

The JOURNAL

Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company



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*Atkinson-Williams
Hardware Co. Officers*



*Hangin' Times in
Fort Smith, Part 5*



*Frontier Achievement
Awards*

Vol. 27, No. 2, September 2003

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COVER: Atkinson Hardware Company retail sales room.

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Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company

History of Atkinson-Williams Hardware

By Carole Cotton Barger

In 1898, the city publication of business activities, *Headlight Flashes*, had the following article about Atkinson Hardware Company. "Atkinson Hardware Company, wholesale jobbers, was established in June, 1843, and is the oldest business house in the State. It was founded by J. C. Atkinson, father of the present owner, and then changed to J. C. Atkinson & Son, then afterwards to its present name. This company does a jobbing business, and is agent for all kinds of farm implements, and the general southwestern agent for the Oliver Chilled Plow Company. It does from \$100,000 to \$125,000 worth of business per year, and possesses a record to be proud of. During the fifty-five years of its existence it never had a failure, and has always paid every cent of its obligations in full; carried insurance during all that time, but never had a single loss by fire. B. F. Atkinson, the present proprietor, was formerly president of the American National Bank of this city for nine years." Odie B. Faulk and Billy Mac Jones also list J. C. Atkinson in *Fort Smith, An Illustrated History*. Among prominent names listed are William Johnson, John and Henry Beckel, J. C. Atkinson, all pioneer merchants around 1838.

Entries in the old Atkinson Hardware journal, in the possession of the Fort Smith Historical Society, start in St. Louis in July 1837, recording sales of \$1,145.25 worth of merchandise to John C. Atkinson and H.T. Atkinson. The last of the St. Louis entries in the journal was made on November 21, 1838. The Atkinsons began their sales entries in Fort Smith in 1843, the year after Fort Smith was incorporated as a town. A journal entry on June 5, 1843 records the purchase by John Rogers of a large pan for one dollar, a lard lamp for twenty cents, and a wash pan for eighty cents. John Rogers had constructed a new brick hotel in 1840. In December 1854, a Texas Expedition bought supplies including four stoves, eighteen pounds of black tin, one and half boxes of tin plate, and forty-five pounds of sheet iron. The last entry recorded in this journal, in December of 1854, is a two-dollar charge to Mrs. Jordan for fixing candle molds.

Found between the pages of the journal was an undated, faded shopping list with reminders to have corn shelled and put in sacks, have tent and feed box made, have a lock put on wagon box, along with a long list of articles to be packed. Included were tobacco, cooks pills, pain killer, coffee mills, cutlery, spoons, domestic, calico, pins and needles, indigo and madder, combs, curry combs, mustard liniment, ax, hatchet, saw and auger, buttons, boots and shoes, knitting needles, cotton and wool cards, salt, sulfur, gun powder and shot. On the back of this list the writer has, with tongue in cheek, listed hen's teeth, hog's horns, and snake's ears. This reads like a trader's wagon load of merchandise. Was this a trader or a forty-niner heading to California? During the period of 1849-1861 Fort Smith was a gathering point for departure to the California gold fields, and, undoubtedly, Atkinson Hardware outfitted many of those wagon trains heading west. Hand-copied letters in the back of the journal, reading like collection letters, are addressed to several customers who were "out in the territory." Atkinson specialized in tinware and would have supplied many tanners, who were peddling their wares out into the Indian Territory and further west.

An early advertisement for Atkinson Hardware appears in 1848, in the *Fort Smith Herald*. There are several listings in the old Fort Smith city directories of 1881-82 showing Atkinson & Triesch, stoves and tinware, located at 145 Garrison Avenue, and Atkinson hardware and agricultural implements at 147 Garrison. According to an old minute book, Col. Ben F. Atkinson, Rudolph Wegman and F. O. Volter met on March 25, 1884, to join into a stock company for the purpose of carrying on a general hardware business. Officers were B. F. Atkinson, president; F. O. Volter, secretary; Rudolph C. Wegman, treasurer. Articles of Incorporation of the Atkinson Hardware Company were read and executed on April 16, 1884. In 1885 officers were elected with Ben F. Atkinson, president; Charles Class, secretary; and Rudolph Wegman, treasurer. Salaries for the year were agreed upon with Atkinson receiving \$900, Class \$900, Wegman \$800, and E. F. Thurman to receive \$600. In 1890 the Atkinson Hardware Company was located at 623 Garrison, where Merchants National Bank would later be located, across 7th street from Finks Jewelers.



Officers Atkinson-Williams Hardware Co. Corner North 7th & Garrison. L to R: Buck Williams, Ben Atkinson, Jr., Col. B. F. Atkinson, John T. Laws, Tom C. Gray. Photo made in office of retail sales room facing Garrison Avenue.

Atkinson Hardware Company photo identified as "First Truck". Wagon is standing at the back entrance to the hardware store's shipping department - in the alley between Garrison and North A St. Pictured is driver, Old Owen, accompanied by Bo, Col. Atkinson's dog.



Crew moving into new building at South 4th & Rogers Avenue in 1907. This loading dock is on the railroad track running between South 4th and South 3rd streets. L to R: Lawrence Newborn-porter, Sam McClain-team driver, Buck Warren-team driver, Ben Pettigrew-order filler, Bill Kochnke-order filler, Curtis Wood-order filler, Jess Maynard-order filler, Otto "Mike" Reutzel-order filler, William Scott-team driver.

Tony Hug and George Judy operating piston grinder and bushing grinder.



This was a large business with a handsome building, shown in an old photo from the Cravens Collection, UALR Library Archives, Little Rock, AR. Old photos of the time show an interior crowded with merchandise. A photo taken in the alley behind this building, shows their delivery



Atkinson Hardware Company retail sales room, corner North 7th and Garrison Avenue, present location of Regions Bank, before merger with Buck Williams. L to R: Customer, Henry Stebler, customer, ?, Ben Atkinson Jr.

wagon loaded with plows, with driver, Old Owen, accompanied by Bo, Col. Atkinson's dog.

Buckner "Buck" Williams was in the hardware business at 729 Main Street in Van Buren in 1894, but moved to Fort Smith to go into business with the Atkinsons about 1898. In a photograph dated 1898, Tom Frank Williams (Buck's son), Will Carr, Bill Harder, and Otto Reutzel, along with two black men, are seated on washtubs in the second floor stock room, looking grimy and tired. Evidently Buck Williams believed his fourteen-year-old son should work in the business, probably running up and down the stairs filling orders. At the Atkinson Hardware annual stockholders meeting on July 5, 1900, the corporation name was changed to Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company. The company dealt in shelf hardware and heavy hardware, wagons, buggies, tinware, stoves and ranges.

Col. Ben F. Atkinson, originally a tinner, and president of Atkinsons Hardware, built his beautiful home, a Victorian Second Empire style, around 1882. It still stands in the Fort Smith Historical District at 309 North 7th Street. Three Rivers Title Service, Inc. now owns the house. Julia Etter Yadon, Sue Ross Cross, and Randall Ross Viguet, published by the Fort Smith Historical Press, picture it in *Reflections of Fort Smith*. Also listed in *Reflections of Fort Smith* is the home of Ben P. Atkinson at 3700 Free Ferry Road. He was associated with Atkinson Improvement Company as well as the Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company, where

he served as secretary-treasurer, and was in sales from 1894-1905.

After Col. Ben F. Atkinson's death in 1905, at the age of sixty-eight, the stockholders met in 1906 to elect Ben P. Atkinson, president, with Buck Williams as vice-president and manager. Buck Williams was elected president and manager on June 3, 1911. Advertising shows Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company as the model wholesale hardware house of the south. Specialties were Easy-Cut cutlery, Easy-Cut tools, At-Will Boy's wagons, At-Will planters, cultivators, files and shovels. At this time the store, located at the corner of 7th and Garrison, also stocked Chattanooga Chilled plows, Studebaker wagons and buggies, and Owensboro wagons.

The board of directors adopted a resolution at the annual directors' meeting, June 2, 1906, to proceed with a new store building to be located at the southwest corner of 4th and Rogers. The new store building would require a loan of \$40,000 from Mr. Will J. Echols, Merchants National Bank, at 6% interest. Mr. W. H. Blakeley was awarded the contract, furnishing blue prints and specifications, and supervising the erection of the building. The architects submitted drawings for a building of 132 x 100 feet, four stories and basement. Excavation and foundation were done by Len O'Neal; iron work by Union Iron Co. of St. Louis; lumber by Mechanics Planing Mill; brick work and erection of building by T. T. Reddick; plate glass by Pittsburgh Plate Glass of St. Louis; cement by A. Ellefson; and plumbing by Meister Brothers, of the city. A report by Buck Williams, dated July 15, 1907, lists costs of everything pertaining to the actual construction in the neighborhood of \$65,000.



Ben Atkinson House, 309 North 7th, now owned by the Three Rivers Title Service, Inc.



BUCK WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD



T. F. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT



JACK WILLIAMS
VICE PRESIDENT



FLOYD ANDERSON
SECY. TREAS.



RAY COTTON
MANAGER



CHARLES GRAMMER
ASST. MANAGER



CECIL GUESS
OFFICE MANAGER



JEWELL MCALISTER
SHIPPING

Officers and Managers, Williams Hardware Co. Circa 1948.



DICK GRAY
SALESMAN



WAYNE JEFFERS
SALESMAN



HUGH "BUD" PLATT
SALESMAN



MARK HANNA
SALESMAN



Name Lost-can anyone identify?
(SALESMAN)



BILL KINCANNON
COUNTER SALESMAN



RAY MANSELL
SALESMAN



BILL BOLLING
SALESMAN



BILL KEELING
SALESMAN



PAUL RHODES
COUNTER SALESMAN



JAMES EVANS
SALESMAN



CLAUDE MAXEY
SALESMAN



TONEY HUG
SHOP SUPT.



BO ROOP
SALESMAN



RAY POTTS
SALESMAN



HARVEY COOKSEY
COUNTER SALESMAN



HOWARD WYLIE
SALESMAN



JAMES BUMPASS
SALESMAN



BASIL BARKER
SALESMAN



JOHN GABBERT
COUNTER SALESMAN

Salesmen, Williams Hardware.

This building, the old hardware store, was always referred to as the "new building," and now houses the Fort Smith Museum of History. It was a great old store, smelling of rubber tires, grease and oil, with many elaborate displays of hunting



Rogers entrance to new building, Williams Hardware, 4th and Rogers. T. V. Gray, manager of Automobile Dept. The Dodge truck was the first truck the company owned.

and fishing equipment in the showroom, with a long row of enclosed offices running down the front of the building. The showroom was in the center of the main floor, with the business office in the back southeast corner. Upstairs, on the second floor, there were displays of cook stoves, space heaters, and some furniture after World War II. All of the tires were on the third floor, along with other merchandise. There was an old, open freight elevator to deliver you up to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors, or down to the basement. The loading docks were on the west side of the building, next to the railroad tracks. The machine shop was located in this area, as well.

After the death of Ben P. Atkinson in 1915, and Josephine Atkinson in 1930, the corporation name was changed to Williams Hardware Company on May 15, 1930. Buck Williams continued as president and general manager of Williams Hardware until June 27, 1945, when he resigned in favor of his son, Tom Frank Williams. Tom Frank was then elected to the post of president and general manager. Tom Frank's sister, Blanche, had married Joe Williams, and had an only child, Jack Williams. He entered the business in the early forties and became vice-president. A letterhead dated 1931 shows Williams Hardware as sole distributing agents for J. I. Case plows and implements, Remington guns and U.M.C. ammunition, Baker stoves and ranges, Continental garage equipment, shelf and heavy hardware, tinware and auto accessories. After World War II the company was also stocking some furniture, cook stoves, fishing, hunting and golf equipment, and, in the 1950s, Zenith radios, phonographs and TVs.

The Automotive Department was begun in

1919, stocking a few Ford model T parts and accessories. By 1941 the automotive division carried complete stocks of replacement parts, garage and service station equipment and supplies. The company had its own power plant capable of generating 112 kilowatts per hour, furnishing electricity for the machine shop. John Hug first managed the shop until 1939, when his brother, Tony Hug, became manager. A skilled machinist, who had received his training in the U.S. Navy, Tony ran this machine shop until 1974.

