captured at Stewart's picket station, as well as the camp itself. Thayer did not pursue Cooper, but instead retired within his fortifications. The next morning, 1 August, the Confederates returned to the Indian Territory, with the exception of a party that harassed the Federal garrison by firing across the Poteau River.³¹

Casualties from this demonstration were much more evenly matched than those from the action at Massard Prairie. Cooper reported Confederate casualties of two dead and four wounded; he claimed to have captured eleven federal soldiers, some horses, and "a drove of beef cattle." The Federal forces lost four men killed and six wounded, including Judson who "was wounded in the left leg by the fragment of a shell."³²

Local civilians suffered as well. "The Union families in the vicinity of the place suffered severely. Many of their houses were burned down and all plundered more or less." The attack

scared many of Fort Smith's Unionist residents and refugees; Confederate scouts reported that many were fleeing across the Arkansas River to the north immediately after the attack.³³

Aftermath: A Federal Stronghold

As it was, the troops and civilians in Fort Smith had seen the worst. Wiley Britton, a veteran of the 6th Kansas Cavalry and a historian of the Civil War in this region, noted that "this was [Cooper's] last demonstration that he made in force." The Confederates, although expressing some confidence that they could take Fort Smith by force, knew that such an attempt would come at a very high cost. Cooper believed that "[a] vigorous attack with the whole force, though doubtless it would have been attended with heavy loss on our side, I believe would have resulted in the capture of the place." A correspondent to the secessionist *Washington (Arkansas) Telegraph* pinned his hopes on a Federal evacuation: "The supposition is that [the Federals] are endeavoring to evacuate [Fort Smith], which they will be permitted to do, for the place is well fortified, and it would cost us a good many men to take it."³⁴

The correspondent's tribute to Fort Smith's defenses point to the importance of the fortifications around the town. While Federal troops might be subject to the humiliation of a Massard Prairie-type surprise, the town and post were to remain under Federal control for the remainder of the war.

Frank Arey is a deputy director with the Department of Arkansas Heritage. He received a B.A. in History from Hendrix College and a J.D. with honors from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law; he is currently working toward an M.A. in History from the University of Central Arkansas. Arey is a member of the Company of Military Historians, and is an assistant editor of the Company's quarterly journal, *Military Collector and Historian*; he is also a member of the Prairie Grove Battlefield Commission.

This article is based upon research supporting the successful nomination of the Massard Prairie and Fort No. 2 Rifle Pits sites to the Arkansas Register of Historic Places. The author thanks Tom Wing of the Fort Smith National Historic Site for his encouragement, advice, and help with sources. The author also thanks Mark Christ and Zac Cothren, both of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, for their assistance.

¹ Wiley Britton, *The Civil War on the Border* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1899; reprint, Ottawa, KS: Kansas Heritage Press, 1994), 2:340-43 (hereafter cited as Britton, *Civil War on the Border*); Edwin C. Bearss and Arrell M. Gibson, *Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas*, 2d ed. (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979), 280-81 (hereafter cited as Bearss and Gibson, *Fort Smith*); *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864.

² S. R. Curtis to E. M. Stanton, 10 February 1864, S. R. Curtis to H. W. Halleck, 10 February 1864, and S. R. Curtis to H. W. Halleck, 15 February 1864, in War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: GPO, 1891), ser. 1, Vol. 34, pt. 2:292-93, 293, 339 (hereafter cited as *Official Records*, with references to year of publication, volume, part, and page; all cites are to series 1).

- ³ *Fort Smith New Era*, 21 May 1864 and 6 August 1864; Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:341; Anton Gerster to Curtis, 9 April 1864, *Official Records* (1891), Vol. 34, pt. 3:112-13.
- ⁴ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:255; Bearss and Gibson, *Fort Smith*, 279; *Fort Smith New Era*, 14 May 1864.
- ⁵ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:341-42; Bearss and Gibson, *Fort Smith*, 281; *Fort Smith New Era*, 14 May 1864.
- ⁶ John M. Thayer to Frederick Steele, 28 May 1864, and John M. Thayer to S. R. Curtis, 11 June 1864, *Official Records* (1891), Vol. 34, pt. 4:84, 318; Bearss and Gibson, *Fort Smith*, 281. An "abatis" consists of felled trees arranged with their tops facing the direction of an anticipated attack and with their limbs shortened and sharpened. Webb Garrison, *The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage* (Nashville, TN: Cumberland House Publishing, 2001), s.v. "abatis."
- ⁷ *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864.
- ⁸ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:341-42; Edwin C. Bearss, "General Cooper's CSA Indians Threaten Fort Smith," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 26, no. 3 (Autumn 1967): 266-67.
- ⁹ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:530-31; John M. Thayer to Frederick Steele, 30 July 1864, and Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:23-24, 31; *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, ed. Janet B. Hewett (Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1996), pt. 2, Vol. 21:297 (hereafter cited as *Supplement O.R.*, with references to year of publication, part, and volume).
- ¹⁰ Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:31; B. W. Marston to M. Scott, 28 July 1864, *Supplement O.R.* (1997), pt. 1, Vol. 7:366; William Murphy Cravens to Mary Eloise Cravens, 28 July 1864, in Steve Cox, "The Action on Massard Prairie," *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* 4, no. 1 (April 1980): 11; Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:531.
- ¹¹ Jacob Morehead to W. R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:25; Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:531.
- ¹² Wm. Burgoyne to William R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1898), Vol. 53:480; Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:531.
- ¹³ Jacob Morehead to W. R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:25; Wm. Burgoyne to William R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1898), Vol. 53:480.
- ¹⁴ John M. Thayer to Frederick Steele, 30 July 1864, and Jacob Morehead to W. R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:23, 25; Wm. Burgoyne to William R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1898), Vol. 53:480; William Murphy Cravens to Mary Eloise Cravens, 28 July 1864, in Cox, "Action on Massard Prairie," 11; Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:531.
- ¹⁵ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:531-32; Jacob Morehead to W. R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:25; B. W. Marston to M. Scott, 28 July 1864, *Supplement O.R.* (1997), pt. 1, Vol. 7:366; John C. Waugh, *Sam Bell Maxey and the Confederate Indians* (Abilene, TX: McWhiney Foundation Press, 1998), 36-37; Joseph G. Bilby, *Civil War Firearms* (Conshohocken, PA: Combined Publishing, 1996), 132, 135-36.
- ¹⁶ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:532; B. W. Marston to M. Scott, 28 July 1864, *Supplement O.R.* (1997), pt. 1, Vol. 7:366; Wm. Burgoyne to William R. Judson, *Official Records* (1898), Vol. 53:481.
- ¹⁷ Jacob Morehead to W. R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:25.
- ¹⁸ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:532; Jacob Morehead to W. R. Judson, 29 July 1864, and Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:25, 32; Wm. Burgoyne to William R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1898), Vol. 53:481.
- ¹⁹ John M. Thayer to Frederick Steele, 30 July 1864, Jacob Morehead to W. R. Judson, 29 July 1864, and Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), Vol. 41, pt. 1:23, 25, 31-32; Wm. Burgoyne to William R. Judson, 29 July 1864, *Official Records* (1898), Vol. 53:481; B. W. Marston to M. Scott, 28 July 1864, *Supplement O.R.* (1997), pt. 1, Vol. 7:366; *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864; Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:532.
- ²⁰ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:532; B. W. Marston to M. Scott, 28 July 1864, *Supplement O.R.* (1997), pt. 1, vol. 7:366; William Murphy Cravens to Mary Eloise Cravens, 28 July 1864, in Cox, "Action on Massard Prairie," 13.
- ²¹ John M. Thayer to Frederick Steele, 30 July 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:23; *Fort Smith New Era*, 30 July 1864; William Murphy Cravens to Mary Eloise Cravens, 28 July 1864, in Cox, "Action on Massard Prairie," 13.
- ²² Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:533; John M. Thayer to Frederick Steele, 30 July 1864, and Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:24, 32-33.
- ²³ Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:33; *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864; William Murphy Cravens to Mary Eloise Cravens, 7 August 1864, copy in the collection of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith, Arkansas, original in private collection.
- ²⁴ L. F. Stewart to Commanding Officer, 2 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:25-26.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*; William Murphy Cravens to Mary Eloise Cravens, 7 August 1864.
- ²⁶ Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:33-34; John M. Thayer to [Frederick] Steele, 3 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 2:538; Thomas A. Wing, "'A Rough Introduction To This Sunny Land': The Civil War Diary of Private Henry K. Strong, Company K, 12th Kansas Volunteer Infantry" (Master's Research Project, University of Oklahoma, 2001), 43 (entry for 31 July).

The type of howitzers used by Humphreys' section is not specified in Cooper's report; Cooper refers to these weapons as "the section of Lee's light howitzer battery, commanded by Capt. John T. Humphreys," as distinguished from a section of Howell's battery also present. Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:33. However, a review of other reports that discuss Confederate artillery in the Indian Territory supports the identification advanced in the text. S. S. Scott to James A. Seddon, Inclosure No. 2, 12 December 1863, *Official Records* (1888), vol. 22, pt. 2:1098; John M. Thayer to John F. Lacey,

15 October 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 3:882.

²⁷ *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864; Wing, "Diary of Private Henry K. Strong," 43.

²⁸ Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, 10 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:34; John M. Thayer to [Frederick] Steele, 3 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 2:538; *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864; E. A. Smith, "Military History of the Second Kansas Volunteer Battery," in *Official Military History of Kansas Regiments* (Leavenworth, KS: W. S. Burke, n.d.; reprint, Ottawa, KS: Kansas Heritage Press, n.d.), 442.

²⁹ Smith, "Second Kansas Volunteer Battery," 442; Confederate States Ordnance Bureau, *The Field Manual for the Use of Officers on Ordnance Duty* (Richmond, VA: Ritchie & Dunnivant, 1862; reprint, Gettysburg, PA: Dean S. Thomas, 1984), 116, 122; Jack Coggins, *Arms and Equipment of the Civil War* (New York: Doubleday, 1962; reprint, New York: Fairfax Press, 1983), 75, 76-77; *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864; Wing, "Diary of Private Henry K. Strong," 43.

³⁰ Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:34; Smith, "Second Kansas Volunteer Battery," 442-43; *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864.

³¹ Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:34-35; John M. Thayer to [Frederick] Steele, 3 August 1864, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 2:538.

³² Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:34; Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:534; *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864.

³³ *Fort Smith New Era*, 6 August 1864; Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:35.

³⁴ Britton, *Civil War on the Border*, 2:534; Douglas H. Cooper to T. M. Scott, *Official Records* (1893), vol. 41, pt. 1:36; *Washington (Arkansas) Telegraph*, 17 August 1864.

William Murphy Cravens

Family Records of Fado Cravens, Jr.

(Edited by Amelia Martin)

Captain William Murphy Cravens, who participated in the battle of Massard Prairie, described the battle to his wife Mary Eloise Cravens July 28, 1864 and August 7, 1864.

He was born on June 26, 1833 in Fredericktown, Missouri, where his parents, Judge Jeremiah and Keturah Cravens had moved from Christian County, Kentucky, but grew up in Sarcoxie in Southwest Missouri. His father, Jeremiah Cravens was appointed one of the first three county judges of Jasper County and was presiding judge of the county court.

William Murphy Cravens prepared for college at Spring River Academy, Missouri and was graduated from that institution, then from the Arkansas College (University of Arkansas) at Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1854. He entered Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee, graduated from there with a law degree and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Tennessee. In 1860 he began the practice of law at Neosho, Missouri and in 1861 was elected district prosecuting

attorney, covering eight counties.

In 1861, when the militia was called out, he volunteered as a private and fought with the State Guard at Carthage and Wilson's Creek.

When the 21st Arkansas Infantry was organized early in 1862, under his cousin Colonel Jordan M. Cravens, he was appointed adjutant of that regiment which crossed the Mississippi, joined the forces of General Beauregard at Corinth and served during the siege of that place by General Halleck.

In the fall of 1862 he took part in the campaign against Generals Grant and Rosecrans. At the battle of luka, he was near the lamented General Little when the latter was killed. At the two day battle of Corinth his horse was shot from under him during a furious attack on

the Federal Works.

He was distinguished for bravery at Hatchie River Bridge, assisting Colonel Tom Dockery in command of the brigade after General Cabell and Colonel Jordan E. Cravens were disabled.

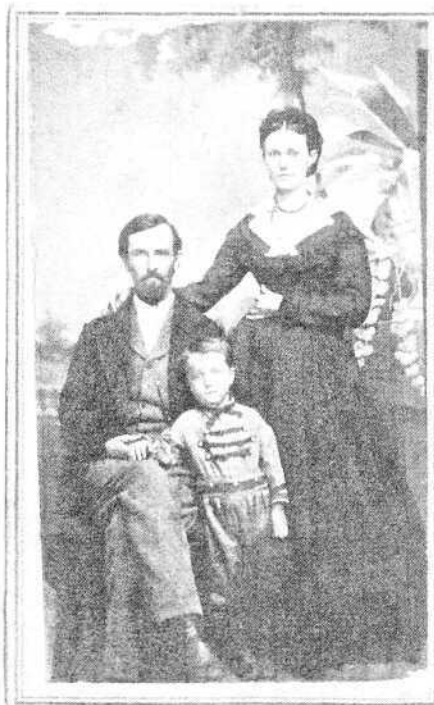


William Murphy Cravens
Circa 1879

Early in 1863 Adjutant Cravens was given leave of absence and while at Fort Smith, Arkansas was ordered to report to General Maxey in the Indian Territory. He was appointed adjutant on General Maxey's staff, but when the 21st Arkansas regiment was exchanged and reorganized following the capture of Vicksburg, he rejoined Dockery's brigade in Lafayette County, Arkansas, taking part in many skirmishes and the battle of Camden. He continued on duty until the surrender at Marshall, Texas in 1865.

In 1862 at Fort Smith, Arkansas he married Mary Eloise Rutherford, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Samuel

Morton Rutherford. At the close of the war he established his home in Fort Smith and began the practice of law. His license to practice covered Arkansas, Indian Territory, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Missouri, Texas and the Supreme Court of the United States. It is said he was for years



*William Murphy Cravens
Mary Eloise (Rutherford) Cravens
son Jere Morton Cravens.
Circa 1870-72*

one of the most eminent criminal lawyers in the Southwest, maintaining offices at Fort Smith, Arkansas, Paris, Texas, Muskogee, South McAlester, Wagoner and Talequah, Oklahoma. It was said by his brother lawyers that he had defended more men than any lawyer in the world - - his practice covering a period of more than fifty years.

In 1890 he was urged by petition signed by hundreds of citizens of the district to make the race for congress, but declined to do so feeling he could not leave his practice.

For twenty-five years he and Col. Ben T. DuVal, one of the most brilliant attorneys in the state, formed a partnership. In 1895 he established a partnership with his son, Hon. Wm.

Ben Cravens, which lasted until his death.

The history of the bar of the Southwest would not be complete without his story and is replete with anecdotes concerning the famous cases he defended. It is said he is the only lawyer known to outwit the "hanging judge" Isaac Parker.

The Fort Smith Court at one time, before the establishment of courts in Oklahoma, had jurisdiction over the western district of Arkansas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma; was the largest U. S. Court in the world and Colonel Cravens was counsel for the most famous cases tried in this jurisdiction.

Colonel Cravens was major on the staff of General Wm. L. Cabell in the Confederate Veteran Association, member of the Ben T. DuVal Camp of Confederate Veterans, member of the American Bar Association, member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, a Knight Templar and devout member of the Christian Church.

He died at Fort Smith January 2, 1919 and was survived by his widow and six children: Jere Morton Cravens, Wichita Falls, Texas; Colonel Richard Kerr Cravens, Adjutant General Army Artillery - also in command of the 59th Coast Artillery; Hon. Ben Cravens, former district prosecuting attorney and representative in Congress from the fourth congressional district; Colonel DuVal Garland Cravens, superintendent of Sewanee Military Academy, Sewanee, Tennessee; Rutherford Rector Cravens, St. Louis, Missouri; Daisy Rutherford Cravens, Fort Smith and ten grandchildren, one of whom, Major William M. Cravens served in the Army of Occupation in Germany.