The company expanded in 1947, building an addition that would serve as the automotive and industrial supply division. This expansion allowed for sales counter, offices, warehouse space with loading dock, and a larger machine shop on the corner of 4th and Parker Street. The 45,000 square-foot addition, extending from the south side of the hardware building, was located at 40 South 4th, with loading dock on Parker Street. In 1948, Buck Williams was chairman of the board; Tom Frank Williams was president; Jack Williams, vice president; Floyd Anderson, secretary-treasurer; Ray Cotton, manager of the automotive division; Charles Grammer, assistant manager; Cecil Guess, office manager; and Jewell McAlister, shipping clerk. Salesman at that time were Bill Kincannon, Ray Mansell, Bill Bolling, Bill Keeling, Paul Rhodes, James Evans, Claude Maxey, Bo Roop, Ray Potts, Harvey Cooksey, Howard Wylie, James Bumpass, Basil Barker, and John Gabbert. In December, 1949, Jack Williams, died at age of thirty-eight after a battle with cancer. The company's business became more oriented toward industrial sales, and supplied many of the major manufacturers such as Rheem, Whirlpool, General Electric and others with heavy equipment and parts. In the '50s, with the discount stores, K-Mart and others, outselling the wholesalers, the company decided to cut the hardware line, and specialize strictly in automotive and industrial supplies. The hardware division and the old hardware building were sold to Speer Hardware. After the death of Tom Frank Williams in 1979, the automotive and industrial supply business was owned and operated by Ray Cotton, until his retirement. The building at 40 South 4th was sold in 1992 to Sebastian County.

Submitted by Carole Barger, daughter of Ray Cotton, the last owner of Williams Hardware and Industrial Supply Company. Carole, growing up, spent a lot of time in the store with her father and was acquainted with many of the people working there.

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DEATH OF COL. B. F. ATKINSON IN DENVER, COLORADO

He Was President of the Atkinson-Williams
Hardware Company, of Fort Smith.

THE SAD NEWS WAS RECEIVED IN A TELEGRAM TODAY

Col. B. F. Atkinson, president of the Atkinson-Williams Hardware Co., one of the pioneer and most respected citizens of Fort Smith, died suddenly at the Hotel Metropole, in Denver, Colo., on Friday morning at 4 o'clock.

This sad news was received in Fort Smith on Friday morning, coming in telegrams from B. P. Atkinson, a son of the deceased, who was with him when the end came.

Col. Atkinson was a resident of Fort Smith from the time he was a very small boy having come to Fort Smith from his birthplace, Louisville, Ky., when he moved to Fort Smith with his father, J. A. [J. C.]^{1,2} Atkinson, a tinner by trade, who came to Fort Smith about sixty years ago and opened a hardware and tin store on Front street, which faced the Arkansas River, and has now disappeared by caving into the river.

The son, as soon as he was able to toddle about, entered school with Charles A. Birnie and many other of the old residents of the city as playmates. Their teacher was John Carnall, the pioneer of Fort Smith, in the house now occupied by Mrs. Ed Spinks. Later they went to school to Melvin Lyons, in a building on North Fifth street. The balance of Mr. Atkinson's Fort Smith tuition was obtained in the public schools, after which he spent several years away completing his education.

Returning to Fort Smith, Col. Atkinson entered the store of his father where he stayed until the Civil War broke out when he entered the Confederate army, soon becoming a captain, and serving until the close of the war.

After the death of his father, Col. Atkinson succeeded to the business and later formed a partnership with Conrad and Henry Triesch, who had been in the employ of his father as tinner. This partnership was maintained until about ten years ago when Col. Atkinson went into the wholesale hardware business exclusively. Later Buck Williams, of Van Buren, entered the firm and the partnership existed until the death of Col. Atkinson.

Col. Atkinson was prominent in financial circles of this city for many years. He was one of the organizers of the American National Bank

circa 1890, and after the retirement of the president, B. H. Tabor, Col. Atkinson was made president and acted in that capacity for six years, when he retired in favor of William Blair.

Col. Atkinson was also identified with a number of other concerns of the city, but his principal delight was in lodge work. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, Elks and the Knights of Honor. For a long time he was grand commander of the state of the Knights Templar, was at one time a member of the ritual committee of the grand encampment of the United States, and prelate of this commandry, Jacques de Molay, No. 3.

The deceased was one of the most polished gentlemen of Fort Smith and his family was always a leader in social circles. Col. Atkinson was married in Cincinnati just after the close of the war to Miss Nannie (...) who survives him. Of this union there were two children, Ben P. Atkinson and Miss Nannie Atkinson. The daughter was married to Mr. Bends, lumberman, of Prescott, Ark., about ten years ago and died, in that city about four years ago. One child survived the union and it was cared for by the grandparents. Ben Atkinson was with his father when he died.

So extensive was the learning of Col. Atkinson, having spent several years abroad upon several different occasions, and on all his trips, had gone so deep into Masonry, that he was chosen as the chief speaker at all of the Masonic functions.

The remains are expected to arrive in Fort Smith Sunday afternoon and be taken to the family residence on North Seventh street, from which place the funeral will take place on Monday afternoon. The Masons, Elks and Knights of Honor have made elaborate preparations for the burial of their distinguished member and will participate in the funeral services.

On Sunday the *News Record* will give reminiscences from the life of Col. Atkinson by a number of the oldest citizens of the city, who were his life-long friends.

Footnotes:

1. *Arkansas 1850 Census Every-name Index*, Bobbie Jones McLane and Desmond Walls, Arkansas Research, Conway, AR 1995:

p. 11, Atkinson, John C., 41, Susan B. 34, Isabella 12, Benjamin 13, Ann E. 9, Malnor 7; Caine, Michael 15. Ky/Ky, dwg 91, City of Fort Smith, Crawford Co.

2. *Northwestern Arkansas 1870 Census Index*, compiled by Martha Vaughn, p. 133:

3. Atkinson, J.C., p. 213, 1W, Fort Smith

Daily News Record, Fort Smith, Arkansas, p. 4, September 22, 1905

COL. ATKINSON'S REMAINS TO ARRIVE SUNDAY NIGHT

Reminiscences of This Distinguished Citizen From the Lips of Life Long Friends:

Allan Kennedy and Stuart Miller left for Kansas City on Saturday evening to meet the remains of the late Col. B. F. Atkinson, which will arrive in Fort Smith tonight.

The remains will be met by a delegation of Masons and Elks, and escorted to the home of Col. Atkinson on North Seventh street. The funeral will take place from the residence at 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon under the direction of the Masons, unless there are other arrangements made after the remains reach this city.

"I knew Col. Atkinson in 1850 and have been a close friend to him ever since," says Henry Triesch, "for we were associated in business together for many years."

"Col. Atkinson was only a boy, the same as I was, when I first met him. I came here at the age of fifteen and went into the employ of his father, who was running a tin manufacturing establishment on Front street. I started in as an apprentice. Col. Atkinson was then away at school I think. He was two years my senior and we were close friends, as soon as he returned from school and started in to work for his father."

"During the war, Col. Atkinson joined the Confederate army and was appointed captain. Later he was promoted to a colonel and given charge of a regiment of conscripts, but they soon deserted and left him without a command."

"Soon after the war closed we all came back to Fort Smith and the father of Col. Atkinson persuaded me and my brother, Conrad Triesch, to take charge of the store. We did so and after his death formed a partnership with Col. Atkinson, which lasted until about ten years ago."

"In the time I was connected with the Atkinson store we moved to North Second Street and then to the corner of Sixth, which is now occupied by the J. J. Little Clothing Co. Later we erected the building, which is now occupied by the Atkinson-Williams Hardware Co. For many years we had all the tinning trade of this country and often I traveled to Fort Washita, nearly 200 miles to do some tin work."

"All Fort Smith people know the good qualities of Col. Atkinson," relates 'Aunt Sophie' Kennedy, "but I cannot help laughing at the plight in which I saw him at one time and it was a time when everything should have been serious to us all. We were running away from the Federals who

had taken Fort Smith and were pushing south. We stopped at Waldron one morning and while we were there, Col. Atkinson rode in, ragged, shoeless, and bareheaded. He had been captured by the enemy, his team of horses taken, his shoes pulled from his feet, and his uniform made contraband of war. After the Yankees had robbed him of all he had, they gave him a donkey and turned him loose and it was upon the back of this donkey that he rode into Waldron. A doctor there gave Col. Atkinson a pair of coarse, raw hide shoes and he seemed to be as proud of them, as if they had been patent leather."

Source:

Daily News Record, Fort Smith, Arkansas, p. 4, Sunday, September 24, 1905

Atkinson Family Data April 14, 2003

Fort Smith, AR: Public Library, January 2003

City Cemeteries, Forest Park:	John Cape Atkinson
Book 2, p. 149	Died: Sep 27, 1870
Ben F. Atkinson	Buried: National Cemetery
Born 1838	Wife: Susan Fleming
died Sep 23, 1905	Atkinson
Age 67, 11 mos.	Died: Jan 21, 1901
Male, white, married	Ben P. Atkinson
Merchant	Died: March 25, 1915
Born: Fort Smith	Age: 42
Place of residence: Fort Smith	Buried: Forest Park
Place of death: Denver,	Cemetery
Colorado	Putman Funeral Home
Father: J. C. Atkinson	Records
Died of: uremia	Fort Smith, Arkansas
Josephine O. (Pauline)	Atkinson, Nannie E.
Atkinson [listed twice, not	Died: Dec. 1907
sure about name]	Atkinson, Eunice Bell
Widow: Ben F.	Born: July 2
Age: 58	Died: Feb. 26, 1935
Died: May 6, 1930	Age: 64
Kansas City	Arkoma
Buried: Forest Park	Thomas J. Atkinson
Putman Funeral Home	Forest Park
Fort Smith, Arkansas	Putman Funeral Home

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Hangin' Times in Fort Smith



By Jerry Akins
(Part V)



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, published in Volume 27, Number 1, covered the two years following September 8, 1876 when there were no hangings, 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.

Part V begins on September 5, 1879 and ends June 30, 1882, covering the trial and conviction of eight men and one woman for murder. The seven men were sentenced to hang, but Arena Howe, a white woman, was sentenced to spend ten years in prison in Detroit. The men who hanged were:

Henri Stewart	William Elliott Wiley
George W. Padgett	William T. Brown
Patrick M. McGowen	Amos Manley
Abler Manley	Edward Fulsom

The Law Vindicated Hanging of Henri Stewart and William Elliott Wiley.

(*Fort Smith Elevator* 9-5-1879)

Doctor Henri Stewart stopped to examine the casket that his half-brother had bought for him, made some remark about the kindness shone by the one who purchased it and proceeded, "with firm and fearless men", to the gallows. On that sunny Friday afternoon, August 29, 1879, he and William Elliott Wiley were to hang at the Fort Smith Garrison for their separate crimes of murder.

Henri Stewart

Henri Stewart was a native of the Choctaw Nation, born there in 1848. His father was white and his mother part Indian. His mother had lived in a New England state (the *Elevator* reports Connecticut) since 1855 and Henri went there at an early age. It appears that the reporters may have enhanced his deeds and travels. Two of the newspapers have him educated at Yale and one at both Yale and Harvard. Whichever is true, it is true that he was a physician. The various reports have him being a ship physician and traveling to Cuba, the coast of South America, West Indies, Europe and California. He married a woman with two children in Kansas and had lived in Choctaw Nation since 1874. For some reason Stewart gave up the life of a doctor and turned to a life of crime. The *Elevator* even reported that it was said that he traveled with Sam Bass and his train robbers in Texas.

Whatever is true of his life of crime, it is true that he and his cousin, Wiley Stewart were arrested in mid-1878 on a charge of introducing whiskey into the Indian Territory. They applied to Doctor Jones of Caddo, Choctaw Nation, to go their bond and when he refused, they threatened revenge. A short time later, while they were drinking, they rode into Caddo and confronted Dr. Jones at the railroad depot. While they quarreled with Dr. Jones, Henri shot Jones in the finger of the left hand with his revolver. Wiley then shot the doctor with his shotgun. The *Weekly Independent* reported that, "The shot was fired at such short range that the wound inflicted was only about the size of a silver dollar, and some of the shot passed entirely through the body."

In the same paragraph that described the shooting, the *Independent* described an exciting tale of escape that no other newspaper mentioned and that paper did not mention in any other edition. After the shooting, "They rode off, made a circuit of the town, returned and defied the crowds assembled at the scene of the tragedy. The Chickasaw sheriff and posse pursued and overtook them on the open prairie, when a bloody fight ensued. The murderers severely wounded a number of the pursuing party and killed two of their horses and escaped. Henri was finally arrested in Missouri, but his companion in crime is still at large."

William Elliott Wiley

Born in Ohio in 1847, Wiley, alias Colorado Bill, served two years in the Union Army, from 1863 until the end of the war. He then followed the footsteps of many of the former soldiers and led a wild life on the western frontier. His escapades sound much like the dime novels popular at the time. After roaming for a while he took up residence in Muskogee at "Ruth Sheppard's house of ill fame."

The essential description of Wiley's crime is near the same in all three newspapers of the day but the dates vary. The *Independent* is specific in saying that it happened on "the night of Sunday, July 2" but the *New Era* said, "last February" which would have been February 1879. The *Elevator* said that the event took place on February 28, 1879, which, in that year was a Sunday. The July 2nd date is probably in error because Wiley was tried and convicted in May of 1879 so the date given would had to have been in 1878 in which case he would have been tried in the fall term of court in 1878 not May, 1879.

On the night of the crime, two men, David Brown and Ross Cunningham, went to Ruth Sheppard's house and played cards and "drank freely." Brown laid down and went to sleep and Cunningham continued to carouse. About three o'clock Cunningham tried to wake Brown and get him home. Finally Wiley ordered Brown to leave the house. Brown appeared to obey but then grabbed Cunningham's pistol. Wiley immediately commenced firing, striking Cunningham once in the leg and three shots hit Brown in the breast and head. The last time Wiley fired he placed the gun near the victim's head and put a bullet through his brain. He then rubbed his weapon over the face of his victim and boasted that he had killed many a better man. Giving Cunningham's pistol to his mistress, he ordered her to shoot the first man who "darkened the door." He permitted no one to leave the house except John Woods, whom he sent for a horse. Failing to get a horse, he started

away on foot and was arrested the same day while asleep in the woods. At his trial the jury delivered a verdict of guilty after only a few moments of deliberation.

The information in the preceding paragraph was taken from the *Fort Smith Independent*, which appears to be given to more flamboyant detail than the other papers of the time. The *Elevator* and the *New Era* reported only the basics of the events with no reference to intimate details.

All of the newspapers of the day commented on the coolness and apparent courage of Stewart and Wiley. They reportedly showed no emotion during their trials or when their verdicts were read. It was only after his conviction that Wiley revealed that his full name was not William Elliott but William Elliott Wiley. He said that he had not used his full name to spare his family the embarrassment of his deeds.

On the morning of August 29, 1879, the condemned men spent their time meeting with their spiritual advisors, writing letters and wrapping up their earthly affairs. Stewart conversed, through the prison bars, with his half-brother. At two o'clock they were led from the prison and, with their spiritual advisors, were conducted, under guard, to the gallows. The execution was a private affair. No one was allowed inside the garrison compound except officers of the court, clergy, members of the medical profession, reporters and a few invited citizens.

The prisoners, without apparent fear, mounted the steps to the gallows accompanied by Rev. Mr. Sample, their spiritual advisor, who made some remarks about his relations with the condemned men and their spiritual condition. He then offered a prayer in which he was joined by the prisoners. On being asked if he had anything to say, Wiley declared that he had killed Brown in self-defense and that if he had not that he would have been killed. He acknowledged that although it was wicked for him to have been in such a place that he did not do the killing on account of a woman. He said that he forgave everybody, had made his peace with God, then shook hands all around. As the black cap was being placed over his head he said, "Be sure to break our necks, boys, and don't punish us."

Henri Stewart said that he had not intended to speak on the scaffold but would say a few words. Instead of regretting his situation he considered it a blessed privilege and said that he had found grace and was confident that he would soon be in a better world. He referred to the thief on the cross who found forgiveness at the last moment. He bade all farewell and jerking the rope he said, "Thank God for giving us such a speedy means of passing from this life to eternity."

At 2:30 p.m. Marshal C. M. Barnes signaled the jailer by a move of his hand and the drop fell. Wiley's neck was broken by the fall and he died without a struggle. Stewart's neck was not broken and his limbs twitched convulsively for about five minutes and his heartbeat ceased in nine minutes. The bodies were cut down after twenty minutes. Wiley's body was placed in a coffin and buried on the military reservation. Stewart's body was taken charge of by his half-brother, Arthur T. Stewart, and placed in a fine casket that he had provided and interred at the city cemetery.

Arthur T. Stewart complained to reporters the night after the execution about his treatment by the U. S. officials in the preceding days. He had traveled from Atchison, Kansas and arrived on Wednesday before the Friday execution. He asked to be allowed inside the jail to spend Thursday with his brother but was refused. He was allowed to talk with him through the bars at times during the day but was ordered out of the garrison enclosure several times. On Friday, shortly before his brother was led to the gallows, he was allowed inside the jail for thirty minutes for a final farewell. He then requested (and his brother also desired) that he be allowed to walk with Henri to the gallows and was refused. He was also denied entrance to the enclosure around the gallows. He had bought a fine casket in which Henri was placed and had ordered a hearse to convey the body to the cemetery. However, the officer in charge said that he had orders from the Marshal's Office to deliver the remains outside the walls and ordered driver to take the hearse out, which he did. In order to not have the coffins tumbled together in the wagon the brother enlisted some citizens to carry the casket outside the garrison wall, a distance of about 250 yards, to the hearse. Arthur Stewart also complained that the officer in charge refused to give him a letter that Henri had written to a friend shortly before his execution. He expressed his appreciation for the kindness and sympathy that the people of Fort Smith had shown him during his stay here.

Following is the last message from Henri Stewart to Arthur concerning an inscription for his headstone;

"How sweet it is to sleep in Jesus."

"That is the best that suggests itself to my mind at present. If you can improve on it please do so. Brother." Apparently he never received a stone for none exists at his grave today.

The gallows again rested for just over two years.

Sources: *Fort Smith Elevator*
Fort Smith New Era
Wheeler's Independent, Fort Smith

FIVE TRAPDOOR ANGELS

Sent to that Bourne

"FROM WHENCE NO TRAVELER RETURNS".

(*New Era* 9-14-1881)

Just before 10:00 A.M., September 9, 1881 five men, dressed neatly in new suits, emerged from the U.S. Jail, each handcuffed and guarded on each side by a U.S. Deputy Marshal. At the gates and on the walls of the garrison was a detachment of the Frontier Guard, a company of state troops, under the command of Capt. P. T. Devany. Since July 1878, when the fence around the gallows was raised to sixteen feet, the public had not been allowed inside the garrison walls to attend a hanging and newly appointed U.S. District Marshal, Valentine Dell, was not going to allow anyone except authorized persons inside that day.

The five neatly dressed men were the condemned, George Padgett, William Brown, Patrick McGowen, all white men, and Amos and Abler Manley, brothers and Creek Indians, all five convicted of murder.

The gallows had stood without duties for one year and one week and in the last four years had had only two "trapdoor angels". The hiatuses were not for the lack of candidates though. The U.S. Marshal's Office and the grand juries had nominated many and the petit juries had even elected some for the honor. But President Hayes and then President Garfield had commuted all except these five and the two hanged on December 20, 1878 to life in prison at Moundsville, West Virginia.

George W. Padgett

George W. Padgett, 24 years old and first of the five to be convicted, had expected no more than a manslaughter verdict. However, it was reported that on that Thursday, February 17, 1881, that he had received the guilty-of-murder verdict without showing any emotion.

Padgett was charged with the murder of his employer, a Mr. Stevens, on July 26, 1880. The story, as reported in the *Weekly Independent*, was that Stevens was on his way through the Indian Territory en route to Kansas with 2,200 head of cattle belonging to someone in Texas. Near the Comanche Agency, he met and hired Padgett for the rest of the drive. Padgett, at that time, used the alias of Charley Wilson.

Among the cattle were four or five head of strays with the mark of a man named Wagner, for whom Padgett claimed to have worked in Texas. Padgett claimed the right of taking charge of those cattle and accounting to Wagner for them. Stevens refused and that appears to have been the beginning of the trouble. Padgett took a great dislike to Stevens and was heard, according to testimony, to have made violent threats against him.

Near the Kansas line, as the herders were cutting out the cattle to be sold, Padgett approached Stevens and demanded to know what he was going to do about the Wagner cattle. Using very abusive language he said that no man should cut them out. Padgett had in his hand, at the time, a cocked revolver. The two men had "hot words" during which time Stevens, who was unarmed, asked a bystander for a gun and failing to get one turned on his horse and rode off. Padgett aimed his pistol and was quoted as saying, "Damn you, I'll shoot you anyhow", and fired. The bullet struck Stevens in the side just behind the right arm and caused almost instant death. Padgett attempted to escape but was captured about six miles from the scene of the murder. His first comment on being captured was reported to have been, "Well, I'm sorry I done it, but this is the seventh man I have killed." He later claimed that the statement was meant only as a joke. The defense argued that Stevens was holding a drovers whip in a threatening manner and used aggravating language toward Padgett but the jury didn't credit the argument. After 24 hours they returned a verdict of guilty of murder.

Immediately after George Padgett's trial, there occurred the trial of Arena Howe. Her trial would not have been noteworthy except that she was one of several women indicted for murder during Isaac Parker's tenure as Judge of the Court for the Western District of Arkansas and because of the biological differences between men and women.

Arena Howe

Arena Howe was a white woman who by her own confession and "abundant evidence" killed a white man, one Albert Church, in the Indian Territory about 150 miles west of Fort Smith on August 21, 1880. She claimed to have killed "in defense of her virtue." "From peculiar circumstances" the case "excited considerable attention." Arena Howe was "near her confinement" (read: term of gestation). Also, as she sat in court she held on her knee "a fine looking boy of about four years" and that scene attracted much sympathy. The jury could not reach agreement, being 10 for and 2 against conviction and so was discharged and the case carried over until the next term of court. In the meantime, Mrs. Howe would be "confined" and there being no suitable accommodations at the courthouse, the U.S. Marshal obtained special appropriation for the purpose. She gave birth just after her trial. Arena Howe, in the next court term, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to ten years at Detroit.

William T. Brown

Within a week after Arena Howe's first trial the court had disposed of twenty more cases

including the murder conviction of William T. Brown. Brown, more justifiably than Padgett, had hoped for a manslaughter conviction but the jury did not see it that way. On the night of Thursday March 3, 1881 the jury, after about an hour of deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty.

There were two versions of the killing reported in the local papers but they all agreed on the events leading up to the event. William Brown, 27, and his partner, Ralph C. Tate 17, a man named Moore and others were employed by a hay contractor at Ft. Sill. In August of 1880 an argument occurred between Brown and Moore over a foot race in which Brown had outrun Moore who was reputed to be a violent man. The result was a fist fight and Brown was badly beaten.

The *Herald* describes a scene where Moore "jumped upon him and knocked him down. He cried, 'nough' and was released." Brown then went to his room and got a pistol, returned and fired at the first man he saw. He had shot and killed his friend, Tate.

The *New Era* and the *Independent* have a different story than the *Herald* but are in near agreement with each other. After the fight Brown got a gun and, at night, waited for Moore beside a path. When a man appeared he fired, only to realize, too late, that it was his friend and not Moore.

Brown immediately fled and when G. W. Tate, father of the slain man, heard the news he went in pursuit of his son's killer. Again, there are differences in the telling of Brown's capture with the *Independent*, as usual, having the more detailed and exciting version. Their telling has G. W. Tate pursuing Brown 600 miles through Indian Territory into Texas, "and after 28 days hard travel, captured his man, and led him by a trace chain padlocked around his neck all the way to Fort Smith, 300 miles, and turned him over to the U.S. jailer." The other papers reported only that Mr. Tate pursued and located Brown, procured his arrest and return to Fort Smith. Brown, on his arrest, admitted the killing and related all of the details leading up to the deed.

The court barely slowed it's pace long enough to select new grand and petit jury pools and went from the February term to the May term of court. They started with one hundred and eleven prisoners in the jail, eleven of them for murder, and the marshals bringing in more prisoners regularly. By May 17 the court had completed, along with dozens of larceny, liquor and other cases, the murder trial of Patrick M. McGowen.

Patrick M. McGowen

McGowen, aged 35, was charged with the murder of Sam Latta in the Chickasaw Nation in the fall of 1880.

Only the *New Era* gave a full account of the crime, labeling it, "for cool, calculating, premeditated and fiendish execution is almost without a parallel in the history of crime." -- a considerable exaggeration.