William Murphy Cravens' paternal grandfather, William Cravens was born and reared in Rockingham County, Virginia, that stronghold of Scotch Irish families who settled in the Shenandoah Valley and left their impress on the country. He was a descendant of Robert Cravens, planter who owned a large grant of land, and his wife Mary Harrison Cravens. They furnished to their country soldiers and officers of the French and Indian wars and the war of Revolution.

William Cravens married Mary Lamma (pronounced Lama) and moved to Christian County Kentucky where William Murphy Cravens was born.

The maternal grandfather of William Murphy Cravens was William Murphy of Irish descent, the son of the Rev. William Murphy who came from Dublin to Pittsylvania County, Virginia in 1756 or 7. William Murphy, the son, served in Indian wars and in the Revolutionary war. He was an ensign under Captain Christopher

Cunningham, was in the defeat of General Ashe at Brier Creek, was in expedition under general John Sevier against the Cherokee Indians and captured Captain William Terry and his company of Tories. He married Rachel Henderson of Tennessee.

In 1799 the Rev. William Murphy and his sons went across the country to Saint Francis County, Missouri, then the territory of Louisiana, and in 1801 settled on a large grant of land from the Spanish government. The Murphy family gave

the land for the site of Farmington which was originally called "Murphy Settlement". The services of William Murphy to Missouri as a pioneer and pathfinder were such that his name with those of other distinguished pioneers is commemorated by the erection of a bronze tablet in Jefferson Memorial Building, St. Louis. Sarah Barton Murphy, the wife of the Rev. William Murphy, is said to have established the first Methodist Sunday School west of the Mississippi River.

Edmund McKenna

1848-1912

*By Mark McKenna Little, a great-great-grandson
(son of Freed Little of Houston, Texas)*

This is the story of a young man, beset with hardships who overcame these adversities to become a prominent merchant and actively engaged in many civic organizations in Fort Smith, Ark. and later in Poteau, Okla. He was born in Manchester, England February 5, 1843, the son of Owen and Bridget (McAdams) McKenna, natives of county Monaghan, Ireland, and descendants of the McKennas of Truke.

Edmund lost his father when he was six and his mother when he was eleven. She had previously come to America with her children, Edmund and Agnes. They came to America settling with an Uncle, James McAdams, and an elder brother, Frank, in Philadelphia. Frank died from a wound received while serving as first lieutenant of the Federal forces in the Second California Cavalry. Agnes married Matthew Mooney of Philadelphia. When she was widowed, Agnes and her daughter moved to Poteau to be near her brother, Edmund, and family. The daughter married E.J. Mills, D.D.S. of Poteau and he was one of two men who built the Comet Theatre there.

The Fort Smith Years - 1859-1890

Edmund went west in the service of a U. S. Army officer in 1857, on his return decided to settle in Fort Smith in 1859, grew to manhood in the home of J. K. McKenzie. When the North/South conflict came, Edmund enlisted and was assigned to Cabell's brigade (Gordon's

Regiment) and served until wounded at Mark's Mills. He lost an eye and was hospitalized until previous to Price's raid, in which he participated, attaining the rank of Captain.

After the war, he clerked for three years at Fort Smith for H. (Hubbard) Stone Mercantile and Hardware Company and then for seventeen years



Capt. Edmund McKenna, circa 1910, inspecting fruit grown in a large orchard near Poteau. The orchard, a joint venture of he and two other Poteau business men, was atop one of the mountains near Poteau, Oklahoma. Photo contributed by great-great-granddaughter of Edmund McKenna, Mrs. Gail Campbell, is one of very few photographs that were ever taken of him because he lost an eye in one of the battles during the War Between the States and was self-conscious about it. Note that this photograph does not show his left eye.

did business with Mr. Stone as his partner. He then bought Mr. Stone's interest and made a success of it. Edmund was the Secretary, Treasurer and Financial head of The Farmer's Alliance Cotton Yard and was a stockholder in the Western Arkansas Fair Association.

He was Foreman of the first Hook and Ladder Company organized in Fort Smith, served his township as Alderman and in 1884 was a candidate for Mayor. For some time he served as President of the Board of Sewer Commissioners, but resigned that office due to the pressure of his business interests demanding his attention. He was Past Master of the Belle Point Lodge of A.F. & A.M. and past Dictator of the Knights of Honor.

On February 15, 1870, Miss Mildred Bostick became Mrs. Edmund McKenna. He was a former officer of The Confederate Army, read the newspaper reports. Miss Bostick was born in Cane Hill, Ark. July 20, 1847, member of a family who were pioneers in that area. The wedding took place at the Fort Smith home of her sister, Mrs. John Bostick (Mary E.) Cunningham. The marriage was blessed with four sons and one daughter: Jerry, Frank who died at the age of five, Hubbard Stone, Edmund and Agnes who died at the age of two.¹

The Poteau, Oklahoma Years - 1891-1912

Business remained good at Fort Smith but Capt. McKenna saw a real need for a store operation such as his in the far eastern part of the Indian Territory and established in 1890 a Branch in Cameron, I. T. The branch did well, but shortly thereafter, a decision was made by the Frisco Railroad to run their line through Poteau and make it a major stop for this new route. Realizing Poteau would become a major distribution point for far east-central Oklahoma, he moved the operation to Poteau and also moved his Fort Smith operation there. It proved to be a wise decision because for many years he was very successful in the mercantile/hardware trade along with his other business ventures there also.²

In Poteau the business prospered. He established Poteau's first bank, The National Bank of Poteau. It had the distinction of also being the first bank organized in eastern Oklahoma and he was its President until his death. He also enjoyed the distinction of being the first President of the Indian Territory Bankers Association. He built the first brick building in Poteau and through his efforts, Poteau built the first public school building in Indian Territory. His business was also the first mercantile/hardware store established in Poteau. McKenna Street was named in his honor, and he was publicly given credit for getting the Frisco Railroad to go through Poteau. For many years Edmund McKenna was known as "The First Citizen of Poteau".

Until Captain McKenna moved to Poteau, travel to Fort Smith and other points east was

only accomplished via a ferry, capable of hauling only a horse or two and small wagons with pull ropes needed to aid in getting across, a very slow and tedious operation. Several years later Capt. McKenna built a toll bridge across this river and when the tolls paid off the construction costs of the bridge, he deeded it to the City of Poteau.

Edmund McKenna died February 19, 1910 at home. The LeFlore county paper stated: "Hardly a public enterprise exists in Poteau that Capt. McKenna has not been instrumental in promoting. The remains were laid to rest in the family cemetery in Fort Smith last Monday. Loving friends from LeFlore county closed their businesses from 10 a.m. to 2 and the school children marched from the schoolhouse to the depot with the remains. The procession from Poteau was met at the depot in Fort Smith by a vast throng of friends who marched to the cemetery."

The obituary in the *Fort Smith Southwest American* stated: "Clad in the uniform he wore when striving for the Confederacy, Capt. Edmund McKenna, of Poteau, Okla. and formerly of Fort Smith, was buried in Oak Cemetery in Fort Smith Monday afternoon. The remains were escorted by a large delegation of leading citizens from Poteau and were met by a delegation of members of the local Masonic Order of which the deceased was a member. Services were conducted by Rev. G. M. Murray followed by the Masonic ritual. The floral offerings were many and beautiful and served as a high testimonial for the esteem in which the deceased was held. The pallbearers were: J. E. Sheridan, T. A. Trusty, C. H. Amos, J. S. Lowrey, G. C. Neale, E. R. Taylor, W. H. Sibley and S. S. Lowrey.

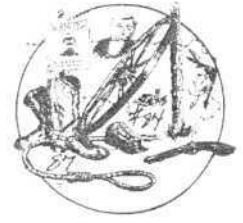
His widow died in Poteau, Okla. Sunday, July 24, 1927. She spent nearly half of her life of 80 years in Poteau. The *LeFlore County Sun* noted: "Her generosity is unforgotten" as early day remembrances of Mrs. McKenna were recalled. She had been known to buy as many as 100 turkeys and send them to poor families at Christmastime. She built a church for the Christian Church members and paid the preacher herself. Mrs. McKenna is survived by three sons: Ed McKenna, with the USN, stationed at Boston, Jerry McKenna of Plant City, Fla., and Hubbard Stone McKenna of Kansas City, and her sister, Mrs. Mary E. Cunningham of Fort Smith."

¹ *Goodspeed History of Northwest Arkansas, 1889.*

² *Fort Smith Southwest American*



Hangin' Times in Fort Smith



By Jerry Akins
(Part IV)

Part I 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 II, 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 III, published in Volume 26, Number 2, began 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

Part IV. There were no hangings during the two years following the hangings on September 8, 1876, but the Court of the Western District of Arkansas was busy trying criminals for every crime within jurisdiction of that court and the court proceedings were published weekly in the local newspapers.

Part IV begins with this newspaper coverage and continues with sentencing and hanging of John Postoak and James Diggs on December 20, 1878.

THE GALLOWS GETS A TWO YEAR HIATUS

The gallows did indeed get a vacation but Judge Parker and The Court for the Western District of Arkansas did not. Three weeks after

the hangings on September 8, 1876 Judge Parker and Judge William Henry Harrison Clayton, Prosecutor for the Western District Court, left for Helena, Arkansas to conduct court there. On their return to Fort Smith they would open the fall court session on the first Monday in November 1876. And in the next two years they would try and convict criminals for every crime within the jurisdiction of that court.

The court proceedings were published weekly in all of the local newspapers of the time and the reports show a very busy schedule. There were large numbers of larcenies, probably the predominate crime, followed by assaults and next liquor and related tax violations. There were also some manslaughter cases and in some cases a jury returned a verdict of manslaughter where a man had been charged with murder.

The court convened in November and by December 13, 1876 had tried two Arapahoes, Black Crow and Creeping Bear, for murder. They were accused of riding up to the house of a Dr. Holiday near Fort Sill two years earlier and shooting his young son through the window just for fun. Black Crow was convicted but his brother, Creeping Bear, was acquitted. The two were riding on one horse but Black Crow was the only one who could be identified because when he fired he threw the blanket off his face.

On December 16 Irving Perkins was convicted of murder. Quoting *The New Era*: "The fellow, Irwin, was living in the Creek Nation, a couple of hundred miles west of here and deliberately killed his own child, a babe two weeks old, by his wife's daughter. The case is too disgusting to particularize."

"So is a rape case, committed in the Territory. It was *nolle prosequi* [case abandoned by the prosecution] because the main witnesses, wife and daughters, when they found out that it was a hanging affair, refused to make the same statement previously made at U. S. Commissioner's preliminary examination."

If you don't quite understand that last sentence I'm not sure that I do either. Except for the definition in brackets it's verbatim from *The New Era* 12-20-76.

The court records for January 15 & 16, 1877 show that in the cases of U. S. vs. Houston Brown – murder, U. S. vs. Al. Newberry, et al; murder and U. S. vs. Litaka, Joseph Riley, et al; they were continued to the next term. However the next term would be further off than anyone expected. More on that in the proper order.

On Monday, February 26, 1877 Judge Parker pronounced sentence on three men to hang, on April 27, 1877, for murder. The first was Irving Perkins whose crime has already been described. When asked why sentence should not be pronounced on him he gave a long speech of denial. That was followed by Judge Parker's usual sentencing and remonstrance speech.

The next man to stand before the judge would create a scene described by one newspaper as, "THRILLING INCIDENT!", "A LEAP FOR LIBERTY OR DEATH". Charles Thomas, "a colored man from the Indian country, about 27 years old, well formed, tall, lithe, intelligent looking" was convicted of having killed another man. The trouble originated about the deceased's wife. Thomas, after killing the man, gave himself up, claiming self-defense.

When told to stand and say why sentence should not be pronounced on him he said that he thought that nothing he could say would do him any good. He had killed the man in self-defense and that if he had not expected to be cleared he would not have surrendered voluntarily. After Thomas had finished Judge Parker began reading the sentence when all at once the prisoner, who was entirely unshackled, gathered himself and made a "spring like a panther" directly at the judge. His goal was a window directly behind the judge, the Poteau River about 400 yards away and Oklahoma beyond. However, he had overlooked a railing behind the judge, which he struck violently, and in the next instant Judge Parker had him by his shirt collar. He offered no resistance to the judge but when a half-dozen deputy marshals took him he struggled to be free. Even after he was brought back before the bench he continued to struggle. Someone suggested that he be thrown down and tied hand and foot but Parker ordered that he remain unshackled while the sentence was being read. Meanwhile Thomas struggled and stated that he would rather be shot than treated like a dog; that he had acted like a man in giving himself up, having killed a man in self-defense, and that it was a shame to be treated like this.

The third prisoner was the Arapahoe, Black Crow, whose crime has also been described. When asked, through his interpreter, why he should not have sentence imposed he claimed innocence and blamed his arrest on the work of hostile Cheyennes. When told to prepare to meet his fate Black Crow laughed aloud and told the interpreter that he did not believe it. He said that if he had to die he would die but that he did not want to be hung. Black Crow showed no emotion except once or twice when he laughed aloud.

However, none of those sentences would be carried out. On April 14, 1877 *The Weekly Herald* announced that Black Crow's sentence had been commuted to life in prison at Moundsville, West Virginia. The editor went on to express the opinion that that was a sentence worse than death to an Indian. The article also said that the two negroes, Thomas and Perkins would probably hang but by the appointed day, April 27, all had been commuted to life at Moundsville by President Rutherford B. Hayes.

On Wednesday, May 2, 1877, the week after the executions were to have taken place, *The New Era* ran two one-paragraph articles pertaining to the men and the event. The first noted that Black Crow, Perkins and Thomas had left that morning in the charge of personnel from the marshal's office for the prison at Moundsville, W.Va. The second article, titled, "Disappointed", said that at least a thousand people had come to town to witness the hanging. When they learned of the commutations by the president "many were intensely disgusted." Although, later none could be found who had come to see the hangings, but all had some particular business in town.

Two weeks previous to those events and in the week previous to the scheduled hangings this notice ran in *The New Era* and was repeated the next week in *The Weekly Herald*:

"Office U.S. Marshal

"West. Dist. Ark.

"Ft. Smith, Ark., April 12, 1877."

"There will be no May term of the United States Court at Fort Smith. Witnesses and others will not be required to attend until the first Monday in August next."

The cause of the postponement was that Congress had not appropriated funds to administer the court. Not only that, there were no funds for the Marshal's Office either. And that second item was addressed in another article in another column of the same issue.

Valentine Dell, Editor of *The New Era*, had begun calling the Indian Territory "Pandemonium". Quoting his article from 4-18-77: "Pandemonium

is Happy. – The appropriation having run out and no money in the office, the U. S. Marshal of the Western District of Arkansas can't send deputies and must let things, therefore, take their own course in the Indian Territory, swarming with outlaws and malefactors of every description. Perhaps this is all the better, for it will then give expression perhaps to the desire of the better portion of the people there to have the land divided up and be admitted as a U. S. Territory." (*New Era* Apr. 18, 1877)

Again on 5-23-77 Valentine Dell published an article under the title Pandemonium. This one seemed incredible, until an attorney who has worked in the current Cherokee Court and studied the history of that 1800's period, gave an opinion that, at that time, it was probably true.

The story involved a murder in Crawford County, Arkansas. A man named Harvey murdered another named Stultz who was plowing in his field in Crawford County near the state line between Arkansas and the Indian Territory. Harvey then crossed into the Indian Territory and was safe because there was no law by which he could be lawfully arrested. Any warrant issued for him would be a Crawford County warrant or a State of Arkansas warrant. Arkansas law authorities had no jurisdiction in Indian Territory and the U. S. Marshal's office had jurisdiction only on U. S. Warrants not local warrants.