Patrick McGowen and Sam Latta had owned more than 300 acres together but after a disagreement Latta had bought McGowen's share. However, hard feelings had persisted that ended with the murder of Latta by McGowen.

Indicted jointly with McGowen was William Hunter, a man of 60 years, whom the evidence revealed was the instigator of the crime. However, since the United States had no law at that time to punish an accessory before the fact, the case against Hunter was *nolle prosequi* (prosecutor elects not to proceed). McGowen took the opportunity afforded by that situation to have Hunter called as a witness for the defense. He must have placed great hope on Hunter's testimony but his hopes were undone by the prosecutor, U.S. Attorney Clayton. Hunter broke down under Clayton's cross-examination.

The testimony revealed that hard feelings had existed between McGowen and Sam Latta and that those feelings were shared by Hunter. Further, the feeling had been aggravated by some slight that Hunter had received at the home of Latta the night before the murder. Hunter, seeking revenge that he did not have the courage to carry out, went to McGowen's home next morning, arriving about 10 o'clock. Hunter found McGowen plowing in his field. After a long conversation, the plow was left in the furrow, the plow horse saddled and after the noon meal the two rode off in the direction of Latta's home. On the way they stopped to inquire for ammunition, claiming to be hunting. Yet, when a wild turkey flew up within shooting range, McGowen refused to shoot saying, "I don't want to waste my ammunition on a turkey."

Two miles from Sam Latta's house the two men separated and McGowen rode to the back of Latta's field and tied his horse. He slipped through the corn until he came to a bee-gum (bee hive) under a peach tree. By that time, it was evening and Latta stepped out of his house preparatory to retiring. He walked through the orchard and picked some peaches and started back toward the house. As he came near a long outhouse McGowen shot him down. Latta's sister "rushed from the house only to pillow in her lap the head of her dying brother and hear the murderer launch his curses upon his bleeding victim."

The case went to the jury at 10:30 on Tuesday morning, May 17th, and at 11:30 the jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

Amos and Abler Manley

Amos and Abler Manley, Creek Indians, had been tried before Patrick McGowen but the jury had deadlocked, one of the jurors refusing to agree to a

guilty verdict, being opposed to capital punishment. Their crime was the murder of Eli McVay near Eufala in December 1880. They were retried the first week of June 1881. The following is condensed from the widow, Mrs. McVay's testimony as printed in *Wheeler's Independent* 6-8-81:

"They came to my house by themselves; I had gone to bed; they wanted to come in and warm; my husband asked them where they were going; they said, "to Mrs. Sweet's to pick cotton," and spoke in English." Eli McVay then made a fire in the fireplace, lighted a lamp and made them a bed where they lay down before the fire. One of the McVay's small twins was sick and the father sat with it by the lamp. Bill Barnett, McVay's hired man slept in another bed in the same room.

"[T]hey got up from the pallet and stood by the fire for about two hours and were laughing and talking in the Creek language; we did not understand what they were saying; I was in bed and Barnett in his; one of the Indians went out of doors and came back and asked my husband for tobacco; he gave him some and he took his pipe off the mantel and smoked; they both smoked some time before the fire when they turned around and fired on my husband, one with a six shooter and the other with a pocket pistol; my husband had no pistol; when they shot him he sprang up and fell on his face and threw the child on one side; then Bill Barnett jumped out of bed and they shot him; then I jumped out of bed and they shot at me; they missed me but a ball grazed Barnett on the shoulder; then the biggest man ran out of doors and while he was out Barnett was scuffling with the other man trying to get the pistol from him; then the big man came in with an axe and struck Barnett on the head with the axe, using both hands; Barnett fell to the floor; the big man struck him again on the head and cut at him with the axe, cutting off Barnett's left hand." The big man then struck at Mrs. McVay three times but missed. McVay's dog then ran in and started barking at the outside. The attackers, thinking that someone was coming, left Mrs. McVay, holding her children, ran to Dr. Tennent's house a quarter mile away. Surprisingly, soon after Mrs. McVay arrived at the doctor's house Barnett arrived, hand missing, head and thigh cut to the bone.

The Manley brothers escaped conviction the first time because of one man's opposition to capital punishment. They were not so lucky the second time.

The Wednesday, June 22, 1881 edition of the *New Era* read:

Doomed

Five Murderers Sentenced to be Hung

"On Thursday morning, June 16th, there were sentenced in the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas by Judge I. C. Parker, three white men and two Indians to be hung on September 9th, 1881, for the crime of murder in the Indian Territory. ...

"All took their doom without the betrayal of any emotions."....

Regardless of their calm demeanor on June 16th, all of the men entertained hopes of some kind of reprieve up until September 5, 1881. On that day, District Attorney W. H. H. Clayton received a dispatch from Attorney General McVeagh, declining to interfere in the cases of any of them.

At ten o'clock Tuesday morning, September 6th, and on Wednesday and Thursday at the same time, the Methodist Church held prayer meetings for the benefit of the five condemned men.

Just before 10 o'clock Friday morning September 9, 1881 the five men in their new suits, probably the first and certainly the last that any of them ever owned, started their walk to the gallows. Just outside the jail William Brown fainted and was revived with water applied to his face. He said that he was not accustomed to the hot sun. The procession continued on and mounted the scaffold without incident.

"The Instrument of Death" as described by the *Elevator*, 9-9-81:

"The scaffold has been erected in the southwest corner of the walls surrounding the garrison. The place is very small and will not admit of more than fifty witnesses, hardly that many in addition to the guards and attendants. The surroundings are anything but inviting. The scaffold stands eight feet above the ground. A stairway of 12 steps, 3 feet 6 inches in width, leads up to the platform which is 14 x 15. The trap twelve feet long by three wide and is so arranged as to give way in the center when sprung, each half being on hinges. The cross beam above the platform is seven feet two inches above platform and is of heavy timber. The ropes are so arranged so as to give about six feet drop. A deep trench has been dug directly under the trap, so as to prevent the feet of the condemned men from striking the ground."

The *Herald*, next day after the execution, headlined the event in a less Shakespearean manner than the *New Era* did. With a headline of at least twenty-four point type and diminishing sized subheads they proclaimed:

FATAL DROP!

Five Brave Men Gone
Down to Their
Doom!

**M'GOWAN'S ELOQUENT
SPEECH!**

Confessions of Killing but not of Murder!

UNPARALLELED FORTITUDE!

On Their Way Upward!

All newspapers, however, gave essentially the same account of the hanging and the events leading up to it.

On the scaffold the prisoners, in their suits, white shirts and black neckties, were seated on a long bench in the following order; Padgett, McGowen, Brown, Amos and Abler Manley. Chief Deputy Marshal Huffington read each man's death sentence. After the reading of the sentences were read Rev. Mr. Jeffett, the spiritual advisor to all but McGowen, offered a prayer. Rev. Father Lawrence Smythe, who had administered the sacrament to McGowen the day before, had a short conversation with him. Handshaking all around with attorneys, marshals, guards and others then followed. The doomed men moved to the front of the platform and stood upon the trap and spoke their last words.

Padgett claimed self-defense and said that, "They brought false witnesses to swear against me."

McGowen spoke eloquently and he also complained of false witnesses and asserted that he had killed in self-defense. He said that the man he killed was an outlaw and that if he had his deserts that he would be standing in his (McGowen's) place today. He also spoke of his wife and children whom he was leaving "to the mercy of the four winds." At that point his eyes filled with tears and his voice trembled as he finished with, "I die claiming to be an innocent man, and bid you all a long farewell."

Padgett and McGowen had taken it "very hard and bitter in their anguish at not getting a stay until the President" recovered sufficiently to review their cases. President Garfield had been shot July 2, 1881. He died shortly after the executions, never having recovered from his wounds.

Brown was calmer and clearer in his speech than the others. He said, "I realize that I am standing on the scaffold of death, feeling that my sins are forgiven, and I forgive all mankind." He acknowledged having killed his friend through a mistake and stated that he would rather have died himself "I feel as if I am going off in a sweet sleep, and will meet you all in glory. I am ready and willing to go." He then spoke to Mr. Tom Barnes, who was standing in the crowd below, wishing him every success.

The Manley brothers, through an interpreter, spoke next, first Amos then Abler. They admitted that they had done the killing but said that their lives had been threatened by McVay, which was in contradiction to the statement that they signed in their cell the night before.

The statement as printed in the *Fort Smith Herald* 9-10-8 1:

"Fort Smith, Ark. Sept. 8, 1881.

This is my last night that I shall spend on this earth, for tomorrow I will be in eternity. I am innocent of the crime that I am to be hung for. I am telling the truth as a lie could not do me any good, the good God in heaven knows that I did not know anything about it.

Hans Posley and the woman swore lies on me. I will be punished for something I did not do."

"Abler Manley"

"Amos Manley"

When all had finished speaking the black caps were put in place, ropes adjusted and "at 10:10 o'clock they were suspended between heaven and earth." When "life was extinct" their bodies were placed in coffins and taken away. The body of Padgett was taken charge of by his stepfather, McGowen was taken to the Catholic cemetery and the three others were buried on the reservation to be taken away by relatives when the weather was cooler.

"All was over by eleven o'clock and with so little excitement and éclat, that the whole dreadful affair did not cause as much of a ripple outside the walls as an ordinary street fight." *New Era* 9-14-81.

Note: Valentine Dell, editor of the *New Era*, was appointed U.S. District Marshal in July 1880. He continued as editor of his newspaper. In June 1881 Marshal Dell ordered uniforms for his officers, guards and bailiffs. The uniforms were of a military style and of dark blue cloth with light blue cord and with gilt buttons.

Sources: *New Era*, Fort Smith
Elevator, Fort Smith
Herald, Fort Smith
Independent, Fort Smith

EDWARD FULSOM

Hired Gun or Accidental Accomplice?

On Wednesday, August 17, 1881 the *New Era* published this account of a double murder in Arkansas on the border of Indian Territory. The same article was repeated in the Saturday, August 20 edition of the *Weekly Herald* without the headline and subhead.

DOUBLE MURDER

Wm. Massingill and George Stewart
Assassinated in the Choctaw Nation
Waldron, Scott Co. Ark.

August 15, 1881

Hon. V. Dell, U.S. Marshall West. Dist. Ark.

Dear Sir: Last Friday morning William Massingill, who has worked for me three years past, left my house and went into the edge of Choctaw Nation, west of Waldron, and stopped to stay all night at the house of John Stewart, who lives Just inside the Nation. About nine o'clock in the evening James Hobbs, a white man, and Ed Fulsom, a Choctaw, came to said Stewart's house and shot Stewart seven times, killing him

dead. Massingill started to run and one or the other of the assassins shot him in the back of the head, killing him instantly, and then beat him on the head till it was crushed to pieces and mutilated horribly.

Massingill was an entire stranger to the murderers, and was a quiet, honest, peaceable man, and none were better thought of in this community than him.

It is hoped for and desired that you will secure the arrest of the assassins and bring them to a speedy trial in the U.S. Court at Fort Smith for this most diabolical double murder.

Yours very respectfully,
T.

Edward Fulsom was captured and tried for the murders but his partner in crime, James Hobbs, escaped. The session of court that would try Ed Fulsom convened on the first Monday of February 1882 with Judge Parker giving one of his famous charges to the grand jury. *Wheeler's Independent* printed an excerpt of that address that expressed the essence of all of the judge's charges to juries. The following is verbatim from that article:

"On Monday last U. S. Court convened. The Hon. Isaac Parker delivered one of his forcible charges to the grand jury, which was listened to with deep interest by a large attendance. (The court is always crowded when Old Ironsides charges his sitting juries). We do not give the charge at length to our readers as we would wish, for they are extempore and general to the interests of the community in a legal sense, but we jotted down the following remarks, which allude to the careless and frequent abuse of the pardoning power:

"This power under [our] own system of Government is properly placed in the hands of executive officers to be exercised only when injustice has been done the party convicted. When exercised without understanding the facts of the case, it becomes an instrument of great wrong and grievous outrage upon the people who look to the vigorous enforcement of the law for their security and their protection.

"Sometimes executive officers are carried away by a false sympathy for the criminal. Sometimes they become over desirous of getting a reputation for being merciful. The improper exercise of this power, from whatever cause, may seem to be mercy to the individual, but it becomes the most terrible cruelty to the people who for their own safety have a right to the enforcement of legal penalties in the full measure in all cases where the crime has been proven and the law fairly given. The abuse of this power is a fruitful cause of the crimes against the life and property abroad in the land.