Dell pointed out that the man could have been extradited from almost any country in the world, but the one place that he was safe was right in the middle of the United States. He went on to point out that if John Wilkes Booth and others had known that fact they might have pointed their steps toward the Territory and remained free. He went on, "Yes, let it be known to all murderers and outlaws in the Union, yea, and from the lands beyond, that the Indian Territory, alias Oklahoma, alias Pandemonium, is the place for them." (*New Era* May 23, 1877)

During that same period the deputy marshals who were still working were regularly bringing prisoners and all of the newspapers of the time were running articles such as one on July 18, 1877: "Deputy marshals are constantly arriving with batches of prisoners and report the Indian country completely overrun and terrorized by every species of lawless characters. During the present month thirty prisoners have arrived and the number is rapidly increasing by large accessions." (*New Era* July 18, 1877)

In that spring and summer of 1877 the *Cherokee Advocate* of Tahlequah and the *Weekly Herald* ran a verbal sparring match about the virtues and vices of having the United States

Court in the Territory verses Fort Smith.

This from the *Advocate* as quoted in the *Herald* June 23, 1877: "The cry throughout the country has been and still is for a United States Court in the Territory. The most violent opposition to this measure has come from Fort Smith and the Court there, and yet a Court here would be much more inexpensive, convenient and effectual for the prevention of crime in the Territory, and take away much of the reason the *Fort Smith Era* has for calling the Territory Pandemonium. But there is bread and butter somewhere in the business, and that consideration never does fail to modify one's views." The last sentence of that paragraph was the telling one. Everyone wanted some of the "bread and butter". The fact was that there were no jurors in the Territory qualified to sit on a jury in a U. S. Court. Jurors would had to have been imported from Arkansas.

There was no May term of the court in 1877 and the hope was that Congress, in an extra session would appropriate money for a term to begin on the first Monday in August. However, there was no extra session of Congress and it was wondered if there would be another postponement until after Congress met in October. But, somehow the money must have appeared for on 7-28-77 the *Herald* began a long article by stating that the Court for the Western District would commence on "Monday, the sixth day of next month."

On August 6, 1877 the court convened with a large backlog of cases that had accumulated through the spring and summer plus some that had been continued from the previous term. Not only those cases, but also the deputies were continually bringing in more prisoners.

By Wednesday, August 29 the *New Era* reported that a special U. S. grand jury would be empanelled to investigate about 20 cases which "have accumulated since last Wednesday." Just below that article it stated that of 40 criminal cases disposed of since August 6th there had been only 6 acquittals. In that same column there are three articles listing a total of ten prisoners brought in that week. Farther over on the same page is an entire column listing, in the briefest of words and abbreviations, the actions of the court from August 21 to August 28, 1877.

All of the murder cases in August, '77 were either reduced to manslaughter by the jury or acquitted. But in September there was one case that evoked enough interest to warrant its own column in one newspaper. That was the case of J. S. Williams for the murder of his brother-in-law, Pierson.

All were from the Red River country of Indian Territory near Paris, Texas and all reported to be wealthy which, last fact, added to the interest of the trial. In addition, both sides had brought their ladies with them, hence, the courtroom was filled with local ladies.

The trial lasted four days and was prosecuted by U. S. Attorney, William H. H. Clayton. For the defense were DuVal and Cravens of Fort Smith, senior counsel, Thomas H. Barnes and W. B. Wright of Paris, Texas. All of the attorneys were reported to have given admirable and persuasive arguments. When the case was closed and the court charged the jury the details of law bearing on the case were "quite minute". The jury was out less than one hour and returned with a verdict of not guilty. That ended a case that had attracted more attention than any case had in a long time and T. S. Williams was discharged by the court "to go hence without [delay]."

For all of September of '77 seven people were tried for murder and all but two, T. J. Robinson and W. J. Meadows, were found not guilty or, in the case of William Mead, *nolle prosequi*. One interesting note in the listing of cases in the *Herald* on 9-28-77: "U. S. vs. Wm. J. Meadows-murder by wrecking train on M. K. & T. R. R. Jury trial; not guilty on second count." However, he was convicted of murder.

All during the court term the newspapers were noting the number of new prisoners brought in by the marshals and the number of convicted prisoners being taken to Little Rock to serve the shorter terms or to Detroit for the longer sentences.

On October 3, '77 *The New Era* ran, under the headline "Convicted of Rape and Doomed for the Gallows", the story of Joshua Wade whom they described as big, burly and brutal. He was convicted of the rape of, "committing rape on an aged and respectable Indian woman of the Choctaw Nation." The evidence in the cases was said to have conclusively established the guilt of Wade but was, "too disgusting for publication." The difficulty of securing a conviction in such a case was enhanced by the fact that all of the witnesses were Indian and an interpreter had to be employed for all testimony. In spite of the difficulties, the case was ably prosecuted and the jury lost no time in rendering a guilty verdict.

"The penalty is death, and Joshua very appropriately completes the trio of victims for the gallows, furnished by the present term of the court." (*New Era* 10-3-77)

It appears that the specially scheduled August '77 term of the court ran into the regularly scheduled November term without letup. Occasionally there were special grand juries

empanelled to handle the accumulation of cases and they were dismissed when their work was completed. But, no new petit jury list was published in the papers.

For November '77 there were the usual lists of larcenies etc. but only two murder trials published. In the case of John Procter the jury verdict was, "we, the jury find that this court has not jurisdiction in this case." The case of U. S. vs. Tezekiah Harjo and Joseph Riley-murder, jury trial, was listed as pending. The Harjo and Riley case must have led to something other than a death sentence for they were not among those sentenced to be executed later. But, another case came up in December that occupied the newsmen more than Harjo and Riley.

In the third week of December 1877 the Fort Smith newspapers reported on an unusual trial that had lasted, including jury deliberation, nine days. On trial were nine citizens of the Creek Nation and there was at least one remarkable witness.

The defendants were; Carolina Grayson, Peter Grayson, Man Lewis, Robert Love, Barney Lucky, Anderson Davis, John Lucky, James Wells and Jacob Bruner, "all stalwart young negro men and citizens of the Creek Nation". (*New Era* 12-19-77) They were accused of the murder of Henry Ross, "a negro, a non-citizen of the Nation". On May 15, 1877 the defendants had gone to the home of Ross and accused him of stealing hogs. Ross denied their accusations and volunteered to stand trial on the charge and invited them to search his property. He produced a pot of cooking pork and said that the man who made the search and failed to find any more meat should die in the door.

Carolina Grayson, the leader of the group, entered Ross's home and had a social smoke with him. Afterward all parties must have exited the house for there was an altercation between Ross and Peter Grayson in the yard. Carolina took up the quarrel and shot Ross in the back of his head with a musket as he entered his house. Ross lived for about two hours attended only by Anderson Davis who, alone, remained after the rest of the conspirators had gone.

On the way to Ross's house Carolina Grayson had told several people that he was going there to see the boys kill Ross. The listeners had tried to dissuade him from going but he replied that it was no harm to kill a hog thief. That, according to one newspaper, was one of the principal points of evidence

There were seventeen witnesses in the case, "and as a whole, probably the most grossly ignorant specimens of humanity that ever testified in a court [of] justice." (*New Era* 12-19-77) Hardly any of them knew their own ages and

the brother of the victim had difficulty designating the months, did not know if Christmas came once or twice a year and his knowledge of the Civil War was based on a rumor of a "big battle across the ocean". And so it was with the others, "*ad infinitum et ad nauseum*". One old man with a wooden leg, "was a perfect hurricane". He stormed at the attorneys for "flattering" him and had to pause to let his emotion cool.

The trial lasted six days and Judge Parker's charge to the jury lasted one hour and forty-five minutes. The jury was out for three days and finally returned a verdict of guilty for Carolina Grayson, Peter Grayson, Man Lewis and Robert Love. Those four would not be sentenced until the following February. The rest of the conspirators were acquitted.

During December of '77 there was a decision rendered by Judge Parker in a murder case that was very controversial. On the surface it appeared to go against the decision that had been given in the case of Osey Sanders in which Sanders and the Cherokee Court tried to get the trial removed to the Cherokee jurisdiction. Their argument was that the victim was married to a member of the Cherokee Tribe and was an adopted citizen. Judge Parker ruled that in the case of a Major Reynolds that the same arguments did not hold and the application for writ of *habeas corpus* was granted.

Major Reynolds and the victim, Prueyear, were both domiciled in the Choctaw Nation, married to Choctaw women and, therefore members of the Choctaw Nation within the true intent of article 38 of the U. S. / Choctaw treaty of 1806. The wording of the pertinent paragraphs and the explanation of the decision were published in detail in the *Weekly Herald* on 12-24-77.

So 1877 ended with no executions. The January 9, 1878 edition of the *New Era* noted that the petit jury was discharged and that twenty-three more prisoners had been brought in, "a motley mixture of white men, Indians and negroes". And that the three prisoners, Robinson, Meadows and Wade, sentenced in August to hang January 18, 1878 had been commuted to life in prison by President Hayes. By the following Saturday, January 12, '78 new grand and petit juries had been selected and the cycle started again.

By the time the February 1878 term of the U.S. Court began all of the people who had been convicted and sentenced for capital crimes in the previous terms had been commuted to life in prison. Awaiting trial in that term were; murder 7, rape 1, assault to kill 9 and larceny 22. Of those 39, five were women and, of the women, two were charged with murder.

The two women murderers were white women, Elizabeth Owen and her daughter Dorcas, from the Choctaw Territory. The daughter had with her her child of three years. The women were accused of holding Ezekial Hurd while the husband of the older one killed him.

Some of Hurd's horses had gotten into Owen's fields and Mrs. Owen had "treated her neighbor's stock rather roughly". "Hurd had sent her a rather rough message such as is customary among people living without the civilizing influences of public schools and churches." Sometime later Mrs. Owen had confronted Hurd with a shotgun as he was riding by and demanded that he "give an account of himself" about that threatening message. Hurd, in explicit language, told her where to go and rode on. On his return Elizabeth Owen stood in the road and forced Hurd to dismount. After dismounting Hurd grabbed the gun and a struggle ensued. Dorcas, Mrs. Owen's daughter, ran from the house and joined in the struggle. All this time Mr. Owen had been nearby at the house skinning a coon. He, hearing and seeing the struggle ran to the road and, with the knife that he had been skinning the coon, stabbed Hurd. Mr. Owen immediately fled and at the time of the trial had not been seen. Hurd died about three weeks later.

The jury, on Tuesday, February 19, 1878, acquitted Elizabeth and Dorcas Owen of the charge. Some felt that if they had been men that the verdict would have been different as it was in the case of Carolina Grayson and friends where one person had committed the actual murder but all who were armed were convicted. An extenuating circumstance in the Owen case was that Mrs. Owen had nine living children, the oldest seventeen, and all, large and small, were in the courtroom. It was believed that the presence of the children surely weighed on the jury's decision.

The *New Era* noted in the last issue of February '78 that Judge Parker, in his "expeditious manner", had disposed of 41 sentences in one day. There were 31 yet to be tried but they would have to wait until the next term. This term had been abbreviated because of lack of funds.

Among the prisoners sentenced that February were the four convicted of the murder of Henry Ross. On February 25, 1878 Carolina Grayson, Peter Grayson, Man Lewis and Robert Love were sentenced to hang on Friday, June 21, 1878. But, on Friday June 14 Marshal Upham received a telegram from President Hayes commuting the sentences of Man Lewis, Robert Love and Peter Grayson. Only Carolina Grayson, the actual shooter, was not granted commutation.

As of June 19, 1878 the plan was proceeding to hang Grayson on the 21st and he was resigned to his fate. This hanging, unlike the ones preceding it, was to be a private affair. The platform was to be lowered four feet and it was to be surrounded by a sixteen-foot plank fence. The only witnesses were to be the guards, doctors, members of the press and family. "We think this arrangement will meet the approval of all enlightened people." (*New Era* June 19, 1878)

At 5:45 A.M. June 21, 1878 this telegram was sent from Washington, D. C. to U. S. District Marshal D. P. Upham: "Suspend execution of Carolina Grayson until further notice. Acknowledge receipt by telegraph. Charles Devans, Attorney General".

Grayson had requested to set his execution for 9:00 A. M.. However, that being such an early hour for a hanging it was set for a later hour. Had it not been for the delay Grayson would have been well into the preparation for his execution when he received the news. Grayson's sentence would eventually be commuted to life in prison at Detroit, Michigan.

It was speculated by the *Weekly Herald* that someone named Tilghman Knox, "threw the weight of his influence at Washington in the breach", and saved Grayson's life.

So ended the proceedings of the first session of the Western District Court for 1878 and on the first Monday in July 1878 what would have been the May session began. That session would run almost continuously through the fall and produce slightly different results.

Sources: National Archives

The New Era, Ft. Smith

The Weekly Herald, Ft. Smith

With help from Eric Leonard, Park

Ranger, Ft. Smith National Historic Site

A VICTIM FOR THE GALLOWS HANGING TOO GOOD FOR HIM

(*New Era* 8-21-'78)

A White Man and his Wife Fiendishly Murdered – Their Remains Devoured By Hogs and Their Little Child Abandoned to Starvation

(*Weekly Herald* 8-26-'78)

The acts of John Postoak and their results outraged the editors of the Fort Smith newspapers and they described, in gory detail, the crime scene. During the July term of the Western District Court only the case of Joseph Bonheur, charged with the serial raping of a seven-year-old girl, had elicited the indignation that Postoak's case did. Bonheur, however, would

be acquitted in the same month that Postoak was convicted, cause for more indignation.

The July 1878 term had begun with cases to be tried as follows:

Murder	8
Assault with intent to kill	5
Larceny	31
Robbing U. S. Mail	2
Rape	1
Violating Int. Rev. Law	4
Bigamy	1
Total	52

Of the murder cases only Postoak and one other were convicted and the other man would not stand trial until November 1878.

John Postoak, a Creek Indian, about 25, went to the home of John Ingley, near Eufala, in October 1877 and asked Ingley's wife to "back or direct" two letters for him that he expected to send to Okmulgee by Ingley. Ingley, who had been outside, came in and informed Postoak that he was not going to Okmulgee and that he did



John Postoak

not want him around his house anyway. Postoak then asked Ingley for tobacco. Ingley replied that he had no tobacco to give away and that Postoak was no better than a dog. Postoak, angered, went to the home of a neighbor and borrowed a gun

supposedly to kill a hog for the said neighbor. He returned to the Ingley home where Ingley was feeding his son of about 18 months. Postoak asked him if he were a man and when Ingley answered that he was Postoak reached up and took the victim's gun and threw it on the floor saying, "If you are a man, be a man." When Ingley reached down for the gun Postoak shot him. Ingley reached his gun and fired a shot that hit the doorframe and Postoak shot him again and Ingley fell out the door dead. Postoak took the empty gun and crushed the head of his victim and then broke the gun over a log. He then returned to the house and accused Mrs. Ingley of trying to help her husband to which she replied that she loved her husband and had tried to help him. Postoak then pressed the revolver against her and fired, killing her and setting her clothes on fire. He then left the house, which was situated far from any other habitation and rarely visited.

About twelve days later Postoak met some people whom he knew who were on their way to the Ingley home. Knowing that the deed would be discovered he made the foregoing confession

and threatened to "overtake" them if they ever told on him.

The next day after Postoak's confession and warning another party found the gruesome scene. The body of the man was lying outside the door in the yard and the woman in the door. Both their bodies had been eaten by animals, both wild and domestic. The head of the man was disconnected from the body and one arm of the woman was gone. There was hardly more than bones for interment.

Miraculously, the small child was found in a corner of the room, still alive, though emaciated. The newspaper accounts disagree on the fate of the child. One paper said that he was taken care of and "recovered from the shock and regained his wanton vigor." (*New Era* 8-21-'78) The other paper said that he "died in the course of a few weeks." (*Weekly Herald* 8-26-'78) It appears, though, that he may have survived. The *New Era*, on 11-16-'78, said, "But it lived to be a witness, though a silent one, against the slayer of its parents."