Criminals by its abuse are encouraged in the belief that they can evade the penalties of the law by the aid of the executive.

"Those in authority who abuse this power, unwittingly become promoters of crime. When a high crime is committed and the guilt of the criminal is established as required by law, punishment should follow with unerring certainty. In this way only can the people have peace and the law-abiding be protected. He who abuses this power to pardon, be he President or Governor, exhibits his unfitness for his high station.

"The people demand of all those in official position that they will enforce the law. They have a right to make this demand and to see that it is observed because the peace of the country and the security of their lives and property depend upon it."

At that time Chester A. Arthur, as Vice President, had succeeded to the presidency following the assassination of President James A. Garfield. There had been few commutations during either of their administrations but President Hayes, who preceded Garfield, had commuted the sentences of almost everyone convicted of capital crimes during his term in office. Some of those cases had been heinous crimes prosecuted with incontrovertible evidence yet the Chief Executive had seen fit to override the court's decisions. Parker must have been venting his frustration over those decrees.

Edward Fulsom, about 20 years old at the time of his trial, had been born to parents well connected in the Indian Nation, his father being Judge Fulsom of Scullyville and his grandfather Hon. Peter P. Pytentin. On his mother's side he was connected with the McCurtains (McCurtain County) and the Pages, all well respected in the Nation. He had gone to school at McAllister and later at the district school at Scullyville. After his schooling, he worked as clerk and interpreter in a store and then took up the roving way of cattle hunting and herding for cattle buyers. Cattle hunting in remote areas entailed carrying a gun but there was no indication that Fulsom was involved in any shooting affray prior to the case for which he was convicted.

Fulsom had known James Hobbs only a short time before August 1881 and they had become partners in the practice of cattle hunting and whiskey running. They made John Stewart's place their informal rendezvous. John Stewart owned a house situated on the line between Scott County, Arkansas and the Indian Territory. The house must have been a combination store, tavern and gambling house judging by the events that took place there.

For a day or two before the killing Fulsom and Hobbs had been seen around the area of Stewart's establishment without any "perceptible reason for so doing." On the afternoon of August 12, 1881 Edward Fulsom and James Hobbs went to Stewart's place where they played cards and drank. They left there and about 3 o'clock were found by a Mr. Hill, a neighbor of Stewart's, lying beside the road near his well "in a state of intoxication." The two stayed on Hill's premises until they had had supper and then started for Stewart's store about a quarter-mile away. Sometime after dark, they arrived at the store and, finding it closed, called for Stewart. Mrs. Stewart, "a young woman in delicate health," answered their call and asked their business. John Stewart then appeared and asked their names which were given but with protest, "you should not make us give our names, for there are strangers here." Stewart admitted the pair to the store and went back for a light. Then, according to a partial confession by Fulsom, they engaged in a game of cards and in the ensuing events he, Fulsom, was only a witness and participated in none of the violence.

For some reason a quarrel broke out either between Fulsom and Stewart or between Hobbs and Stewart, the truth was never ascertained. Stewart was shot seven times and fell dead. The contention of the prosecution was that, as two of the wounds were in the back that they were the first shots fired as Stewart turned to replace a bottle of liquor on the shelf. Massingill, a stranger to the assailants, appeared and started to run. Hobbs pursued him, fired twice, one shot hitting Massingill in the back of the head and killing him instantly. Fulsom then went behind the counter and emptied his revolver of the remaining shots into the breast of Stewart. Further testimony, as reported by the papers, told that after Hobbs had shot and killed Massingill that he then beat and mutilated his head with his gun. At that time Fulsom came out and said, "Don't beat him, shoot him." The defense argued that Hobbs was known to have carried two pistols and that he did all of the shooting. But it was revealed that after they left the scene of the murders they went to the house of a neighbor identified by the *Elevator* as Jesse M. Wright who lived about five miles away. The same article described how Fulsom had left his bloody boot print on the head and chest of the victim. The writer then tells of the two murderers mounting their horses and leaving the scene whooping and yelling and keeping that up for a distance of two miles. At the home of Mr. Wright, Hobbs gave the man his pistol and three cartridges and asked him to reload it.

Fulsom then gave the neighbor his gun for the same purpose but when the man noticed "blood upon the face and bosom" of Fulsom he remarked that it looked as if he had been in some sort of trouble. To that Fulsom replied, "Yes, we have killed two of them." and at that reply the man returned the gun to Fulsom. That description by the *New Era* seems to imply that Wright was repulsed by the circumstances. However, the *Elevator* reported that the murderers stayed the night at that home.

Other circumstances reported in the *New Era* suggested that the killing of Stewart might have been a murder for hire. That paper reported that, according to a partial confession by Fulsom, someone near Waldron Arkansas, not far from the crime scene, had offered him \$750 to kill Stewart but that he did not accept the offer.

Because of the peculiar location of the property where the crime took place there was considerable argument by the defense over jurisdiction. Fulsom, when arrested, had first been taken to Waldron, Scott County, to be tried by state authorities. The U.S. Court, however, issued a writ allowing the U.S. Marshal to bring Fulsom to Ft. Smith for trial. Defense lawyers argued long but unsuccessfully on the point of Jurisdiction. Neither the Court nor the jury accepted their argument and the jury was out about one hour in returning a verdict of guilty.

On June 30, 1882 Edward Fulsom went to the gallows and on that same day, in Washington, D.C., went to the gallows one Charles Guiteau, assassin. The news of Fulsom's trial and execution had shared the news pages with that of Guiteau, the assassin of President Garfield. They had occupied about the same news space up until the time of their executions. Guiteau, however, got more print covering his execution than Fulsom.

The local papers, immediately before and after Fulsom's execution, described his background, his crime and his visits with his wife and the baptism of their child, by Rev. Berne, at the U.S. jail. But, as to the hanging the *New Era* said, "At precisely eleven o'clock the procession started from the U.S. jail for the gallows and in twenty minutes all was over, Fulsom declining to make any remarks before being launched into eternity." The paper did go on to say that Fulsom was attended by Rev. Mr. Berne of the P. E. Church who administered religious consolations to him. And that, "Thus perished, miserably, a young man who might have been an honor to his people and ornament to society." The article neglected to mention that, although the walk to the gallows began at 11:00 and the drop was accomplished at 11:17, the body hung for one hour and three minutes until the pulse stopped. Fulsom's neck was not broken but

there was no contortion or struggle and he "hung like a statue" (*Wheeler's Independent* 7-5-82). The reporter went on to describe the protrusion and color of Fulsom's tongue. Further that Fulsom was a small man, estimated to weigh only about 110 pounds, and had appeared to have turned his head just as the drop fell thereby, changing the position of the noose.

When the body was taken down and placed in the casket, Rev. Berne performed the burial ceremony. After the hanging Mrs. Page, Fulsom's aunt, had entered the gallows area to attend the ceremony but, on seeing the casket, had fainted "and fell heavily on the ground" and was not revived until the services were over. The burial was at Mrs. Page's home at Cedar Prairie, about ten miles from the city.

Fulsom's trial had attracted attention only because of the legal wrangling over jurisdiction and his hanging had attracted only about twenty viewers including physicians and clergy. It should be noted though that, since July 1878, no one was allowed inside the garrison walls on an execution day except lawmen, clergymen, reporters and invited guests and that not all of those were allowed inside the sixteen foot wooden fence around the gallows.

Edward Fulsom was the 25th man to hang during Judge Parker's administration and the 32nd hanged during the existence of the Western District Court in Fort Smith. The gallows would wait for more than ten months, until April 13, 1883, for number 26/33. But in the meantime the court would try numerous people for capital crimes, some to have the charges reduced and some to have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Sources: *The New Era*
Wheeler's Independent
Fort Smith Elevator
Weekly Herald
National Archives

MEMORIAL AND COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

News & Opportunities

FRONTIER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recipients of Fort Smith Secondary Social Studies Educators' 2003 Frontier Achievement Awards were Sister Rebecca Hendricks, the Fort Smith Historical Society and Janice Bufford Eddleman. The awards, made annually to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Fort Smith historical or cultural heritage, were presented at the River Front Park Events Building on Thursday April 24, 2003.



Left to Right: Mayor C. Ray Baker, Jr., Sister Rebecca Hendricks, Charles Raney, president of the Fort Smith Historical Society, and Janice Bufford Eddleman.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

By Richard Griffin

In memory of
John Maddox Smith

MATCHING GRANT FUND

A great big thanks to the 34 members who have made a contribution to the Matching Grant Fund. Contributions are still coming in, but several thousand dollars are still needed to meet the goal.

PLEASE SEND A CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

REMEMBER -- ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. The names of all contributors making contributions by February 1, 2004, will be published in the April issue of *The Journal*.

FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

May 1 began the twelfth year of operation for restored Fort Smith streetcar #224. The car was new

in 1926 and operated only seven years before the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company closed and streetcars were replaced by buses in 1933.

1933 completed 50 years of street railway operation in Fort Smith. The first cars were mule drawn and were limited to downtown. Except for the twenty five cities that had cable cars, all streetcars were horse drawn until the invention of the electric streetcars in 1888. Fort Smith electric cars arrived in 1896. The system then expanded to 33 miles of track with service to residential areas, Van Buren and even Arkoma. There were fifty-eight passenger cars and the fares ran from five to eight cents. The excellent system was replaced by the automobile, as it was in over a thousand cities that had streetcars.

There were eight other cities in Arkansas that had electric streetcars. They were Little Rock, North Little Rock, Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, Helena, Walnut Ridge, Eureka Springs and Texarkana. Searcy and Sulfur Rock had horse drawn cars. The post office issued a stamp commemorating the last horse drawn streetcar in America at Sulfur Rock.

The second car restoration is progressing. The goal is to have it restored by 2004, which will be it's 100th birthday.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY AND CULTURE

Work is under way to develop an on-line encyclopedia of Arkansas history and culture. Tom W. Dillard, curator of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, is editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia.

Plans call for a detailed on-line encyclopedia, with entries on each county, town, city, region and historic site in the state, biographies of prominent Arkansans, brief descriptive articles on hundreds of individual topics as well as larger essays analyzing broad subjects and time periods. The Encyclopedia will be heavily illustrated with photographs, maps, and other images, as well as audio and video clips.

Regional meetings have been held so people around the state have the opportunity to provide their input and suggestions.



Anyone wishing to volunteer, learn more about the project, or nominate a subject for inclusion should contact Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, or telephone Dillard at 501-918-3056. The Encyclopedia project can also be emailed at ea@comcast.net.

ARKANSAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Help is needed in protecting Arkansas's pioneer era cemeteries. Over the last few years, reports of damaged cemeteries have increased dramatically. Older cemeteries with unkempt grounds in out-of-the-way locations are most at risk of vandalism, but development, agriculture, and timber management activities threaten cemeteries of all ages and sizes throughout Arkansas.

If you can provide information about an at-risk cemetery, please send the information to Dr. Ann M. Early, State Archaeologist, 2475 N. Hatch Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72704. Phone 479-575-3556, Fax 479-575-5453. The cemeteries do not have to be eligible for the National Register, they don't have to be the burying place of historically important people, and they do not need to have detailed genealogical information or gravestone descriptions, although that information would be helpful.

The most important information is the specific location of the cemetery, marked on a map of some sort, basic data about the approximate size and age of the burying area, the owner of the cemetery (if known), and any information about threats from agriculture, development or vandalism. This information will be included in a database. The Historic Preservation Program and other cultural resource managers will use the database to check for potentially important sites before construction projects take place, while allowing archaeologists a means to watch for archaeological sites that might be affected by private property development and/or other activities that do not fall under the Historic Preservation Program's responsibility.

MANESS SCHOOLHOUSE

The Maness Schoolhouse at Barling in Sebastian County has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Maness Schoolhouse at 8801 Wells Lake Road is a stone, one-room schoolhouse built in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration, a Depression-era federal relief program. The schoolhouse features a rear porch built by German prisoners of war in 1943. This

schoolhouse, the sole surviving structure from the now-defunct community of Massard, is a living reminder of the now non-existent community of Massard, as well as the workmanship of the WPA and German POWs.

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

For information about the Arkansas Historical Association, contact Rhonda Camp, Business Manager of the AHA, Old Main 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Phone: 479-575-5884, Fax 479-575-2775, email www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/ or rcamp@uark.edu.

News Chronology February 1 – June 30, 2003

**(Abstracted from Fort Smith Times Record
and Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
by Becky and J. P. Chancey)**

February 2003

2nd — COLUMBIA DISINTEGRATES: High over the state of Texas and just short of home, space shuttle Columbia fell to pieces Saturday, February 1st.

2nd — Step across the threshold of the front door of the Clayton House and back in time. In true Victorian fashion, the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation will host a mélange of activities to help familiarize the community with the historical significance of the Clayton House and the family who inhabited the home in the 1800's. Afternoon teas, a summertime cotillion and croquet on the grounds in the spring are planned throughout the year at the historic Clayton House, 514 N. 6th St.

4th — A Fort Smith man loses childhood friend in the space shuttle Columbia tragedy. Carl Lorez, Minister of Music, at East Side Baptist Church, said he and Rick Husband, veteran astronaut and commander of the space shuttle Columbia, forged a strong friendship when the two were junior high school classmates in Amarillo, Texas.

7th — First Lutheran School Celebrates Sesquicentennial Throughout Year — Christmas day wasn't just a sacred holiday for the students, faculty and alumni of First Lutheran Schools. It was the 150th birthday of the private Christian school, celebrating one of the oldest educational institutions in the area established December 25, 1852.

The school hosted a 150th birthday party January 5th with special worship services at the First Lutheran Church and a luncheon later in the day.

7th — Mayor Ray Baker spoke at a dedication ceremony for the trolley extension and streetscape project at the west end of Garrison Avenue. The 810 feet addition of track extended the trolley line into the Ross Pendergraft Park.

8th — Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker will lay a wreath on the grave of General William O. Darby at 11 AM today in the National Cemetery. This year would have been Darby's 92nd birthday.

14th — Arkansas feeling gasoline price hike — In Fort Smith the average price per gallon is \$1.57, up 19 cents over a month ago. The price per gallon in Arkansas is \$1.59.

16th — The new floor mural in the Fort Smith Convention Center is circled with the phrase, "Life's Worth Living in Fort Smith Arkansas", a statement made famous by Mayor Ray Baker. This is a part of the city's commitment to the visual and performing arts.

22nd — More than 40 people gathered February 22nd at the temple of the United Hebrew Congregation to observe National Brotherhood Month. Barbara Turner, member of the United Hebrew congregation, and one of the event organizers, said the purpose of the gathering, themed "Interfaith Communication", was to bring people together from different religions for an exchange of information. Speakers representing the Islamic and Jewish faiths, Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists and Christian Methodist Episcopalians (CME) were on hand to discuss not only what their congregations are doing to help others in the community, but also what others could do to help them help the community. A recurring theme of love and unity was carried throughout the service.

March 2003

9th — States Insurance Problem Hits Close to Home — For many years, Methodist Nursing Home in Fort Smith paid annual liability insurance premiums of about \$10,000 to \$12,000. Over the last five years these premiums sky-rocketed, with last years lowest bid for coverage coming in at \$250,000. The non-profit home's board of directors said the home had to choose last year between these alternatives: accepting the \$250,000. bid and

passing the cost on to it residents, or going without insurance, or closing it's doors. The home now carries no liability insurance.

10th — Bass Reeves was reported to be one of the most talented and tenacious law enforcement figures of the Old West, but author Art Burton finds it astonishing that the former slave has remained so unknown by the rest of the country. Burton, who is completing a biography of one of the marshals who worked for Judge Isaac C. Parker in Fort Smith and the Indian Territory during the late 1800s, said Reeves was like Superman, Sherlock Holmes, and The Lone Ranger all rolled into one. He said he hoped the biography, with the working title, *Black Gun, Silver Star, Bass Reeves the Oklahoma Legend*, will be released in 2004 or 2005.

11th — Habitat for Humanity Group is Trying to Build Three Homes in Three Weeks — College students in search of a different way to spend spring break and a group of caravaneers who cross the country looking for houses to build met in Fort Smith this week. The groups form the core of about 75 people engaged in the local Habitat for Humanity group's building blitz going on this week. The goal is to complete three houses in three weeks, from foundation. Chris McRae, a member of the Arkansas Valley Habitat for Humanity board and organizers of the blitz said two houses would be complete this week. Final work on the third will spill over until next week.

13th — Fort Smith Girl Advances to World Championship — At 16, Valeria McDonough, a Southside High School sophomore who is one of 52 members in the McCafferty Irish Dancers of Fort Smith, will dance against about 100 other competitors in the "under 17" age division in the prestigious Irish Dance World Championship in Killarney Ireland on April 13-20.

15th — Trust to Push Land in Festival — Organizers of a festival touting Fort Chaffee's redevelopment think brief visits to the festival will lead to lengthy stays in the community. The March 15th event will offer area residents an up-close look at 7,000 acres prime for development, said Sandy Sanders, Executive Director of the Fort Chaffee Public Trust. Trust officials hope many of the festival goers express interest in building homes or businesses on the property named "Chaffee Crossing" by trust members. Fishing, running, horseback riding and golfing are among the scheduled events.

April 2003

17th — Influence O'The Irish — Jerry and Wincie Hendricks live in Fort Smith and enjoy telling stories of how the Irish community was started in Fort Smith. They name Michael Manning as one of the first Irish immigrants to the area. Manning was a builder hired by the Army in 1840 to build the second fort in the early frontier town of Fort Smith. Another well-known immigrant was Mitchell Sparks, a native of Dublin. He moved to Fort Smith in 1836 with his brother, Thomas. Fort Smith's Sparks Regional Medical Center is named in memory of Mitchell Spark's daughter-in-law, Ann Dibrell Sparks. Jerry Hendricks' cousin, Sister Rebecca Hendricks, recalled the flight of the Sisters of Mercy to the area. They left Dublin for Arkansas on November 30, 1850. Four or five of the sisters landed in Fort Smith on January 23, 1853. They later established St. Anne's Academy. In 1905, the sisters started a hospital ministry, known today as St. Edward Mercy Medical Center. Jerry Hendricks had an unusual but important opportunity as a descendant of Irish immigrants. In July 2000, he traveled to Ireland's Kilaveney Church to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the migration of the Irish people from that location to Fort Smith. Hendricks said he was the only descendant from America to attend the special ceremony, which included a re-enactment of a meeting between Irish priest Thomas Hore, and Irishmen interested in coming to Arkansas.

20th — WAR AGAINST IRAQ BEGINS

21st — Trust Site Holds Promise — Vacant land near the intersection of Massard Road and Zero Street in Fort Smith will probably be the first area of former Fort Chaffee property available for private development. Fort Chaffee Public Trust Executive Director, Sandy Sanders, said the area's proximity to existing water and sewer lines make it the ideal location for the first residential subdivision at Chaffee Crossing.

23rd — Former Senator Dale Bumpers signed copies of his new book, "*Dale Bumpers: The Best Lawyer in a One Lawyer Town*," today at the Fort Smith Art Center.

28th — A ground breaking ceremony was held March 27th for Pennsylvania-based Huntington Foam Corp. 45,000 square-foot plant. The site is at 4800 Siegenthaler Road. The plant will create 25 to 30 full-time jobs and eventually employ 35 to 40.

3rd — GED MARATHON SET — Sebastian County residents interested in taking the general equivalency diploma tests will have the opportunity to do that this weekend. The Fort Smith Adult Education Center is conducting a GED Marathon weekend, during which the GED pre-test and official GED tests will be offered.

4th — Tie a Yellow Ribbon — Mayor Ray Baker is urging citizens of Fort Smith to show their support for the men and women of the military who are fighting in Iraq by placing a yellow ribbon in the yards, on their cars or in their businesses.

5th — Kindergarten teacher Kathy Craine received roses from her students after she was named State PTA Teacher of the Year at an assembly April 4th at Euper Lane Elementary School.

7th — River Valley Senior.Net group helps people 50 and older become computer literate. Seniors, for seniors, teach all classes. Sponsored by Fort Smith Christian School and Southwestern Bell, the organization hosts computer classes at either the school or the Fort Smith Public Library.

8th — The Cat Fancier's Association's Cat Show was held in Fort Smith Saturday, April, 5th. Hosted by Muskogee Cat Club and held at Kay Rodgers Park's Expo Hall, the show drew about 200 show cats and more than 1,300 spectators.

9th — A high-end office park proposed for an area east of Old Greenwood Road at Cliff Drive met resistance from residents of the area, and was defeated. A proposal for high-end condominiums just down the road met a similar fate.

13th — A new marketing and feasibility study by the Economic Research Associates has bolstered Fort Smith's campaign to build a \$17 million transportation center. The recently completed study deemed Fort Smith's riverfront area ripe for construction of the John Paul Hammerschmidt Interpretive Center and Ground Transportation Center, which congress authorized in the late 1990's. Fort Smith, a crucial transportation hub in Northwest Arkansas, wants to revitalize its riverfront area. The Hammerschmidt center, just a part of the plan, would also be used to tell the history of transportation in the city.

16th — Fort Smith approves Allocation of Funds — Fort Smith city directors approved the distribution of 1.5 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment partnerships program funds. The program provides \$475,640. for neighborhood development projects, \$155,100. for public services, \$93,060. for agency rehabilitation and \$51,700. to address homelessness. Another \$469,565. was approved for the Home Investment Partnership Program.

22nd — The winners of the 2003 Mayor's Honors to the Visual and Performing arts will be honored today at the Arkansas Best Corporation Center for the Performing Arts in the Fort Smith Convention Center. Carter Hunt, Lorna Schultis, Richard "Dick" Udouj and Sparks Health System will be presented the awards at the free program, open to the public.

26th — UAFS Secures OK For Two More Degrees — The University of Arkansas Fort Smith will begin offering bachelor's degrees for aspiring music and math teachers next fall.

May 2003

3rd — Two Cemeteries Near Dam Site Relocated — The city of Fort Smith relocated two cemeteries containing 27 graves from the construction site of the Lake Fort Smith water supply project. Ten graves from the Becky-Wright Cemetery and 17 from the Eddy Cemetery were moved to land on city-owned property well away from the lake. The site has been named Shepherd Springs Cemetery and will be cared for by the city.

5th — Dr. Grady Core, formerly of Fort Smith, was selected as one of the seven graduates of the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas as a distinguished alumni for 2002-03. Core is a pioneer in the field of endoscopic plastic surgery. He is a practicing surgeon with the Grotting and Core Plastic Surgery Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama.

7th — After five years as head coach of the men's basketball team and athletic director at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Doc Sadler resigned May 6, 2003. Sadler will go back to the NCAA Division I level as an

assistant at the University of Texas at El Paso under Billy Gillespie.

10th — Van Buren Opens Walking Park — The Phillips Landing Walking and Bike Trail opened May 10. The 905-foot trail is the first phase of the Phillips Landing Riverfront Project near the Arkansas River starting at Mike Meyer Riverfront Park. The site of the original Phillips Landing, the community that led to Van Buren, is likely beneath the waters of the Arkansas River today.

14th — Special Run — Sebastian County Sheriff Frank Atkinson began the first leg of 2003 Law Enforcement Torch Run to support Arkansas Special Olympics Tuesday. Starting from the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office, the torch is being carried across the state to light the Flame of Hope at the opening ceremony of The Arkansas Summer Special Olympics Thursday night in Searcy. More than 750 officers are participating in the statewide event, which last year raised more than \$300,000. for Special Olympics.

16th — The Hiram Walker plant, at Fort Smith, broke ground yesterday on a 10 million dollar expansion. A division of allied Domecq, PLC, Hiram Walker is the only U.S. bottler of the alcoholic drink Kahlua. The Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce took part in the event.

17th — Rapidly growing Northwest Arkansas banking giant, Arvest Bank Group, announced yesterday that it was buying Little Rock's Superior Financial Corp. for \$211 million.

19th — Horsemen from around the country are gathering at Kay Rodgers Park, in Fort Smith, to compete in the world's richest barrel race.

21st — Sales Tax Gains Nod — Six months did nothing to change Sebastian County voters opinions about the county's one percent sales tax. Voters on Tuesday decided to retain the tax by a margin almost identical to the margin of a similar vote last November. Voters chose 4,651 to 2,665 to retain the tax. The levy generates about \$17 million annually for municipal governments.

22nd — To better promote the developing portion of downtown that borders the Arkansas River, call it West End, please, Central Business Improvement District Director Bill Priakos asked Wednesday.

June 2003

23rd — Donations to fund Mascot's Habitat — A group of Student Advisory Council members from University of Arkansas at Fort Smith recently donated about \$1,000. to Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. Area merchants also donated supplies. The donations went to build a habitat for Numa, the UAFS Mascot. The university adopted Numa in March 2001. The Barbary lion lives at the refuge when he's not attending university functions.