The trial lasted five days, ending on Friday August 16, 1878 when it was given to the jury. The jury, after only a short deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty.

The announcement of the verdict and anticipation of the sentencing caused the *New Era* to express the words, "hang by the neck until he is dead, dead, dead". That paper stated, "He is now in jail awaiting sentence, and when the Judge shall pronounce the words that he shall "hang by the neck until he is dead, *dead*, DEAD." There is no indication up to and including this case that Judge Parker ever spoke to a prisoner in that manner. When it came to the sentencing on October 14, 1878 the same newspaper quoted Judge Parker's entire address to the prisoner as he delivered it, almost verbatim, to every condemned person. It was the same compassionate speech that had been quoted on previous occasions with only the description of the crimes changed to fit the various cases. In it Parker sentenced John Postoak to "be hanged by the neck until you are dead" on December 20, 1878. "And may that God, whose laws you have broken and before whose dread tribunal you must now appear, have mercy on your soul."

The July term of the court, that should have been the May term, continued through October 1878 and only paused to replace the grand and petit jury pools and name new court officers before going into the November term. All during the July term the deputies had been bringing more prisoners and the grand jury had been turning out indictments so that there had been

more than the 52 cases that they had started with. There was a surprising number of counterfeiters and several women were indicted for liquor and revenue violations. Also during that term the court tried two Deputy Marshals, Twyman and Scoville, for malfeasance, embezzlement and bribery. The U. S. Government sued former U. S. District Marshal J. N. Sarber to retrieve money claimed by the government.

The U. S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas met for its first full session on Monday, November 4, 1878 and produced a murder conviction by Friday of the same week and sentencing the next day, Saturday, November 9.

In the summer of 1873 J. C. Gould had hired James Diggs, near the northern boundary of Indian Territory, to help in moving a herd of cattle that he was bringing from Texas. Gould also had in his employ Hiram Mann of Port Huron, Michigan.

Gould sold a cow to Robert C. Cary who lived near Coffeetown, Kansas for the sum of twenty-seven dollars, paid with five five-dollar bills and a two-dollar bill. A day or two later Diggs came to Cary in a state of excitement and told that during the night two



James Diggs

men from Texas had ridden up to the cabin where he, Gould and Mann were sleeping and killed both Mann and Gould. Diggs claimed that he had escaped into the woods and hidden under a crooked log. A large crowd soon gathered at the news and Diggs story was, at first, believed. But on looking for and finding no tracks of the purported killers suspicion was raised among the crowd which, by then, had grown considerably in size.

Diggs was made to show where he had hidden from the alleged murderers and a group of five accompanied him to the spot. When the place was pointed out it was found to be a small hollow overgrown by sprouts and covered with spider webs and appeared to have never been disturbed. Diggs was made to lie down in the hollow with the result that he demolished twigs, sprouts and cobwebs. He was then made to strip of his clothing and in the lining of his coat was found the identical amount that Cary had paid Gould for the cow. At this discovery Diggs became very agitated and sweated profusely.

The committee of five, instead of taking him back to the murder scene, knowing the fate that would befall him should the crowd learn the facts, took him to Coffeetown, Kansas. Diggs was then taken to Independence, Kansas thence to Fort Smith and the U. S. jail.

In March 1874 Diggs and thirteen others escaped from the U. S. jail but were recaptured the next day. At the November 1874 term of the court he was set free by Judge Caldwell after being in prison for over a year. There was nothing against him, the Kansas authorities having failed to transmit any document on the case.

The murderer, thinking that the case was closed "and justice asleep" returned to the Territory. He was not only mistaken in that belief but he was mistaken in thinking that both of the "murdered" men were indeed dead. Diggs had hit each man in the head with an axe more than once. He did not realize that Mann had recovered and that there were good witnesses against him. So, on June 24, 1878 Deputy U. S. Marshal J. C. Wilkinson arrested Diggs at the home of Louis Keys in the Osage Nation.

Mann's recovery had taken three years, miracle that it was. He had been struck across the left temple and back of his right eye, that blow leaving a permanent deep hollow and he had a horrible gash on his neck. His left jawbone was broken and protruded just below the eye. For a month he had lain comatose and his first exclamation after regaining consciousness was, "Well, Diggs liked to have got away with me."

At the trial there were, besides Mann, seven witnesses including a U. S. Deputy Marshal. Diggs was astounded when Mann appeared, the former assuming the latter to be dead. The trial began on Thursday, closed on Friday with the jury's verdict and on the next day Judge Parker pronounced sentence to be carried out December 20, 1878.

John Post oak and James Diggs not only were the perpetrators of heinous crimes but they had the singular distinction of being the first people executed by the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas to have their pictures published in a local newspaper. Their, surprisingly good quality, pictures appeared in the December 23, 1878 issue of the *Weekly Herald*.

The execution of Diggs and Post oak was not a public hanging. As was planned with the expected Carolina Grayson execution the plank fence had been raised to sixteen feet. In addition, Marshal Upham allowed no one inside the old garrison walls except those with passes, consisting principally of reporters, doctors, lawmen and clergymen.

At about 1:00 P. M. Marshal Upham and Chief Deputy Barnes entered the prison and read the death warrants to the condemned men. They were then led out preceded by their spiritual advisors, Rev. V. V. Harlan, of the M. E. Church for Post oak and Rev. C. G. Smith, of the Colored Baptist Church for Diggs.

The entourage proceeded to the scaffold, accompanied by the necessary guard. The procession mounted the platform, the prisoners showing very little emotion. Religious services were then held, in which both prisoners earnestly participated. Diggs advised everyone to beware of whiskey and cards and Post oak, having nothing to say in regard to his case, prayed at length in his native language. The prisoners shook hands all around and their arms and legs were secured, the black caps drawn over their faces and the ropes adjusted. A brief pause, a last farewell and the trap was sprung.

Post oak's neck was broken by the fall and he was dead in 11 minutes. Diggs' neck was not broken and he convulsed and his labored breathing could be heard. He expired in about 7 minutes after the drop fell.

The two year and three month hiatus for the gallows had ended and it would be another eight months before it served in another execution.

Sources: National Archives
New Era Fort Smith
Weekly Herald Fort Smith

Annual Business Sponsors

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Spiro State Bank
Spiro, Oklahoma 74959

Fort Smith Trolley Museum
100 South 4th Street • Fort Smith, AR 72901

In Loving Memory

(Abstracted from obituaries in *Fort Smith Times Record*)

WALTER COLLINS MINNIEAR

Walter Collins Minniear, 91, died July 19, 2002 in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. He was teacher and former chairman of the Humanities at Westark Community College, now called University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. He retired in 1987 after a 58 year teaching career in Illinois, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas.

He is survived by his wife, Mary of Pewaukee, Wisconsin; 7 children; a brother, Harry Minniear of Indianapolis; 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith or St. John's Episcopal Church in Fort Smith.

FRED BALLMAN

Fred Ballman, 89, died July 29, 2002. Retired chairman of the board of Baldor Electric and emeritus director of the Baldor Board, he was instrumental in opening Baldor Electric in Fort Smith. Buried in Roselawn Cemetery under direction of Putman Funeral Home of Fort Smith.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel, two daughters and two sons.

Memorial contributions may be made to Boy Scouts of America, 1401 South 31st street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901, Peachtree Hospice, 2910 Jenny Lind Road, Fort Smith, AR 72901 or Trinity Hospice, 201 West Okmulgee, Checotah, OK, 74426.

JACQUELIN ANN STARKS MOLLENHAUER

Jacquelin Ann Starks Mollenhauer, 64, died August 9, 2002. A member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, she moved to Fort Smith from Dallas, Texas where she was a teacher and principal in the Dallas Independent School District for 33 years. In Fort Smith she was the branch manager at the Dallas Street Branch Library of the Fort Smith Public Library, and an active member of Goddard United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Fred; her mother, Rosalie McClanahan of Enid, Oklahoma; one sister; two brothers; one son; a stepdaughter and four grandchildren.

REV. JOHN EARL "JACK" SHOEMAKER

Rev. John Earl "Jack" Shoemaker, 89, Rector

of St. John's Episcopal Church in Fort Smith from 1955 to 1967, died August 31, 2002.

He is survived by his wife, Embry Scott Shoemaker; three daughters; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to any Episcopal Church in Arkansas or to the charity of the donor's choice.

CHANCERY JUDGE

WARREN O. KIMBROUGH

Chancery Judge Warren O. Kimbrough, 78, active in professional and civic activities, died September 2, 2002.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, six children and nine grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th St., Fort Smith, AR, 72901 or a local community organization of donor's choice.

BAYLESS EARL COBB III

Bayless Earl Cobb 111, 87, died September 10, 2002. He graduated from Fort Smith High School in 1931, University of Texas in 1935.

A Fort Smith civic leader and business man, he is survived by his wife, Madge, four sons and eight grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fort Smith Public Library, 3201 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903 or Sparks Regional Medical Center, 1311 South I (eye) Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901 or Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House, 3324 South M Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

MARY ELIZABETH WALLACE VERTREES

Mary Elizabeth Wallace Vertrees, 87, died September 15, 2001. She was a long time member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, the First Methodist Church, United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), and a number of other area clubs and organizations.

She was the widow of Thomas F. Vertrees, Sr. and is survived by a son, Thomas F. Vertrees, Jr. of Fort Smith; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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

LOUIS F. LORENZ

Louis F. Lorenz, 88, died December 4, 2002. Members of the Lorenz family have been members of the Fort Smith Historical Society for many years. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Fort Smith and the Fort Smith and Poteau camera clubs. He was co-owner of Lorenz and Vaughn Co., manufacturer of truck bodies. His father worked for the wagon factory in early Fort Smith and a story of the family was published in Volume II, Number I, April 1978 issue of *The Journal*.

He is survived by his wife, Billie Lorenz of the home; a stepdaughter, Joy Schichtl of Conway; a stepson, John L. Awbrey of Van Buren, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Christian Church, 3600 Free Ferry, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

HERVY M. HUIE

Hervy M. Huie, 76, retired assistant fire chief for the Fort Smith Fire Department, died October 27, 2002.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; a son, David Huie of Fort Smith, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fort Smith Fire department, 200 North Fifth street, Fort Smith, AR 72901 or the Gospel Rescue Mission, 201 Drennen, Van Buren, AR 72956.

MARSHA GAIL SHOPPACH

Marsha Gail Shoppach, 66, who taught school for 33 years, died November 29, 2002. Burial was in Oak Cemetery in Fort Smith under direction of Lewis Funeral Chapel. She was a member of Grand Avenue Baptist Church and helped start the Helping Hands ministry of the church.

She is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Ronnie and Shirley Shoppach of Fort Smith, a niece, a nephew and a great-nephew.

McDONALD POE JR., M.D.

McDonald Poe Jr., M.D., died December 5, 2002.

He is survived by his wife, Billie Ruth; three stepdaughters, a stepson, a sister, a brother, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 1400 Grand Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

WARREN "WES" McCULLOUGH

Warren "Wes" McCullough, 60, son of Sarah McCullough, associate editor of *The Journal*, died January 17, 2003 in Columbia, Louisiana. He was a retired chief engineer in the towing

industry and an air force veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Ouida; a daughter, Traci Johnston of Omaha, Nebraska; a son, Shannon McCullough of Waldron, Arkansas; a stepdaughter, Susan Parker of Grayson; three stepsons, Lynn and Kenny Finley, both of Columbia, Louisiana, and Danny Finley of Grayson; his mother, Sarah McCullough and two sisters, Katy Pickering of Duette, Florida and Mary Ferrari of Fort Smith, 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Smith Historical Society, P. O. Box 3676, Fort Smith, AR 72913 or to the American Cancer Society.

JOAN VINSON MILLER

Joan Vinson Miller, 71, died January 19, 2003. A strong supporter of the Fort Smith Public Library, she donated a bookmobile to the library and was instrumental in building the Miller Branch Library. Together with her husband, they established the Bob and Joan Miller Scholarship at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

She is survived by her husband, Robert E. "Bob" Miller; a son, Michael Vinson Miller; one daughter, Marcia Miller Clement, and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 200 North 15th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901, Fort Smith Public Library Endowment Trust - Miller Branch, 320 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903 or Bob and Joan Miller Scholarship Endowment, University of Arkansas Fort Smith, P.O. Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649.

SUE ELIZABETH McCAIN

Sue Elizabeth McCain, 74, died August 18, 2002. A member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, Sue served as corresponding secretary several years. She was an active member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, past regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a former teacher at the Arkansas School of Business and a volunteer at the genealogy room at the Fort Smith Public Library.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth; a daughter, Kenya Harbin of Fort Smith; two sons, Bill and Brian McCain, both of Fort Smith; a sister, Tommye Bell West of Russellville and six grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 605 North 47th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903, the Fort Smith Public Library Genealogy Department, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72903 or the Fort Smith Historical Society, P. O. Box 3676, Fort Smith, AR 72913.

News & Opportunities

**FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2003 ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, April 24, 6:30
River Park Events Building**

**This will be a joint meeting with the
Fort-Smith Social Studies Educators
Frontier Achievement Awards
Presentation Meeting**

**Reception at 6:30 p.m.
Program of Presentations 7:00**

**Historical Society Business meeting
immediately after award
presentation program
open meeting — feel free to bring guests**

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

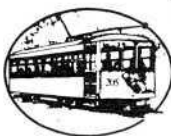
April 24 - 26 • Monticello, Arkansas

For further information, Contact
Arkansas Historical Association
Old Main #416
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville AR 72901
PH: 479-575-5884
E-mail: rcamp@uark.edu

Benefits of membership in the Arkansas Historical Association include receiving the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, a newsletter covering the activities of historical organizations across the state, and invitations to AHA programs and events. One year dues are \$20.00, two year membership dues are \$35.00.

For more information, please contact Arkansas Historical Association, Rhonda Camp, Business Manager at address above.

FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM



The first phase of the trolley extension and streetscape project by the city of Fort Smith is completed and was dedicated February 6, 2003. The track extends from mid-block between 3rd and 4th streets to 2nd street adjacent to the newly constructed Ross

Pendergraft Park. The length of the track installed was 810 feet including two switches bringing total length of the track to over 3000 feet.



Dr. Art Martin and Mayor Ray Baker cut the ribbon at ceremony dedicating completion of first phase of the trolley track extension to Ross Pendergraft Park and streetscape project. Photo by Bradley Martin.

This extension will give the operating 1926 Fort Smith Light and Traction streetcar a much needed exposure to visitor and local traffic.

The project was planned by the City of Fort Smith Engineering Department to correct drainage problems, increase the ongoing streetscape plans and the track extension at a total cost of \$770,000. Design engineers were Mickle Wagner Coleman Engineers. Future projects by the City are to extend the track another block west turning north under the Garrison Avenue bridge to 1st street and stopping across the railroad track from the Visitors Center and the Riverfront Park.

On the east end, the track is to be extended from the National Cemetery to the Convention Center. When the project is completed the trolley will become a means of transportation as well as part of Fort Smith history. The city is also helping to restore a second streetcar that will be needed when the track project is completed. Fort Smith will then have a very unusual tourist attraction to add to the history.

2002 SPIRIT OF THE FRONTIER AWARD

The Spirit of the Frontier Award is the highest honor given by the city and is given to individuals who have been examples of the Frontier Spirit that have helped to make Fort Smith, Arkansas one of the outstanding cities in the United States.

The Spirit of the Frontier winners have helped to blaze new trails, ford heights, and make a difference in helping to make "Life Worth Living in Fort Smith, Arkansas."

Recipients of the 2002 award are The Reverend Cliff Ahart, Coach Ronnie Batement, Dr. Art Martin, Arthur Lee Kirksey, Billy Dooly, Marilyn Foster, Isabelle Bass, Inez DeVito, Donna Wintory, Dr. Kemal Kutait and David McMahon, Sr.

MAYOR'S ANIMAL HERO AWARD

Recipient of the Mayor's Animal Hero Award was Max, who's human companion is Jasmin Fraleigh. He received the award for his contributions and work in the World Trade Center and Webber's Falls tragedies. The award will be given annually to animal heroes who risk their lives to help others in need.

THREE CELEBRATE 100th BIRTHDAY

Roy Perry, a longtime resident of Fort Smith, on May 5, 2002, celebrated his 100th birthday with friends at the Seventh-day Adventist Church gymnasium.

Edna H. Ragar celebrated her 100th birthday with an open house for family and friends in the dining room at Methodist Village, 7811 Euper Lane.

Bessie Lewis celebrated her 100th birthday with a party with relatives and friends November 16, 2002 at her home. She is the widow of Jessie Lewis and the mother of three daughters, Johnnie Davis of Fort Smith and Mildred Rudd and Erla Mae Vecchiollo, both deceased. She has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Roy Perry
Photo courtesy of
Dick Perry

Edna H. Ragar
Photo courtesy of
Rick Bungart

Bessie Lewis
Photo courtesy of
Johnnie Davis

CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL BRYANT

Congratulations to Michael Bryant. He has been notified that his condensed version of his article *One Battle; Two States, Two Markers* which was published in Volume 22, No. 2 of *The Journal* has been accepted for publication in the *Blue & Gray* magazine. Mr. Bryant received an award from the Arkansas Civil War Roundtable when the article was printed in *The Journal*.

News Chronology

June 1, 2002 – January 31, 2003

(Abstracted from Fort Smith Times Record and Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

by Becky and J. P. Chancey

JUNE 2002

1st—Friends in High Places — Matthew Hammer walked out of Southside Stadium Friday night alongside Garth Brooks, who attended Hammer's graduation from Southside High School. Brooks, who described Hammer as "an old baseball buddy", sat with Hammer's family throughout the ceremony.

6th—Fund-Raiser "Roasts" area politicians — Gridiron 2002, the community's first "roast" show since 1994, is being staged to raise money to purchase about 100 acres of land off Clayton Expressway to relocate Andrews Softball Field and Park. The existing field has been donated to the Veterans Administration for the expansion of National Cemetery. The show will be held June 14-15 at the Arkansas Best Performing Arts Center.

6th—Fort Smith Little Theatre will stage a benefit performance of "The Cocktail Hour" for Project Compassion.

6th—Bill Priokos, a Dallas businessman, who earlier turned down an offer to be Fort Smith's downtown marketing/development director, has accepted the position. The Fort Smith Central Business Improvement District Commission Wednesday repeated it's offer to Priokos, the commission's preferred pick for the job from applicants it interviewed last winter.

9th—Air-Conditioned Facilities Planned for Elderly, Others at Risk from Heat — More than 100 organizations in Eastern Oklahoma and Western Arkansas have offered to open their doors to the public this summer. Some of the facilities include libraries, shopping centers, and community and senior citizen centers, and many of these sites will remain open until 9 PM and 10 PM.

9th—Years of planning, tons of concrete and steel, and many loving hours of hard back breaking labor, resulted in a single "Wow" by many guests attending a black-tie gala May 31 to unveil St. Edward Mercy Medical Center's new Centers of Excellence. The 70 million dollar addition almost doubles the size of the hospital, and increases its visibility on East Rogers Avenue.

The 340,000 square-foot facility includes the Heart Center, Outpatient Center and Women's Center.

20th—Mercy Crest, a residential care (assisted living) facility in Barling, is expanding both its facility and its services. The project will add 40 apartments, with 30 of the new units being independent living.

22nd—Area Men Saddle Up to Take Church Services to Rodeos — For many cowboys, weekends are filled with rodeo, roping and riding. Because of the distances many rodeo competitors travel, it is sometimes difficult to make it to worship services on Sunday mornings. Larry Smith, of Alma, has been ministering to cowboys for some 25 years by providing church services on Sunday morning in the bleachers of the arena. Another area cowboy, Danny Jackson, of Cedarville, ministers to youngsters on the high school rodeo circuit.

23rd—Frontier Achievement Awards were recently presented Stan Kujawa, Claudia Scherrey and Tom Caldarera. Each year the Mayor recognized citizens who have made significant contributions to preserving the city's rich history, culture and heritage.

30th—The new airport entry road has been named "McKennon Boulevard", after World War II ace Major Pierce McKennon, who grew up in Fort Smith.

JULY 2002

1st—Clare Miller, of Fort Smith, is finding an enlightening education through services abroad. Miller recently returned from Jerusalem, where she spent five intense months learning Hebrew and Jewish history, and leading Israeli in worship and prayer services. This August, her 18-year-old brother, Neil, will accompany Miller when she returns to Israel for another 5-month stay.

4th—Daniel Stewart, of the Sebastian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, has been appointed by Gov. Mike Huckabee to fill the term of retiring Sebastian County District Court Judge Les Evitts.

5th—Fort Smith residents and out of towners, the young and the old, came together Thursday at the Mayor's Fourth of July Celebration at Fort Smith River Park. An Independence Day gathering, many said this took on added significance in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

12th—Housing for Homeless to Expand — The Fort Smith Salvation Army is expanding its transitional housing program to provide relief for families who have been left homeless. This week the Fort Smith Planning Commission gave the Salvation Army the go-ahead for the construction of four duplexes at 500 N. Fourth St.

14th—Symphony Conductor receives National Award at Conference — John Jeter, music director and conductor for the Fort Smith Symphony won the American Symphony Orchestra League's Helen M. Thompson Award during the organization's June 14 national conference in Philadelphia.

21st—UAFS to offer Bachelor's in Nursing — Nurses interested in a bachelor's degree will have the opportunity to take upper-level classes at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith this Spring.

26th—In two separate meetings, each lasting just minutes, a land dispute that has stalled development of excess Fort Chaffee land for several years came to an end. The Fort Smith Board of directors, meeting at noon, and the Fort Chaffee Public Trust, convening hours later, each adopted resolutions authorizing an agreement between the Trust, and the cities of Fort Smith and Barling, dividing nearly 4,000 acres of land conveyed to the Trust for public use.

AUGUST 2002

5th—Howard Elementary Officials Say Discipline Improved by Year-Round Calendar — Breaks from school fall in the months of October, February and May, as well as the more traditional times of Thanksgiving, Christmas and March. Howard also breaks for 5 weeks in the summer.

9th—New Bachelor's Degrees Offered at UAFS — The University will offer bachelor's degree programs in business, accounting, early childhood education and liberal arts.

19th—Local resident, Jenny Booker, traveled to Bolivia August 11th to deliver optical care as part of a two week "Give the gift of sight" optical mission sponsored by Lenscrafters Foundation. She delivered thousands of pairs of recycled eyeglasses collected through Lenscrafters Foundation and Lions Club International.

23rd—Guard Unit Called to Active Duty — “We are a combat unit”, said Lt. Col Bo Davenport, battalion commander of 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, headquartered in Fort Smith. Davenport and his men have received word that they will be mobilized September 3, for a “security-related mission” somewhere in the United States. The unit will report to Fort Sill in Oklahoma on September 6, Davenport said.

28th—Transportation Secretary Visits Airport — Norman Mineta attended the unveiling of a new terminal at Fort Smith Regional Airport, August 28th. An invitation only crowd of at least 400 people attended to hear Mineta speak. An open House to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new airport terminal will be held September 12, 2002.

SEPTEMBER 2002

1ST—Gene McVay, of Fort Smith, has been elected Northwest Vice Commander for the American Legion Department of Arkansas. McVay is a retired fighter pilot and Wing Commander.

8th—Local Events to Mark Anniversary of Attacks — In observance of the one-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks, President Bush has declared Wednesday, September 11 the first observance of Patriot Day. Some of the observances are: 10 AM - Fort Smith Christian School – A memorial chapel service will take place in the school's auditorium. The public is encouraged to attend. 11 AM – Fort Smith Courthouse Lawn — Patriot Day ceremonies will be observed with local members and other community members. 12 Noon – Goddard United Methodist Church – “A Service of Remembrance and Hope” – Guests include Mayor Ray Baker and Joe Sexon, director of Fort Smith Emergency Medical Services, who spent time in the emergency efforts at Ground Zero. 7 PM – River Park Amphitheater – “A Time to Remember” – Northside High School Choir, Southside High School Choir, First United Methodist Choir, American Legion Color Guard, Fort Smith Fire and Police Department representatives, U.S. Coast Guard and elected officials will gather for a candle lighting ceremony, a commemorative twin tower light display, canon report and a fly-over of the 188th Fighting Razorbacks. Rev. David Orr, of first United Methodist Church, is coordinator for the event.

14th—Police Dog Hangs up Leash — Van Buren

K-9 Harry is just wild about retirement — Van Buren police Sgt. Larry Brown will work solo from now on. Brown's canine partner, Harry, was retired from active service September 13th, after seven years with the Van Buren police department. Born in Germany, Harry was purchased by the city of Van Buren for \$6,500.00, which included training fees. During his career, he assisted in more than 100 drug-related arrests and the seizure of about 1,800 pounds of marijuana, 11 pounds of methamphetamine, 27 ounces of cocaine and more than \$100,000.00 cash. “He's paid for himself over and over,” Brown said.

18th—Voters Say No To Tax Hike — Fort Smith residents Tuesday overwhelmingly voted against millage increases for Fort Smith Public Schools and the Fort Smith Public Library.

20th—The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, on Thursday, unanimously approved the purchase of land by the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith as well as four new degree programs at the school. The land is a 43,000 square-foot lot at 441 N. Waldron Road, and will be used to create a 660-space parking lot that will serve the school's planned health sciences building and the convocation center. The Board approved the school's request to create a bachelor of science program in biology with teacher licensure; a bachelor of music education; a bachelor of science in mathematics with teacher licensure; and a bachelor of science in middle-level education with emphasis in mathematics and science. The classes will be available in the spring.

24th—College Fair Slated September 24 at Schools — Fort Smith Public Schools will host a College Fair for students and parents seeking college information from 9 to 11 AM. College representatives will be at the Gayle Kaundart Field House at Northside High School. Representatives will meet with parents and students of Southside High School from 1:30 to 3:10 PM in the gymnasium. Colleges from throughout Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Tennessee, will be represented.

28th—Fort Smith National Historic Site will present a Mexican War era cannon program at 11 AM today on the parade grounds. Park staff and volunteers will be dressed in re-enactment uniforms and will demonstrate the loading and firing practices of the time period.

OCTOBER 2002

4th—Fort Smith and Oklahoma area U.S. Postal Service workers picketed post offices and handed out information packets to raise community awareness about the proposed moving of Fort Smith area mail processing services to the USPS plant in Fayetteville.

7th—Marketing Director, Cindy Long, says Chaffee land has a new name and a new start, and convincing developers and area residents to invest in trust property will involve work, not words. Long noted the infrastructure improvements and an aggressive marketing campaign will help put aside two years of turmoil. "With a new name for the land – Chaffee Crossing – also comes a new start for the embattled trust", she said.

10th—Lynn Cheney gives History Lesson — Vice President's wife urges parents to teach children about past. Lynn Cheney celebrated the value of history, speaking October 9th to business leaders in Fort Smith. Cheney, former chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and wife of Vice President Dick Cheney, addressed about 600 attendees at the 116th annual banquet of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce at the Fort Smith Convention Center.

10th—Alltel Corporation announced October 9th, that it will locate a new distribution center in Fort Smith. The center will be at 5000 Burrough Road, on a 7.7 acre lot in the Walker Industrial Park.

11th—The opening reception for Artists on Garrison, a showcase of area artists, was held October 11th, at 812 Garrison Avenue in Fort Smith. The idea behind the exhibit is exposure for work that might otherwise go unnoticed.

12th—Yorktown Food Court is under construction at Phoenix and South 66th Street. The 13,000 square-foot building is expected to open in April, 2003, and will house Tommy's Seafood and Steaks, Eddie's –Art's BBQ, Miss Laura's Social Club Piano Bar, and the Prime Cut Meat Market and Seafood Shop. Owner, Eddie York, said he would employ about 100 people.

14th—The Wild, Wild West – Fort Smith native designs new museum. – Charles Preston, a 1970 graduate of Northside High School, recently led the design and development of the Draper

Museum of natural History at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming.

14th—Students, teachers and parents at River Valley Christian School have raised more than \$40,000.00 by selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts every Friday morning at several Fort Smith locations. Paul Bridges, RVCS administrator, said the fund-raiser is a team effort, with staff and volunteers trading off responsibility for driving to Oklahoma City Thursday Night to pick up fresh doughnuts.

19th—Families Give 188th Tearful Send-off to Asia — Tears flowed October 18th at the 188th Fighter Wing as the families of 39 soldiers watched their loved ones begin a journey that will take them to Southwest Asia. The 39-member advance team will arrive at an undisclosed base ahead of about 90 additional 188th members who leave next week to participate in enforcing the no-fly and no-drive zones in Southern Iraq.

27th—A groundbreaking for DuVal Place will be at 9:30 AM Monday at the site. City officials, Fort Smith Housing Authority commissioners, and U.S. Sen. Tim Hutchinson, will attend. The housing project is at the site of the former DuVal School, on North L Street between 14th and 15th Streets. Plans are to build 14 houses. City directors have approved about \$80,000.00 to go toward the homes, whose buyers must meet local low-to moderate-income requirements.

NOVEMBER 2002

3rd—Weldon, Williams and Lick, Inc., of Fort Smith, achieved national recognition for its human relations efforts in the third annual Best Workplace in America Program.

3rd—A grant of more than \$50,000.00 to the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House will promote a five-step breast cancer prevention program presented in Spanish, Laotian and Vietnamese – three target audiences with women who may not have heard basic cancer prevention information. The program could reach as many as 1,800 women in local industries, high schools and universities.

3rd—"America's Mayor" – Giuliani stumps for GOP — The standing-room-only crowd "went wild" over 'Rudy' in the Holiday Inn City Center on November 2, GOP Rally.

5th—Legion Spat: Cemetery or Softball? With the purchase of land on Clayton Expressway for a girl's softball complex imminent, an argument continues over whether state-appropriated money can be used to buy the land. Members of The American Legion's Ellig-Stouffer Post No. 31 on Monday called a special meeting to discuss the arrangement between the national Cemetery Acquisition Committee, the City of Fort Smith and the Sebastian County Girls Softball Association involving the city's donation of Andrews Field to the National Cemetery and the purchase of a replacement field for the softball association. At the center of the controversy is 2001 state legislation appropriating \$200,000.00 "for the expansion of the National Cemetery".

5th—Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce President Billy Dooly announces his retirement effective June 30.

10th—Grand Daughter Tells Tilles Tale — With the help of family memories and boxes of old letters, Nancy Tilles Carver has pieced together a detailed history of one of Fort Smith's favorite sons. In her newly released biography, "Talk with Tilles, Selling Life in Fort Smith, Arkansas," Carver tells the public and private story of her great-grandfather, George Tilles.

11th—Bike Path Markers Going Up — Bicyclists sharing the streets with Fort Smith motorists may be a bit safer, thanks to efforts by the City Parks and Recreation Department. Last week city crews started installing 1,300 signs along 93 miles of city streets, designating them as part of a bike route system.

22nd—The Fort Chaffee Public Trust eased a few suspicious minds by vowing never to sell to private investors the barbershop where Elvis Presley got his military haircut. The decision was a relief to Fort Smith teacher Jan Honeycutt, whose Beard Elementary School students have been working since 1996 to make the now-empty barbershop a tourist attraction. Honeycutt's classes have a bank account of more than \$900.00 earmarked for restoration. Each year her class hosts a fundraiser near the anniversary of Presley's March 25, 1958 haircut.

23rd—A herd of cattle moved up Rogers Avenue on Friday, November 22nd, kicking off the opening of the 44th Annual Arkansas Cattlemen's Association at the Fort Smith Convention Center.