26th — Meeting to Focus on Encyclopedia — Arkansans interested in helping develop an "Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture" are encouraged to attend a meeting at 5:30 PM, Tuesday, May 27, at the Fort Smith Public Library. The meeting is one of eight regional meetings held around the state to solicit participation in the project, which was organized and developed by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock. With a planned total of more than 2,000 entries, the encyclopedia will be the definitive guide to the states heritage and culture. Plans call for the encyclopedia to be posted first on the Internet, with a print edition to follow.

29th — 'Regional Mexican' Format Hits Airwaves — Although radio listeners in the Fort Smith area have been able to hear a few hours of Spanish-language programming on some AM stations for a few years, beginning May 5 they were able to listen to it all day, seven days a week with the launch of KREU-FM's "regional Mexican" format.

31st — Good Samaritan Clinic to Open Soon — Currently being renovated at 615 N. B St., the clinic will operate like any family physician's office. Good Samaritan hopes to care for the area's uninsured workers, their families, the elderly and the homeless. The clinic will not bill for services, but patients will pay based on a sliding scale adjusted to their income.

31st — A Fort Smith Attorney has filed a class-action law suit claiming the city of Fort Smith is illegally using public money to purchase property for the expansion of Lake Fort Smith. The lawsuit is part of a counter claim filed Thursday in Crawford County Circuit Court by Walton Maurras on behalf of Michael Elsen and Jo Anne Elsen. Elsen, who has refused a buyout offer from the city, claims the city is using public money to enforce eminent domain on property that is outside its jurisdiction.

1st — Charting Butterfield Trail Group's Mission — The Butterfield Trail is one of countless connections Fort Smith holds on American History. Running from St. Louis, down through Springdale, Fayetteville, Van Buren, Fort Smith, across the Poteau River and then west to San Francisco, the 2,800-mile trail isn't designated as a national historic trail although it should be, said Ken O'Donnell, director of planning with the Western Arkansas Planning and Development District. "What we are trying to do is get it marked on maps, and we are wanting markers to be put up to identify the trails corridor" he said of the trail, which was a busy mail and passenger route for mule and horse driven stagecoaches from 1858 to 1861. Created in 1858 and costing about \$1 million, the trail was the result of the efforts of John Butterfield, a New Yorker who wanted a way for his business, Overland Mail Co. to get mail to the western part of the country.

1st — Volunteer Bugler, Dennis Lockwood, 51, honors deceased veterans by providing a live rendition of "Taps" at their funerals. Buglers across America, has more than 1,500 bugler volunteers in all 50 states, with 15 in Arkansas.

12th — JP's Split on Facility for Courts — Officials say long delay has cost the county 14 million dollars. Some Sebastian County Justices of the Peace claim the county waited a decade too long to build a new courts building. On Wednesday others argued that the county hasn't waited long enough. The Quorum Court decided in a Committee as a Whole meeting Tuesday to go ahead with plans to construct a courts building in downtown Fort Smith. The building is estimated to cost more than 15 million dollars.

13th — The Blue Collar Band performed Thursday at the Miller Branch of the Fort Smith Public Library. The event was part of the free library program, "That Thursday Night Thing" that spotlights local writers. This month's focus was on songwriters.

16th — Donald H. Flanders Sr., of Fort Smith, received the Lifetime Alumni Award at the third annual Westark Area Council Alumni Association Banquet on May 31st. Flanders has served as council president, region president, and a member of the BAS National Executive Board. He is holder of the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope, was the first in Arkansas to receive the BSA National Distinguished Eagle Award, in 1970, and the first in Arkansas to receive the Silver Buffalo National Award.

Genealogy News

by Janice Eddleman

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are an often under utilized genealogical research resource. In many instances they are overlooked or ignored. True, they are sometimes hard to find, but they, in many instances, offer both the bulldozer that tears down the brick wall in research and the flesh on the bare skeleton of names, dates and places. Old papers are the windows on the past, telling us what life was like at a certain time and often giving us information about our ancestors and where they lived that we could not otherwise know. It is also true that you usually do not find indices to the newspapers and researching them may mean countless hours staring at either microfilm or old copies. Try not to suffer from my failing. I often find interesting articles and spend hours reading those rather than looking for the information for which I started researching.

When you begin to use newspapers in your research, you will find that there are two types you can use--older ones and newer ones. It is a good idea to remember that newspapers published at or near the time of the event are primary sources and, thus, are usually more accurate than accounts of an event reported at a much later date (secondary sources).

Obviously, papers that are older can often tell you information that may have been lost in a courthouse fire or not recorded in the records of the various levels of government. They can give you marriage dates and descriptions of the weddings; births; deaths, often with lists of survivors; information about everything from social events to court cases or crimes to military service. Many of the older newspapers reported almost anything that the area folks did. For example, the *Batesville Guard* in 1926 reported that one of my uncles, along with his wife and children (all listed by name), had made a trip from Desha to Bald Knob to spend the weekend with his cousin (also listed by name). Thus, this article yielded the residence of my uncle at that date, the names of his wife, children and cousin, his cousin's place of residence and, since they traveled by automobile, the fact that he owned a car.

Newer newspapers may offer less in the way

of this sort of thing because there is less room for it in our time when modern communications make world and state news more available and more in demand. However, even in the largest papers, you will find marriages, obituaries and court cases listed. Many newspapers also have columns that are reprints or remembrances of other days. One of these for this area is *The Harland Heritage* published in Hartford. In a recent issue, there were articles entitled "The Williams Family," "The Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad," "Out of the Past," "Class of 1942 Update" and "The American Revolutionary War." Smaller newspapers, especially weeklies, often still include a lot of the "doings" of the local folks.

Many newspapers will print letters to the editor requesting information about families and/or events. For example, years ago I sent a letter to a newspaper in Woodwind, Oklahoma asking for information about my step great-grandfather. After my great-grandmother died, he had remarried, moved to Oklahoma and had a family. I was searching for my great-grandparent's Bible, which the family believed he had. The newspaper printed my letter and I received a letter from a dear, elderly lady who gave me the address of his son. After sending him a letter, I had not only found the family Bible and gotten copies, giving me my great-grandfather's death date, but also found several new cousins.

While searching for newspapers, do not be limited to only the local newspaper. Often items may appear in state newspapers or in religious newspapers. For example, *The Arkansas Gazette-Democrat* has for many years carried obituaries from across the state and various religious newspapers such as *The Arkansas Baptist* often carry news of members of their faith. In the 1950's and 1960's, *The Arkansas Gazette* carried a series of articles on the history of Arkansas and the Civil War and in the 1970's a wonderful column by Margaret Ross called "Grass Roots" with much genealogical information.

Since the value of newspapers in research has been established, the next question is, "Where do I find them?" There are a lot of places to look.

Public libraries, libraries at colleges and universities, the Church of Latter-Day Saints Family History Centers, state archives and the newspapers themselves are all possible sources. Several years ago the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville published a union catalog* of all the known repositories of Arkansas newspapers and that is a good source to find places where one can review at least microfilms of the older newspapers.

The first place to check are the libraries. In this area, the Fort Smith Public Library has microfilm copies of the known existent Fort Smith papers on microfilm. It is my understanding that the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith also has some microfilms of newspapers and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has a collection also.

If the newspaper is still in existence, it will probably have what those in the business call a "morgue." These are collections of their back issues, and they will usually allow visitors to research them if politely asked.

State archives usually have either microfilm or paper copies of older newspapers. The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives at One Capitol Mall in Little Rock has copies of all known existent Arkansas newspapers on microfilm. A listing of what they have available can be found on line at <http://arkansashistory.arkansas.com/resources_types/newspapers>. Be aware that, as noted in the "Genealogy News" column, that they are no longer open on Saturday.

The LDS Family History Centers can often order microfilms of newspapers for your use. There is a Family History Center in Fort Smith and it is a good idea to check with them to see what they have available for loan from the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. You should know that these microfilms must be used at the local Family History Center and that there is a small fee involved.

Sometimes newspapers are either copied or transcribed in either genealogical or historical journals or in books. In our area, Fran Warren is copying and indexing *The Van Buren Argus*. She frequently sends articles about this area to the Arkansas Genealogical Society's internet list and an index of her work may be found at <<http://www.crawfordcountyarkansas.net>>. This publication (*The Journal*) always has a section of selected transcripts from the Fort Smith papers. Contact the genealogical or historical society in the area that you are researching to see what is available.

Many newspapers have their own web sites and what you may obtain from them varies

with each newspaper. Some have their "morgues" available on line and will send you hard copies of articles; others have only the current publication there. However, even current publications might help you to locate distant relatives who still live in the area in which you are interested. The following is a list of some web sites that list those Arkansas newspapers which are on line:

<<http://www.media-news.com/Newspapers/Arkansas/>

<<http://www.n-net.com/ar.htm>>

<<http://www.50states.com/news/arkansas.htm>>

<http://www.uark.edu/depts./jourinfo/public_html/resources/citypress.html>

<<http://www.anythingarkansas.com/news/Newspapers.html>>

There are also web sites that have older newspapers on them. Rootsweb, which is free, has a section devoted to old newspapers and sometimes you can find them under the state or county web sites on Rootsweb. To get to the Rootsweb home page, you may simply type "US genealogy" on your search engine.

There are two sites that charge fees, but which have newspapers on line. Ancestry.com, <<http://www.ancestry.com>>, hopes to have ten million pages of newspapers dating as far back as 1700 online by the end of this year. They currently have about three million on their "Historical Newspaper Collection" site and it does have a search function allowing you to search by place, name and/or date. However, the cost is a bit high to my way of thinking; it is \$79.95 annually or \$29.95 quarterly.

Paper of Record at <<http://www.paperofrecord.com>> offers about six million scanned images of papers from around the world. It too has a search function, but you can search only one newspaper collection at a time. Their download time is much slower than Ancestry.com. However, their prices are much more flexible---\$6.75 per week, \$16.75 for 31 days or \$167.50 for a year.

Whatever method you choose, do use the newspapers for your research. You will find information you will not find anywhere else and you will have fun discovering what was important and what was happening when your family was in a particular place at a particular time. You can also sometimes find from where your ancestors came, relatives that have been either missing or unknown and a sense of the lives of your family.

*A union catalog, often used by librarians, is a listing of books, magazines, etc. Ask your local library if they have this resource.

GENEALOGY NEWS

ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION NOW CLOSED ON SATURDAYS

The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives received notice on March 20, 2003 that, in light of world events and national/state security, State Building Services would implement a new security measure for #1 Capitol Mall. This new measure prohibits public access after hours and on weekends to the building. As a result, the Arkansas History Commission will no longer be open on Saturdays. However, there are other genealogical resources available for research. The Fort Smith Public Library has an excellent genealogical department. In Little Rock, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library and the William F. Laman Library in North Little Rock both have very good genealogy collections and are open on Saturday for weekend researching in the Little Rock area.

A.G.S. FALL SEMINAR TO FEATURE CYNDI HOWELLS

The Arkansas Genealogical Society's annual Fall Seminar and Book Fair will be held on Friday, October 17th and Saturday, 18th, 2003 at the Holiday Inn – Airport in Little Rock.

On Friday evening, participants may choose two classes from the following "Paleography for Beginners: Reading and Understanding Old Records" by Russell Baker; "Where Did Grandpa Get His Land?" by Lynda Suffridge; "I Read It In the Paper: Arkansas Newspaper Resources" by Jan Eddleman; "Searching the Web for Your Genealogical Records" by Dave Burdick and "The Research Plan and the Research Kit" by Rhonda Norris.

Cyndi Howells of the famous "Cyndi's List" internet site will be the featured speaker on Saturday. Her program, entitled "Netting Your Ancestors," will feature a "Guided Tour of Cyndi's List," "10 Commandments of Internet Genealogy," "The Internet for Genealogy: Setting Straight the Myths and Misconceptions" and "How to Cite Your Internet Sources."

On both days, there will be vendors of genealogy books and supplies available for you to browse their booths.

The cost of the seminar is \$15.00 for Friday only, \$30.00 for Saturday only or \$40.00 for both events. The Saturday program includes a buffet lunch with drink and dessert. To enroll in the seminar, send your check along with your name and address to: AGS Fall Seminar, 5415 C

Street, Little Rock, AR 72205. If you are attending the Friday night sessions, be sure to indicate your choice of two classes. For more information, you may visit the AGS web site at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ags>>.