28th—A group of Fort Smith radio stations will move off Garrison Avenue and into a building purchased from OG&E which is closing its Fort Smith payment office. OG&E sold its property at 311 Lexington Ave. to Clear Channel LA, LLC for \$678,000.00 on November 18. OG&E customers will still be allowed to pay their electric bills in person at authorized payment agents in Fort Smith.

29th—The Key Opens Door to History — Magazine tells county's past. — Bustling streets of now-quiet towns and rumbling passenger trains are some remnants of Sebastian County that Luan Hearn Moore will always remember. She and dozens of other amateur historians have worked to patch together these memories so others, too, will never forget. Moore shared her recollections in the 2002 edition of *The Key*, a historical magazine published annually by the South Sebastian County Historical Society.

DECEMBER 2002

1st—Head of Little Rock FBI Field Office Happy to be Back in Arkansas — Fort Smith native, Bill Temple, started his career in Arkansas. Now, as special agent in charge of the FBI's Little Rock field office, Temple will be responsible for protecting Arkansas. Temple is the son of Jean and Tom Temple of Fort Smith.

8th—Fort Smith parade slated for Saturday — More than 80 groups from the area will gather for a "Rock-n-Roll Christmas" at 6 PM Saturday in down-town Fort Smith.

9th—Barbara and Tommy Fowler, of Fort Smith, received this year's Grand Orchid Award, a project of Keep Fort Smith Beautiful with pride that recognizes the efforts of residential gardeners.

12th—Atkins American to design Air National Guard Center in Fort Smith — A 2.4 million dollar operations and training center and remodeling of existing buildings for a project cost of 4.7 million dollars will be done at the Air National Guard 188th Fighter Wing base.

14th—Shop with a cop program has big plans to purchase presents for 350 children. Members of the Fort Smith Fraternal Order of Police take the children to the Wal-Mart Super Center at 8301 Rogers Avenue and give each of them \$50.00 to spend. A telephone fund drive in the summer raised about \$18,000.00 for the project.

JANUARY 2003

17th—Schools Plan Safe Rooms — Two Fort Smith elementary schools will be outfitted with tornado safe rooms, school superintendent Benny Gooden told the Fort Smith School Board December 16th. Gooden said the Federal Emergency Management Administration has awarded \$600,000.00 grants, which will be matched with \$100,000.00 grants from both the district and the state, for each of the rooms. FEMA has designated Barling Elementary School and Cook Elementary School as locations for the emergency shelters.

22nd—This Old Schoolhouse — For Lily Bugg Wingfield, 78, thoughts of school and Christmas programs and rural school pranks and antics flood her remembrances of Maness School. The native stone building situated near Wells Lake, on Fort Chaffee land, is where Wingfield and former classmates attended school from February 1937 until the spring of 1942. Through the recently formed Maness School Historical Society, Wingfield, a Barling resident and local historian, and others interested in saving a piece of history are hoping to restore the old schoolhouse. Built in 1937 by WPA labor, the building was not just a schoolhouse---it was the only public building in the community.

30th—Land Office Publishes 1868 Arkansas Survey — In a survey, Benton County officials reported in 1868 that the health of the public in their county was generally good, "except diseases supposed to be brought by Texas droves". The entry is just one of thousands documented in a 263 page book, "*The 1869 Report*". The official release of the book is to be at 10 AM today at the Dara Center of the Central Arkansas library in Little Rock. Land Commissioner Charlie Daniels conceived the idea for the book after he took office in 1985. "I came across a box of old papers in the basement of the State Capitol shortly after I took office", said Daniels who is term-limited and was elected Secretary of State in November. The book will be distributed free to county libraries and state university libraries throughout the state. It will be sold to the public for \$29.95 each to defray printing costs.

31st—Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker will host his annual Mayor's New Year's Eve Celebration beginning at 8 PM tonight at the Fort Smith convention Center exhibit hall.

3rd—Produce Row — Historic 'Dream' Goes up in Flames — Downtown building erected in 1884 was being renovated, due to open this spring. Fred Williams and Phil White could only watch as flames consumed their "shiny jewel" at 13-15 N. Second, January 2. Longtime residents knew the building as Reynolds Wholesale Grocer and later as RMB Produce.

3rd—Fort Smith Man Converting Downtown Building into Place for Young Artists — Dwight Curry, the founder of the Youth Arts Coalition, and his group are turning the Jeffrey Smith Group building on North Second Street into a new theatre, ballet studio, art gallery and coffee shop to benefit youth and the arts.

5th—Chili Adds Spice to Fort Smith — A Mexican worker in his Temple, Texas, confectionery shop taught his boss, turn-of-the-century Lebanese immigrant Papa Joe Korkames, how to make chili. Papa Joe Korkames spiced up the recipe to suit his own taste buds. He relocated in 1935, opening Famous Café in Fort Smith on the island across from Fort Smith High School. "People started buying (the chili) out of the restaurant, and they opened a facility behind the café to package it," said Michael Korkames, Famous Chili marketing president. Michael Korkames is the brother to Famous Chili CEO David Korkames and grandson to Papa Joe Korkames. "Our motto since 1935 is to try it once and you'll want it again," Mike Korkames said. The plant at 1421 N. Seventh produces 25,000 pounds of chili a week during the busy season. Famous Chili is the only company specializing in Chili manufactured in Arkansas.

9th—Design work will start this spring on a park lodge atop the states highest point, Mount Magazine. Plans call for the 90,000 square-foot 60-room lodge and 15 cabins to be finished by 2005. The lodge will sit on the site of an old lodge that burned in 1971.

10th—Cookie Sales More Than Fund Raising — After the Girl Scouts of Muskogee, Oklahoma, baked and sold cookies in 1917, in a school cafeteria, as a service project, Girl Scout Cookie sales have evolved into more than fund raising. Girl Scouts' annual drive teaches leadership, money management, and safety-awareness. Cookies go on sale January 9. All money earned from the cookie sale remains in the area where the cookies were sold.

13th—Nature and Wildlife photographer, C.C. Lockwood, a Fort Smith native, signed copies of his latest book, "*The Alligator Book*", at the main branch of the Fort Smith Public Library January 12. A collection of prints from the book will be on display through February.

15th—Good Samaritan Clinic to Open — The clinic will operate five days and at least one night each week to provide medical care to the homeless, the elderly, the unemployed and low-income families that have no health insurance. A full time physician, Dr. Sharon Miller, and scores of volunteers will staff the clinic at 615 North B Street. Since 1988, St. Paul's Methodist Church has operated a free clinic for the poor every Tuesday night, with volunteer help. St. Paul's clinic will be integrated into Good Samaritan. St. John's Episcopal Church has purchased the property for the clinic. Work is under way to totally remodel the building on B Street.

18th—New Hotel Planned for Downtown —

Around February 2005, John Q Hammons plans to open a new 150 to 160 room Marriott Court Yard hotel on the other side of the new Fort Smith convention Center. In 1986, Hammons built the Fort Smith Plaza Hotel, now the Holiday Inn City Center. As in the Holiday Inn, Hammons proposes to physically connect the Marriott to the Convention Center.

21st—Fort Smith resident, Fran Still, was recognized January 17, as the recipient of the 2002 Golden Deeds Award, presented at the Book of Golden Deeds Award Banquet, hosted by the Fort Smith Noon Exchange Club. Still holds an Associate's degree in law enforcement and a Master's in Social work and has volunteered her time to provide mediation and counseling services. She, also, was instrumental in creating the Community Clearinghouse, the Juvenile Intake Center, Peace Makers, Community Solutions in Prayers, the Human Services Program at Westark, Sebastian and Crawford County Welfare Reform and the Community Dental Clinic.

LETTER FROM READER (CORRESPONDENCE FROM JESSE CAMPBELL TO JOHN COPPICK)

Dear Editors,

I have recently been reading some back issues of the FSHS Journal. In the April 1986 issue on page 38 there is an article about a Deputy Marshal getting Killed. I am sending you a copy of two fragments of letters (or one postcard) that I have received in my search for ancestors. The man who wrote these was a half brother to my Grandfather. I do not have the originals I copied them exactly as they were sent to me. I thought they might be of interest to someone. We believe Jesse Campbell died in 1893 but have very little information on him. I have written to the County Courthouse for a copy of the divorce he mentions but never got a reply.

I enjoy reading the journals very much, especially the old newspapers, so I thought you might enjoy reading these.

I am enclosing my dues.

Sincerely

Doris Jenkins, Hackett, Arkansas

(Editor. These letter fragments are printed exactly as we received them.)



A LETTER FRAGMENT FROM JESSE CAMPBELL TO JOHN COPPICK, JR (his half-bro.)

Coffeyville, Kansas
April 18, 1886

Well John & Charley & Ad and all it is sunday and I will try to write you a few words John I left home a few days after you did I went to Fortsmith stayed there a week went over to Mrs Thomasas stayed there 2 weeks and come back to smith got in with Jack Richison a marshal as a teamster and guard and Richison got killed on the start trying to arrest a desparado and his possey got a Commission as marshal and he made me possey I am getting sixty dollars expences and I draw my money from the goverment every trip I make. I have sold my mules and bought a fine mar to ride. This is a good Job but I dont know how long it will last there is 2 or 3 men trying to get the place. I am employed by the marshal but the goverment payes me I believe I will get to make 2 or 3 trips it takes about 30 or 40 days to make a trip we are now camped at Coffeyville Kansas' 200 miles from FtS' we have 3 prisoners will get some more tomorrow I have not herd from home since I left tho the next trip we make we will go through

POST CARD FROM JESSE CAMPBELL TO JOHN COPPICK, JR. (His half-brother)

John Coppick
Belton Bell Co
Texas
(postmarked Jun 5 1886, Kan.)

Coffeyville Kansas June 3 1886

John I am still in the Marshall business we are at the above place we have nine prisoners in Camp we will start to Fort Smith next week with them it is about 240 miles John I am making money fast but I am spending it fast I have sued in the Circuit at Fort Smith for a divorce will get it next month. I am well yours Jesse Campbell

Genealogy News

by Janice Bufford Eddleman

COMPUTERS, GENEALOGY AND YOU

Like almost everything else in our modern day society, computers are the latest craze in genealogy. Computers can help the family historian in two ways. They can provide a way to record your family knowledge and they can be a tremendous help in research. In this article, I shall attempt to address the beginning steps in the use of a computer in both recording and researching family history. However, there are some pitfalls of which the genealogical researcher should be aware and we will also look at these.

If you are just getting started in using a computer for genealogy, probably one of the first things in which you will be interested is a program to record your growing knowledge about your family and there are many available. "Family Tree" is one of the most popular commercial ones and works well. However, I, being a frugal person, see no reason to pay for a genealogy program when one of the best ones around is available free of charge. You can download onto your computer Personal Ancestry File 5.1 totally free at <http://www.familysearch.org/> courtesy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is a very comprehensive and user friendly software program.

Some of the things that you will want to know about any program you use are:

- (1) Does it give you a way and space to record the sources of your information?
- (2) Can you print only selected sections of your records?
- (3) Can you incorporate pictures, documents, diagrams, etc. into your record?
- (4) Can you sort records by a person's name?
- (5) Just in case you decide to author a family history book, can your information be imported into a word file?

(6) With what other programs is it compatible? Think about what you need the program to do and ask if the program can do those things.

If you are purchasing a program, make sure that it "fits" your computer and that it is on a level that you can use. Also, ask about support services. Too many instruction manuals for software are written in what I call "computerese" and take a real "computer geek" to understand them. Unless you are blessed with a computer

guru in your household, you need to know that you can call for help and get it.

Once you have decided upon a program for your use, you should also be aware of some of the pitfalls that may trap you and your family history. One of the major ones is that about every ten years, currently, computers and computer systems change so much that they are no longer compatible with older programs. New technology doubles about every eighteen months and some things disappear completely with time. For example, in the early 1980s, most personal computers used an operating system called "CPM". That was rapidly replaced by another totally different system called "DOS" and if I had not had my own personal computer guru (aka, my husband), I would have lost most of my computer entered information. Even though "Windows" was originally based upon "Dos", it is rapidly evolving into an entirely different system. CD roms are currently advertised as being a permanent way to store information and they have very long lives, but if there is no way to "read" them, does it matter how long they last? Many of you may remember, as I do, the evolution from 78 records to 45s to 8 tracks to cassettes to CDs. Your best bet here is to use the computer, but always have a paper back up. If you use acid free paper and store them in an environment that is not too humid or hot, that material will be around and readable for many years. It is a good idea to donate copies of your work to libraries, museums and/or archives.

The second use of computers in genealogy is for research. The number and type of web sites available increases and changes every day. Here, too, there are those sites which are free and those which charge a fee. Web sites have any number of types. There are those that are for surnames, for immigration records, for military records, for land records, for a specific geographic area as well as general search engines. It would be impossible to list all of the sites that might be of interest to the genealogist in this article. The best computer site to find links to other sites is Cyndi's List at <http://www.cyndislist.com/index.htm>. From this site you can go to indices by subject or by location and search.

To search for a particular name or surname, the site sponsored by the Church of the Latter-day Saints at <<http://www.familysearch.org>> is free of charge and has huge listings. Some of the information on Ancestry.com, such as the Social Security Death Index, is free of charge, but be aware that much of their material requires fees. The same is true of Genealogy.com that you often see advertised on television.

If you know a location, even a state, Rootsweb, a group of volunteers who post free information on the internet, can be found at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>. They also have an international site at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/worldconnect>>.

The two best federal government web sites are:

(1) <<http://www.glorerecords.htm.gov/>> for land records

(2) <<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>> which accesses the National Archives. (If you go to the Fort Worth branch from here, you can see an every name index to the court records from Judge Parker's era.)

The major pitfall of research done by computer is determining the validity of the information. For example, much of the material on the Family Search site has been contributed to the Family History Library of the Church of Latter-day Saints and some of that was not sent in with sources. My great-great-grandparents marriage is listed there as being performed in Franklin County, North Carolina. However, by the time they married, my grandmother's parents and she had been living in Smith County, Tennessee for over five years and, as far as I can determine, my grandfather had never been to Franklin County. Watch out for items for which there is no source given and use them only as clues, not as truth, on any web site. Where sources are given, check them. If material on a web site is transcribed, please remember that it is very easy to make mistakes and also check these types of materials. Go to the original if possible.

Another problem with web sites is that, with the exception of major ones, they can go away at any time. If you find something that is an aid to you, bookmark the web site, but also download the material. In fact, I, believing in the power of paper as I do, also print it.

There are also what are called "lists" and "chat rooms" available on the internet. Lists are e-mails concerning a certain family or location for which you may sign up and chat rooms are a location on the web where groups

of people get on line to discuss either a surname or a location. A lot of information is available on these, but again remember to check your sources.

As more and more people become interested in their family's history, you may also find that you receive strange and sometimes annoying e-mails. Not too long ago I received an e-mail from a lady in Oklahoma claiming to be the granddaughter of Charles and Cora Jeffrey and asking for family information. Those are my maternal grandparents and since my family is very close, I know all twenty-four of my cousins and I did not know her. I replied and asked that she send me more information. As it turned out, her father was Charles Allen Jeffery and had been orphaned at an early age. He was born in 1924 and thought his father's name was Charles and that his parents married in Independence County, Arkansas. She had surfed the net and found my grandparent's marriage license in that county and assumed that these were her father's parents. Upon my informing her that the only one of my grandparent's sons named Charles died at age ten in 1921 and that my grandfather was killed in 1922 and that my grandparents could not possibly be hers, she became very nasty and belligerent. Thank goodness emails can be easily deleted!

It is also easier for folks to claim your research as their own by posting any material which you share on the internet. I love to share my research with the family, but find it annoying when a distant cousin does that. I guess I'm selfish in that I do not mind the results of years of family research appearing on the internet, but I do resent someone else getting the credit. To prevent this, I simply tell them that all my work is copyrighted and that they are welcome to post it or use it with my name attached.

The last thing that you should be warned to do is to always back up your research. Computers are machines and they break. If you have never had a hard disc fail, you have yet to experience the joys of rebuilding your work. Save all your research and all of your favorite web sites to separate discs and to paper as well as to your hard drive.

Happy ancestor hunting and remember to err is human, to really mess up you need a computer.

*Note: Cyndi Howell, whose list this is, will be at the Arkansas Genealogical Society's fall seminar. See "**Genealogy News**."

GENEALOGY NEWS

ARKANSAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PUBLISHES DELAYED BIRTH CERTIFICATES INDEX

The Arkansas Genealogical Society in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health has published its first volume of the indices to the delayed birth certificates. These are for births prior to 1902 which were filed in 1942, the first year that Arkansas allowed persons to do so. The delayed birth certificate program began as an effort to allow people to prove their date of birth in order to collect Social Security benefits. Over 30,000 names are listed in the publication and it is indexed by child's name, county and mother's maiden name. Entitled *Arkansas Prior Birth Index, Volume I*, the publication, which was a volunteer project of AGS, may be ordered in either book or CD rom form. The book is \$60.00 and the CD rom is \$30.00, postpaid, and may be ordered from Arkansas Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 908, Hot Springs, AR 71902-0908.

BEGINNING GENEALOGY WORKSHOP TO BE HELD

The Arkansas Genealogical Society will hold a one day workshop in beginning genealogy on Saturday, April 12, 2003, at the Holiday Inn — Airport in Little Rock. Designed to help those who wish to begin a family tree or who are novices, the workshop will cover topics including

the very basics of starting a family tree, using census records, court house records, military records and evaluating sources. The speakers will be Russell Baker, Susan Boyle, Jan Eddleman and Lynda Suffridge. Beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until 3:30 p.m., the cost of the workshop is \$20.00 and includes a deli lunch. For more information visit the AGS website.

OTHER UPCOMING GENEALOGICAL EVENTS

The Dallas Genealogical Society will hold another of its lecture series on April 5, 2003, at the Dallas Public Library. The featured speaker will be Barbara Vines Little. Reservations are required as the seating is limited to 170 persons. For further information contact the Dallas Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12446, Dallas, TX 75225-0446.

There will be a Grand Lake Ancestor Fair held on May 3, 2003, at the Grove Community Center in Grove, Oklahoma.

The National Genealogical Society's 2003 Conference in May 28 through May 31, 2003, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Arkansas Genealogical Society's annual fall seminar will be held on October 17 and 18, 2003, at the Holiday Inn, Airport in Little Rock, Arkansas. The featured speaker on Saturday will be Cyndi Howell of Cyndi's List fame.

HENRY FRANCIS DONATHAN *By Grandson, R. Donathan Ivey, M.D.*

United States Court Appointments in the South McAlester Capitol reported that Henry F. Donathan was appointed Special Deputy Marshal at Whitefield, IT. He was appointed by U. S. Marshal J. J. McAlester of the United States District Judge Charles B. Stewart's Court for the year 1895. He was appointed on April 4, 1895. Mr. Donathan was a resident of Spiro, IT and Poteau, It. He told me he operated around Whitefield, Eufala and further east in LeFlore and Sequoyah Counties as well as in the Cookson Hills and that he worked out of Judge Parker's Court.

Henry F. Donathan was born in 1859. His father was Daniel Webster Donathan and his mother was Arkadelphia Donathan. His father was a Confederate soldier but was killed by bushwhackers at his home near Magazine, Arkansas in 1862. Henry married Sarah Lottie (Sally) Gibson on August 12, 1884 in Hamilton, Texas. Henry was the sheriff of Hamilton County, Texas.

Henry Donathan had only one arm. His left arm had been amputated. The story related to me (and I have no reason to doubt it) is that he was dispatched to an area near the Cookson Hills to apprehend a desperado. He found the man and arrested him. While they were returning to Fort Smith, in some way the bandit obtained a gun, shot Mr. Donathan and the bullet virtually destroyed his left shoulder and left humerus. Mr. Donathan took out his knife and finished the amputation of his left upper extremity and brought the prisoner on to Fort Smith.

Henry Donathan died in 1947 and was buried in Poteau, Oklahoma.

Henry had 10 children. My mother, Lillian Lorraine Donathan Ivey, was his fourth child.

Book Notes . . .

Books on Arkansas History or Genealogy will be reviewed in *The Journal* when a review copy is submitted to the Fort Smith Historical Society for review. Review copy of book is placed in the Genealogy Room of the Fort Smith Public Library designated as gift of the author and the Fort Smith Historical Society.

TALK WITH TILLES, SELLING LIFE IN FORT SMITH ARKANSAS, By Nancy Ellen Carver. 221 pages, 35 photographs, indexed soft cover, \$21.99. For mail orders please add \$5.00. Available at Fort Smith Museum of History, 320 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901.

Inheriting her great-grandfather's unfinished manuscript of Fort Smith History, and a treasure trove of information about him, inspired Nancy Ellen Carver to write his story which shows how even an ordinary person can accomplish extra ordinary things.

George Tilles had a very humble beginning and only a limited education. He was a self-taught man eager to soak up whatever information he could.

He loved Fort Smith and desired to have future generations understand and appreciate history. He believed that history is best understood by knowing the stories of early pioneers whose achievements became the chronology of the city. His stories bring to life the people who traveled from various parts of this country and other countries, to make Fort Smith their new home.

When you read the story of George Tilles, you will read about Fort Smith from the perspective of a pioneer citizen, and you will come to know the city and the social, political and cultural events as he and his family found them. You will find a history of Fort Smith that is not only interesting but heart-warming as well.

NEW BOOKS BY STAN KUJAWA:

Garrison Avenue-Database (3 different versions)

Version 1 - listing by street address number

Version 2 - listing alphabetically by name

Version 3 - listing by business type

Over 9,500 listings plus recap listing by type. Price: \$25.00 for each book or \$60.00 for set of three (includes tax) Available direct from author, 7801 Camelot Circle, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

Web site - www.fortsmithar.us — PH: 479-452-6663

NEW BOOK PROJECTS:

Lecta, May & Sweet Avenues "The Neighborhood"

Photos of all existing houses. Story of Blue Bird School, Rogers School, and Central Presbyterian Church. Also database of over 1,500 residents. (Need photos of houses demolished and memories of, neighborhood.)

Garrison Avenue - "Headline Stories"

Detailed stories of major events: bridges, buildings, fires, floods, lynching, storms and more. (Need dates when the Goldman and Ward Hotels stopped doing business as hotels.)

Web Site - www.fortsmithar.us Stan Kujawa

State Census Records by Ann S. Lainhart. Available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 North Calvert St., Baltimore MD 21201. Price \$17.95.

First comprehensive list of state census records ever published.

State censuses have been taken by most states since the formation of the country. Unlike federal censuses, however, which have been taken every ten years since 1790 for the purpose of apportioning congressional representation, state censuses were taken randomly, their purpose varying to the needs of the state.

Whatever their underlying purposes, the fact is that state census records rank with federal records as a major genealogical resource; yet they have remained probably the most under-utilized resource in the entire domain of American genealogy. Not only do they rank with federal census records, they stand in as substitutes for some of the missing 1790, 1800, and 1810 federal censuses.

Descendants of Timothy Burcress Hawton and Margaret Moore of Butler County, Kentucky by Robert W. Ford, Fairfax Virginia. 8 1/2 x 11, 115 pages, 129 photographs, indexed, plastic cover, price \$25.00 shipped by Priority Mail from the post office. A GEDCOM computer file copy is also available on CD at a cost of \$10.00 from Robert W. and Bobbie M. (Hampton) Ford, 11302 Westbrook Mill Lane, #102, Fairfax, VA 22030. Email: rford4@cox.net. The genealogy web site is at: <http://pillmembers.cox.net/rford4/>.

A copy of the genealogy portion of this material is available on a Family Tree Maker World Family Tree CD Volume 43, Tree No. 684. Material on the 26th Kentucky Infantry Regiment is available on Civil War website at <http://www.robertford.ws>.

This well documented book begins with Timothy Burgess Hampton, first generation, who was born in England December 20, 1795, died February 28, 1886, and Margaret Moore Hampton, daughter of Patrick Moore, October 22, 1805 - July 20, 1888. It covers eight generations and includes 129 photographs. The book ends with chapter 12, The Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment and its history which is the story of two sons of Butler County, Kentucky and their service in Company B, 26th Kentucky Infantry Regiment. They were William Henry Hampton and his brother-in-law, Thomas Jeffery Ward.

William was the youngest son of Timothy B. and Margaret (Moore) Hampton. He was born in 1836 in Butler County, Kentucky and died in 1909 at Fort Smith, Arkansas and is buried in the National Cemetery there.

Chapter 9 is *The Moore Family of Campbell County, Virginia, Butler, County, Kentucky*.

Chapter 10 is *The Collingsworth and Stafford Families*.

Chapter 11 is *The Other Hamptons, Thomas Hampton 1765-1808*.



The JOURNAL

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Limited quantities of past issues of *The Journal* are available at \$7.50 per copy at the Fort Smith Public Library. Copies may be ordered by mail from:

The Fort Smith Historical Society
P.O. Box 3676 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

For mail orders, order by Volume and issue number, include your complete mailing address and \$7.50 plus \$2.00 mailing charge per copy.

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FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

January 2, 1903 – June 12, 1903

*(Abstracted from microfilm in the
Fort Smith Public Library*

by Dorothy Doville and Thelma Wray)

*(Editor. Spelling, punctuation and grammar appear
as originally printed in newspaper)*

January 2, 1903

Last week the *ELEVATOR* commented upon the fact that the secretary of war had refused the Daughters of the Confederacy permission to erect a monument in the National Cemetery except upon certain conditions. Since then the following letter from Elihu Root, secretary of war, to Hon. John S. Little has been received by Judge John H. Rogers. The letter explains itself:

Washington, December 15, 1902

Dear Sir: Referring to your call at the department this morning with reference to the erection of a monument in the National Cemetery at Fort Smith, Ark., by the Varina Jefferson Davis Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, to replace a small confederate monument now standing. I beg to inform you that the quartermaster-general of the army, to whom the matter was referred, reports as follows:

"The quartermaster-general sees no objection to granting permission for the erection of the monument in the Fort Smith (Ark.) National Cemetery, to individuals formerly connected with the confederate army, to replace the small confederate monument above referred to, but the figure of the confederate soldier and the cutting of the confederate flag on such new monument and the inscription over the flag, "Lest we forget", as proposed, is believed to be objectionable, and in case permission be granted for the erection of the monument, it is submitted for the decision of the secretary of war whether or not these features shall be eliminated."

The department concurs in the views of the quartermaster-general, and will interpose no objection to the erection of the monument, subject to the modification suggested in the regard to the inscription, etc.

Very respectfully,
Elihu Root, Secretary of War

Comment upon the miserable spirit displayed by Mr. Root and his congeners in the war department is really unnecessary-nothing more could have been expected of them; but the following from the *Arkansas Democrat* so clearly covers the matter that the *ELEVATOR* can not refrain from reproducing it:

In refusing to permit the erection of the Confederate monument in the National Cemetery at Fort Smith because it was planned to have it surmounted with the figure of a confederate soldier, with the inscription, "Lest we forget" underneath the confederate flag, the war department places itself in an attitude to be criticised for unseemingly, intolerance.

If consent was to be given at all for a confederate monument to be placed in the National Cemetery, why should the department trouble itself as to the design? The objections raised are nothing short of ridiculous.

If a monument is allowed to commemorate the valorous deeds of the confederate dead, what objections could anyone raise to the figure of a confederate soldier surmounting such a monument; and what littleness to object to the phrase "Lest we forget!" Surely the confederate flag and the confederate soldier is a part of the memories of the lost cause, and if these are not to be commemorated, what is the use of a monument! The department was willing for the monument to be erected minus the aforementioned design.

The Daughters of the Confederacy at Fort Smith should not trouble themselves further in this matter. They should place their monument in a suitable place and let the matter drop.....

January 9, 1903

An infant child of Mr. Will Euper aged about one week died Saturday night and was buried Sunday. Mr. Euper was away from home at the time and could not be located, and did not know his child had passed away until he returned.

Mrs. Theresa Kagin of Fort Smith, has been granted a pension of eight dollars per month, with back pay amounting to over \$700.

Last Friday Dr. L.H. Ingraham, the Lavaca merchant, bought from Linda Ware 283 acres, paying \$4,000 for the same. The land lays near Lavaca and is fine property.

Candidates for the office of mayor are beginning to bob up, and indications are that there will be a good crop. Mayor Garrett announces his intention of again entering the field, and the names of Henry Kuper, Jr., J.J. Little and Theodore Grober are also frequently mentioned.

THE OTHER ONE

Two brothers in Paris were remarkably alike. A gentleman meeting one of them on the boulevard stops him, saying, "Pardon me, but is it to you or to your brother that I have the honor of speaking?" "Sir" was the reply, "you are speaking to my brother." - *Westminster Gazette*

January 16, 1903

The earnings of the steel trust for 1902 aggregated only \$132,660,000, but if the anti-trust cranks will only let up it hopes to tide over the hard times and make a better showing for 1903.

In the senate one day last week the solemn old sextons of that national graveyard buried trusts, statehood and tariff while they gravely debated the propriety of voting on a motion to adjourn. Four pages of the Record were devoted to the subject by Depew, Spooner, Beveridge, Hoar and the presiding officer.

MORE FINE HOGS

On Monday last Mr. C.H. Boyd received by express three fine pedigreed Poland China sows, already bred and in fine condition. They were shipped from Missouri where they were purchased by Mr. Wm. H. Gardner, who took them to his farm on Mazzard prairie. The hog law is bearing fruit.

The petition for a road from Little Rock road near Tancred's east to the township line, has been denied by the county judge. The viewers reported favorably provided the petitioners would donate and clear the right-of-way. To this some agreed, but so many refused that the expense of condemnation was considered too great for the district's finances at this time.

There is a lively, healthy, wholesome, good natured rivalry in progress between different

roads leading into Fort Smith - notably the Van Buren and Greenwood roads as to which shall capture that \$2,500 from the county judge for a permanent road. This spirit means better roads and more of them, no matter which road wins first prize.

January 23, 1903

STATE LEGISLATURE

Staff correspondent *ELEVATOR*

Little Rock, January 21 - Both branches of the legislature are moving along smoothly. The house completed its organization last Thursday, the last officers elected being the enrolling clerk and chaplain. Miss Kate Faust of White county was chosen to fill the position of enrolling clerk, and Rev. I.L. Burrough of Altus, Franklin, was chosen chaplain.

The contest for enrolling clerk was quite spirited. The contestants were Miss Kate Faust, of White county; Miss Lucile Douglass of Pulaski, and Miss Hettie Cloud of Clark. Miss Cloud's name was withdrawn early in the contest, and the contest came on between the first named three Miss Faust winning on the 19th ballot.

Miss Faust was enrolling clerk of the house during the session of 1901, and during that session conducted herself in such a manner as to win the approbation of all the members. Her work was without fault, her demeanor gentle and lady-like. Consequently, in the contest last week she had the support of nearly all the old members, as well as many of the new ones. Miss Faust is well known to many Fort Smith people.....

Confederates Soldiers Home: Upon his visit to the Confederates Soldier's home Monday your correspondent met four old Fort Smithians, namely, John Neville, Henry Herr, John Vaughan and Col. John Hallum. Henry Herr lived in Fort Smith eight years, and during that time worked for Joe Ferrari. He is in the hospital of the home, slowly dying from the effects of stomach trouble and cancer. Mr. Herr has been sick eight months. He inquired about Joe Ferrari and desired to be remembered by him.

While the legislative party were at the home, the Daughters of the Confederacy held memorial services there

"Shall we ever be able to fly?" is now answered in the affirmation by Professor Alex B. Bell of telephone fame. Professor Bell has been studying the aerial problem for a long time. He now claims to have practically solved it.

The kite and not the balloon is the basis of his discovery. Leading scientists express confidence in Prof. Bell's claims.

A Good Roads Association was organized Saturday night at Trusty school house on the Van Buren road. C.J. Brockman was elected president, Stephen Grosse vice president, Herbert Beck secretary and treasurer.

Chimney sweeps seem to occupy the highest position in regard to mortality from cancer and coal miners the lowest.

January 30, 1903

Representative J.H. Holland has introduced a bill in the house to make the office of penitentiary superintendent elective instead of appointive.

The mayoralty race waxes warm as the primary draws nigh and friends of the various candidates are aligning themselves where they can be spotted.

Potato wagons loaded with the second crop are seen moving daily on our streets now.

J. Frank Greaves has sold his entire stock of general merchandise to W.L. Seaman and Co., and the latter will conduct his business in connection with their own hereafter.

February 6, 1903

Van Buren Press: A beer war is about to be declared in Van Buren, and the man of constant thirst is preparing to reap the harvest. The local saloons, with one exception, have turned the Anheuser-Busch signs to the wall and sworn allegiance to a Kansas City brewery. This has made D.J. Young, the agent for western Arkansas for the former company, wroth, and he swears by all that is unholy, he will have war to the bitter end. He is trying to rent every vacant storeroom on main street, and before long we look to see the bock beer sign issuing its challenge to the earth. The city and county treasuries will be the only ones to benefit by this contest.

The mean temperature here for January was 40 degrees, highest 72 degrees and lowest 16 degrees.

February 13, 1903

A contest will occur in the house over the question of additional accommodations for the insane. At present about 300 insane persons are

in the county jails of Arkansas because of lack of room in the asylum of Little Rock. In the house amendments were offered providing for the erection of a branch asylum at Searcy, Pine Bluff and Hope. When the amendment comes up again Hot Springs will be an applicant and an interesting contest will then take place.

THE EASY WAY

A school boy, being asked by his teacher how he should flog him replied: "If you please, sir, I should like it upon the Italian system of penmanship - the upward stroke heavy and the down one light."

February 20, 1903

Gen. B.W. Green of Little Rock has purchased and contracted for between 10,000 and 15,000 acres of coal lands in Sebastian county. He purchased options on about 3,500 acres from Wharton Carnall in Fort Smith adjoining the 4,000 acres in the Edenborn tract. It is also reported that Gen. Green has an agent securing options on lands all the way from Greenwood to Charleston, Logan County, a distance of thirty miles. Gen. Green declines to say for whom he is acting. It is hinted that when all lands wanted are secured there will develop one of the most gigantic coal schemes ever put on foot.

The most important business before the city council Monday night was the ordinance granting to the Fort Smith and Western Railway Company a right to cross Rogers avenue, thus reaching Garrison avenue, where they would purchase a site for offices, etc. The council resolved itself into a Missouri corporation and asked to be cited to the kind of structures the Fort Smith and Western would erect on Garrison avenue. This may or may not be done, but evidently the council intend to "go slow and think a plenty" before granting the franchise.

February 27, 1903

Little Rock, February 25 - Seldom in the history of the state has there been a more exciting week at the capitol than that which has just closed. The excitement is not particularly apparent on the surface, but it is here, all the same, and it is intense.

The cause of the investigation by the ways and means committee of certain charges against Governor Jefferson Davis, which by resolution they have been directed by the house to enquire into

The committee began its sessions last Wednesday night in the dingy and uncomfortable room of the supreme court, which the court had kindly placed at its disposal. When your correspondent says the room is uncomfortable, it is because it is uncomfortable. Imagine a moderate-size room with small windows, low ceiling, cheap furniture, poor ventilation and a general appearance of stuffiness, and you have the supreme court room before you. Its sanitary conditions are such as to cause wonder that more of those transact business in it have not been killed or ruined in health. But is no worse than any other portion of the capitol building. The rooms of every department of the government are equally uncomfortable and unhealthy.

There are crevices in the foundations of the capitol building from which snakes sometimes crawl in summer time, and these snakes do not originate in the boots of those who occupy the building, either.

And yet there are those who contend that with a little patching up our capitol can be made good enough for use for many years yet to come!.....

Gariboldi's saloon in Little Rock should now be known as "The Field of Honor," having been officially designated as a place where belligerent legislators can quench their blood-thirstiness.

March 6, 1903

F.S. AND WESTERN WINS

The city council on Monday night passed the ordinance granting the Fort Smith and Western permission to cross Rogers avenue. The only conditions imposed simply provide for the least possible danger and obstruction to travel. This purchase seems to meet the approbation of the great majority of our people and their faith and the councils confidence in the Fort Smith and Western should surely restrain that company from any act or omission unfriendly or detrimental to the business interests of Fort Smith.

March 13, 1903

Fort Smith carpenters believe that the new furniture factory should be built by home carpenters, and will oppose the importation of outside workmen if they are brought here only for the purpose of doing this job and then leaving.

GOOD ROADS AND GOOD WOMEN

The good roads cannot be built by man alone, so the women on the Greenwood road think, and they propose to enter the field as helpmeets. They are preparing to give an entertainment at Carnall school house in the near future, the proceeds of which will be added to the good road fund.

March 20, 1903

WOMAN SHOT

On Tuesday night a Mrs. Battenfield shot Mary Frazier with a pistol, the ball entering the left breast and inflecting a probably fatal wound. The shooting occurred about midnight at Mrs. Battenfield's house on Carnall avenue. Mrs. B. is in jail.

It seems that Mrs Frazier suspected Mrs. Battenfield and her daughter of trying to come between the former and her sweetheart. A note which Mrs. Frazier accused the daughter of writing intensified this suspicion, and she went to Mrs. Battenfield's house to see about it. Mrs. Battenfield refused to let her in, and says that when Mrs. Frazier tried to open the window she fired three shots, one at the floor, one above and a third through the door, just to scare the woman, and not thinking she was in front of the door.

Mrs. Battenfield was taken before Justice Edmondson, who may hear the case Saturday. Mrs. Frazier was returned to the hospital, and the result of her wound is uncertain. The two women are said to have been friendly before.

Mr. Wharton Carnall has received another liberal donation to the Greenwood road fund from a citizen whose farm is six miles from town and nearly two miles from the Greenwood road.

March 27, 1903

The Fort Smith postoffice force are rejoicing over a substantial raise in salaries, the advance being from \$100 to \$200.

Arkansas is suffering from an epidemic of petrified men. George Douglass, of Van Buren, says that while at Bonanza he saw or heard of a \$1,500 specimen which had been found 8 miles south of Fort Smith by a man named Green. The thing is said to be perfect except a depression in the skull and one in the stomach. If some law-abiding citizen will only make a slight depression in the skull of the next petrified

fakir that bobs up around here he will have the thanks of a grateful public.

The Van Buren *Argus* protests against contractors blockading the sidewalks in that city and compelling pedestrains to get into the streets where "nothing but a crane can work."

April 3, 1903

LUMBER YARD

A very conspicuous business enterprise is the Davis Bros. lumber yard. They handle a vast amount of first class building material, but owing to the growing demand for lumber it is impossible for them to keep a heavy stock of lumber on hand.

The managers are men of high business qualifications and we predict for them a very bright financial future. One of them, Mr. E.E. Davis is now the city mayor.

So suddenly did the waters rise in Arkansas opposite Memphis after the levee broke at Tric's landing that two passenger trains were caught between washed out points and were tied up two days with about one hundred on board.

DEADLY BACILLI

The fatal illness of Dr. Morse is attributed partly to experimenting with typhoid bacilli. It is known that Dr. Morse had been making experiments, more or less, ever since his return from Philadelphia several months ago, and while not positively known it is believed that the malignant attack of fever which proved fatal was probably contracted through these experiments.

Mr. W.C. Harrison, on the Greenwood road, can now gather his family of twelve under his own vine and fig tree. On Wednesday he completed the deferred payments, and received a deed to his home.

April 10, 1903

SPECIAL ONE WAY COLONIST RATES TO CALIFORNIA

These tickets will be on sale from February 15th to April 30th at rate of \$27.25 from Fort Smith to most all California points, also to Prescott and Phoenix, Arizona. Stopovers at over thirty different points in California, good to May 15th.

Ben and James Hughes, two cattlemen have been arrested on the charge of killing Lute

Houston, of Chickasha, last November. Houston was a cattleman and was found murdered, and no one was present at the killing.

TO PREDICT A STORM

By placing two iron bars at seven or eight yards' distance from each other and putting them in communication on the side by an insulated wire and on the other side with a telephone it is said that a storm can be predicted twelve hours ahead through a certain dead sound heard in the receiver.

April 17, 1903

GOVERNMENT WORK

A force of men have begun work on the foundation for the addition to the postoffice and United States court house. These improvements are quite extensive, also expensive, and of course will be the best of work.

An aged white woman by the name of Goster died Thursday afternoon at her home, an old cabin, in the southeastern suburbs of Pine Bluff. Her death was doubtless due to exposure and want. Her age was about 60 years.

During the tornado of last Thursday night a family of pearl fishers named Tapp, who lived in a shanty boat on White river, were drowned. There were three in the family. Their boat was torn to pieces by the wind in a moment.

April 24, 1903

STRAYED

From Lavaca April 9th, two small pony mares - a sorrel in good order with a left glass eye, the other a poor ugly bay. Both shod and roached. Will pay for return or information. W.J. Neal

LOTS AT AUCTION

Fifty lots in Midland Heights were sold at auction last Tuesday, at an average price of \$65, ranging from \$45 to \$130.

There was a goodly crowd in attendance, and with John Cutler as auctioneer, the bidding was spirited and did not drag. Lot and land sales in the Midland Heights vicinity have been quite active this spring.

May 1, 1903

The old McKenzie place near the city, long known as "Hardscrabble," was purchased by W.J. Echols for \$9,000, last week.

The Baptist church is now being completed, and soon its unfinished condition will give way to a handsome structure complete in all respects.

TAKE NOTICE

Those who know themselves indebted to me will please come and settle, either by note or cash, as I am closing out to leave.

Respectfully,
Dr. I.A. Ryan
Barling, Ark.

A few years ago Uncle Sam's navy stood sixth on the list in naval strength. Now it is second in naval strength of the great powers of the world.

May 8, 1903

HON. JOHN H. ROGERS

Chosen as orator of the New Orleans Confederate Reunion, he is considered one of the most distinguished speakers in the South....Money for the reunion fund is coming in more freely and the whole \$100, 000 will be raised before the reunion begins. The committee in charge of listing rooms will make a thorough canvass of the city and list every room obtainable. A number of people are offering to entertain the veterans free, and many people will entertain friends. The social features will be greater than ever before. All buildings are ready and plans for feeding and housing the veterans are about complete.

Mr. Horace Rogers has purchased the property formerly owned by Dr. L.L. Saunders, corner North Sixteenth and C streets, and will occupy it as a residence.

Mr. John Bloomberg received a severe jolt Monday and narrowly escaped serious injury. While riding down Garrison avenue a wheel of his buggy came off and this threw him over the dash board onto the shafts. Bystanders quickly lent assistance, however, and prevented a serious accident.

May 15, 1903

Harry E. Kelley has completed arrangements for the establishment of a system of the water works at Lemert Park.

Lewis B. Barry has accepted a position as accountant and stenographer in the office of the

Fort Smith and Western railroad.

Toney McKay, who had his back broken by a fall of rock in a mine at Denning a short time ago, and who was brought to Fort Smith for treatment, has been pronounced incurable and taken home

Bailey Blair, a young man who lives at Mountainburg, was before Judge Rogers last week on a charge of interfering with the mails. It seems that the mail carrier had made slighting remarks about Bailey's particular sugarplum. This came to Bailey's ears, and the next time he came across the latter he swatted him in good shape. The mailman had his sack on his shoulder when attacked, and this got Bailey into trouble.

May 22, 1903

Last Saturday a horse attached to one of Emile Frantz's delivery wagons ran away and ended its career by coming in contact with an awning post in front of the Sanitorium drug store. The poor animal was so badly injured that it had to be killed.

We hope the movement now on foot to pave South Sixth street will not fail. That thoroughfare is an eye-sore to the city, and its unsightly appearance creates unfavorable appearance upon every stranger who travels over it. It is admirably suited to paving and is lined on both sides with property that would be vastly increased in value were it in passible shape.

Mr. Carter, who lives near Lavaca, was in the city Monday on a search for a pair of mules and a buggy that were stolen from him the previous day. He traced the stolen property for quite a distance in the direction, but thinks it has been taken to the Territory. He says the mules were splendid animals and the buggy a good vehicle.

Confederate veterans to the number of 100 boarded the special Choctaw train at this point Sunday morning on their way to the great reunion at New Orleans. There were eight cars in the train and they were all comfortably filled. A large number also went over the Iron Mountain.

Nine cars on the Fort Smith and Western were ditched near Skokogee last Monday evening, and a train sent to their relief was also

wrecked. Miss Adams, of Springfield, Mo., was severely injured in jumping from the cab of one of the locomotives.

Texarkana is taking steps to become a city of first class.

May 29, 1903

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

Somebody tried to kill Hon. R.L. Rogers, prosecuting attorney of the Fifteenth circuit, on the night of the 20th.

Mr. Rogers lives in the suburbs of Van Buren. He drove to the city after supper, and when he had transacted his business started homeward. When within a short distance of his residence someone fired two shots at him at close range. Both missed. Mr. Rogers' horse took fright at the noise of the firing and dashed away, but as soon as he could be checked Mr. Rogers turned in his seat and sent a bullet back to where the shots came from.

Mr. Rogers has been pretty vigorous of late in the prosecution of a lot of worthless characters who hang around Van Buren doing nothing and living without apparent effort, and it is more than likely that some of this gentry tried to get even with him that way.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lyons died Saturday night at 1015 North Fifth street. Its remains were buried Sunday in the Catholic cemetery.

An admission fee of ten cents for children and twenty-five cents for adults will be charged at the graduating exercises of the High School tonight. This is in accordance with precedents established in former years, and for the purpose of preventing a jam.

BIG SALE GOING ON

The biggest sale in the history of Fort Smith is the retiring from business sale now going on at the Sengel Hardware company. They have already sold over one hundred buggies, phaetons and spring wagons at prices that astonish all who inspect the goods.

Before retiring we must sell at least one hundred more buggies and as these are being unloaded we suggest that you see them before you buy a buggy. All you have to do is to visit us and see for yourself and then compare our buggies and prices with other dealers and you will be convinced that our

sale is the opportunity of a life time.

Sengel Hardware Co.

June 5, 1903

Republican politicians of all factions are tumbling over each other in promising the vote of the Indian Territory to Teddy in the next national convention. Sharp fellows are those Territory Republicans.

The electric light company is preparing to extend the Eleventh street line farther north to a connection with the park line.

Mrs. Martha May died at Belle Point Hospital on the night of May 28, aged 63. Her remains were buried at Nowland Springs.

Mr. Miller, assistant sexton at Oak Cemetery, was in the city Tuesday with a centipede nearly a foot in length. He captured the ugly reptile under a rock in the cemetery.

PUMPING SAND

The Fort Smith Sand Company plant is in operation at the foot of Garrison avenue and has been an object of much curiosity this week. The pumps are located in a barge, and the power is supplied by an electric motor. At the front end of the barge is a long pipe through which the sand is taken from the river, and this extends to the cars on the railroad track, where the sand is pumped into cars.

June 12, 1903

The sale of delinquent land for the Fort Smith district took place Monday, Mr. Lee Warner doing the work of the auctioneer. Only forty-one tracts were sold.

Last Sunday night somebody broke one of the large glass windows in R.C. Bollinger's music house. This is the second time Mr. Bollinger has suffered this way.

James Wilson, a lodger at Mr. E.C. Dean's boarding house on North Sixth and A streets, had the misfortune one night last week, to receive a visit from burglars, who went through his pantaloons and took \$18 from the pockets thereof. The pants were under Mr. Dean's head when he went to sleep, but when he found them the next morning were in the back yard of Mr. S.N. Givens' residence.

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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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