BRITISH RESEARCH WITHOUT TRAVEL IN MARCH

In March, the Central Library in Liverpool, England announced that it will spend about \$64 million to digitize millions of archive files and to create a heritage center, which, according to *Family Tree* magazine, "may be England's answer to the United States' Family History Library." The digital archives will include Liverpool's charter, birth certificates, school registers, emigration information and much more. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2007, Liverpool's 700th anniversary. For more information, go to <<http://www.liverpool.gov.uk>> ; click on "A to Z of Council Services," then "Libraries." Under "How To Find Us," click on "Central Library."

HARPER'S WEEKLY AND LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR ONLINE

John Adler, who owns an impressive collection of *Harper's Weekly* magazines issued between 1857 and 1916, has launched a web site featuring the contents of his collection. You may access them at <<http://www.harpweek.com>>.

Mr. Adler is also the owner of <<http://www.lincolnandthecivilwar.com>>, which features many one-of-kind historical items about President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.

101 BEST WEB SITES

Family Tree magazine published its list of the 101 best genealogical web sites in the August 2003 issue. The list can be downloaded, for free, at <<http://www.familytreemagazine.com>>. Lists from previous years are also available there.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP?

Do you have lost ancestors or relatives in the Fort Smith area? Do you need to know an answer to a genealogical research methods question?

Any such inquiries will be published, for free, in *The Journal*. Just send your query to Jan Eddleman, Associate Editor, at 1807 Sunshine Mine Road, Hackett, AR 72937-4453. Please note that this is her address and not the address of the Fort Smith Historical Society. Queries sent to the Historical Society will also be published.

For membership in the United States McCraw Association send \$20 dues (for two years) payable to McCraw Family Association together with your name, mailing address and all information on your McCraw family connection, to Audrae Mathis, 225 Hickory Terrace Lane, Holidaysburg, PA 16648. Members will receive the United States McCraw Family Association newsletter. (Please note, the family name is McCraw, not McGraw)

For information about books available on Irish genealogy, contact Michael C. O'Laughin, Irish Genealogical Foundation, Box 7575, Kansas City, MO 64116. Ebay ID Irishroots.com.

Information has been received from William R. Heidtman regarding his compilation of basically a blood line history of the earliest Europeans in New York State outside of New York City during the first 200 years 1630-1830. There are over 3000 surnames. His intention is to charge \$1.00 per entry plus mailing costs. For further information contact William R. Heidtman, 733 Sunset Road, West Palm Beach, FL. 33401. PH 407-833-7036.

Discovering Our Tillery Family...Yesterday and Today was published by Patty Hughes Taylor in December 2001. Price \$43.00 in black and white, \$58.00 printed in color, postage paid. Order from Patty Hughes Taylor, 1520 Edwards Road, Atkins, AR 72823. PH 479-890-0104. Email pattyt@ipa.net.

This 389 page book covers descendants of Samuel Thomas Tillery of Meigs County, Tennessee and Saline and Perry Counties in Arkansas. Entries include all counties in Arkansas, some in Oklahoma, California, Texas, Tennessee, Illinois and about thirty other states.

Reprint of the book *Here Comes the Douthits* is now available for shipment. There is a hardbound (buckram) version as well as a 3-hole punched loose-leaf version (suitable for insertion in a binder). Hardbound version \$35.00, loose-leaf version \$25.00. Shipping hardbound and combination hardbound and loose-leaf orders: \$9 for first book and \$4 for each additional Book. Loose-leaf orders only, \$5 for the first book and \$3 for each additional book. Available from Sue O'Donnell, 63 Linda Vista Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027.

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INQUIRIES

King

I am beginning my family research in Sebastian County for my father. His name is Carol Monroe King and he was born June 29, 1892 in Fort Smith. I would appreciate any and all information. Patricia King Grimstad, 1891 Yaquina Bay Road, Newport, OR 97365. E-mail: glamgram@casco.net

Pedigree Chart

Chart number _____

Number 1 on this chart is the same as number _____ on chart number _____

Use the back side to create an alphabetical index of all individuals on your pedigree charts. Include name, birth year, chart number, and person number on that chart. (ie: Smith, John (1855) chart 5 #14)

2 Carl Monroe KING
Born/Chr 29 June 1892
Place Fort Smith, Ark
Married 16 May 1925
Place
Died 4 Nov 1946
Place San Francisco, CA
Bur San Bruno, CA
Place Veteran Cemetary

1 Patricia Ruth KING
Born/Chr 4 Jan 1926
Place Chula Vista, CA
Married 29 Aug 1949
Place
Died
Place
Bur
Place

Erling GRIMSTAD
(spouse of #1) 21 March 1921
Born/Chr Astoria, OR
Place
Died
Place

3 Helena Butler SYPNESKI
Born/Chr 24 Nov 1889
Place Syracuse, NY
Died Oct 1972
Place Newport, OR
Bur Portland, OR
Place Willamette Memorial

4 Thomas Jefferson KING
Born/Chr 22 June 1848
Place Spadra, Johnson Cnty Ark
Married
Place
Died 24 Oct 1895
Place
Bur
Place

5 Palmetto M. LEWIS
Born/Chr 6 Sept 1854
Place Spadra, Johnson Cnty Ark
Died 21 March 1903 Ark
Place Eufala, McIntosh Cnty Okl
Bur 22 March 1903 Okl
Place Eufala, McIntosh Cnty Oklahoma

6 Martin SYPNESKI
Born/Chr 1865
Place Poland
Married
Place
Died 1925
Place Chula Vista, San Diego Cnty, CA
Bur
Place Chula Vista, San Diego Cnty, CA

7 Verona
Born/Chr 1868
Place
Died 1902
Place Vancouver, WA
Bur Vancouver, WA
Place

8 William KING
Born/Chr
Place
Married
Place
Died
Place
Nancy BARRY
Born/Chr
Place Johnson Cnty, ARK
Died
Place
Bur
Place

10 James Maddisson LEWIS
Born/Chr 16 Sept 1818 (2)
Place Nashville, Tenn
Married 1853
Place
Died 18 Nov 1873
Place Freeman
Sarah Ann MADDOX
Born/Chr 27 Apr 1825
Place Atlanta, GA
Died 21 July 1914
Place Clarksville ARK
Bur
Place

12
Born/Chr
Place
Married
Place
Died
Place

13
Born/Chr
Place
Died
Place

14
Born/Chr
Place
Married
Place
Died
Place

15
Born/Chr
Place
Died
Place
Bur
Place

In Loving Memory

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

EDGAR E. BETHELL

Edgar E. Bethell, 85, Fort Smith attorney, died March 2, 2003, and is survived by his wife of 64 years, Rose Hollis Bethell, three children, Delia Bethell of Sacramento and her husband Gene Gandy, Bruce Bethell and his wife Suzanne of Fort Smith and Barbara Bethell Hill of Fort Smith, two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Mr. Bethell graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas Law School in 1941, served in the army in World War II, and began his law practice in Fort Smith in 1947. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, a 33rd degree Mason and was active in numerous civic organizations.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 200 North 15th St, Fort Smith, AR 72901 or Alzheimer's Association of Western Arkansas Chapter, 320 North Greenwood, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

MARIE COMBS

Marie Combs, 85, died April 10, 2003. A member of the Fort Smith Historical Society, and a strong supporter of the 4-H Foundation, Mrs. Combs was also an active member of the PTA of Cavanaugh School, the Farm Bureau, and the Cavanaugh Baptist Church. She and her late husband, George Combs were co-owners of the Cavanaugh Dairy.

She is survived by two sons, John and George Combs, both of Fort Smith, a brother, J. T. Coleman of Greenwood, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sebastian County 4-H Foundation, 353 Waldron Road, Fort Smith, AR 72903 or Cavanaugh Missionary Baptist Church.

EMBRY SCOTT SHOEMAKER

Embry Scott Shoemaker, 86, died March 21, 2003. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Homer (Gertrude) Scott and the widow of Rev. John Shoemaker, former rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Fort Smith.

She is survived by three daughters, Gertrude "Trudy" Bunge of Wilmette, IL, Eleanor Foltz of Fort Smith and Audley Hall of Fayetteville, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to any Episcopal church or to any charity of the donor's choice. To place an online tribute visit www.mem.com.

WANDA LUCILLE MOORE WATTS

Wanda Lucille Moore Watts, 80, Died March 30, 2003. She was a graduate of Greenwood High School, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. She served as a missionary of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, was a member of the South Side Baptist Church, a Sunday School teacher and a public school teacher in area schools for many years. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Moore, and her husband, Rev. Walter H. Watts. She is survived by two sisters, Rosemary Looney and her husband of Charleston, Arlene O'Neel and her husband, George of Bella Vista, three brothers, Roger Neil Moore and his wife Betty of Westerville, Ohio, W. Trueman Moore and his wife Jane of Barling and Don and his wife Nita of Little Rock, a stepdaughter, Grace Hetcher and her husband Bruce, two stepsons, Walter H. Watts, Jr. and his wife Sandy, and Bob Watts and his wife Sherry, six step-grandchildren, thirteen nieces and nephews, twenty three great nieces and nephews, and a great, great niece and nephew.

For the history of the Moore family see Volume 24, No 1, April 2000 issue of *The Journal*.

MARGUERITE ELINOR "MADGE" COBB

Marguerite Elinor "Madge" Cobb, 81, died May 23, 2003 in Fort Smith. She was born a British subject in Manila, the Philippines. She and Bayless Earl Cobb III of Fort Smith met there and at the outbreak of World War II were married. Following the fall of Manila, they were imprisoned for more that three years in Japanese interment camp at Santa Tomas in Manila before being liberated by U.S. forces. After the war, the Cobbs returned to Arkansas and she became a U.S. citizen. She was preceded in death by her husband who died September 10, 2002, and a son, Alexander B. T. Cobb.

For survivors see obituary of Bayless Earl Cobb III in Volume 27, Number 1, April 2003 issue of *The Journal*.

Confederate Veterans Buried in Oak Cemetery

The following is a list of Confederate Veterans buried in Oak Cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas. This list was compiled by Charles D Raney. Any additions or changes should be reported to the Fort Smith Historical Society, ATTN: Charles Raney.

NAME	BURIAL DATE	
ALEXANDER, JOSEPH H.	JAN 10, 1905	FOSTER, ISAAC H. JUN 17, 1913
AMIS, J. T.	AUG 23, 1888	FOSTER, JOHN OCT 26, 1925
ARGYLE, EDWARD H.	MAR 25, 1902	FUMET, PETER JUL 6, 1911
AYERS, COLUMBUS C.	AUG 4, 1915	FUNKHOUSER A. M. APR 29, 1914
BARTON, CHARLES S.	JAN 18, 1932	FUTRAL, MASTON E. OCT 24, 1933
BATES, WILLIAM M.	JUN 18, 1922	GODT, AUGUST H. NOV 6, 1931
BELOTE, NOAH	MAR 10, 1909	GROBER, CHARLES OCT 8, 1878
BERRY, JOHN D.	JUN 22, 1905	GUNTER, J. C. OCT 25, 1917
BIRNIE, HENRY C.	MAY 14, 1923	HALLUM, J. C. MAR 22, 1921
BIRNIE, WILLIAM S.	SEP 6, 1921	HAMILTON, BENJAMIN DEC 3, 1927
BOAS, FREDERICK W.	APR 17, 1895	HAMILTON, ZACARRIA T. MAY 11, 1922
BONNER, CALVIN J.	MAY 21, 1921	HAMILTON, M. J. JUL 25, 1915
BOUDINOT, ELIAS C.	SEP 27, 1890	HARMON, H. L. MAR 6, 1918
BOWLING, FRANK PIERCE	SEP 7, 1929	HARPER, JESSIE CASEY APR 16, 1927
BRADEN, WILLIAM F.	APR 24, 1918	HAYES, THOMAS B. APR 20, 1921
BRAUN, WILLIAM	JUL 22, 1915	HENDERSON, JOHN LAWSON MAY 14, 1899
BRAWNER, W. T.	JUN 8, 1917	HOBBS, WILLIAM H. MAR 13, 1926
BROMLEY, JAMES H.	FEB 23, 1919	HOBBS, WILLIAM N. MAY 12, 1926
BROOKS, WILLIAM H.	MAR 19, 1869	HOPKINS, AGRIPPA S. JUL 8, 1915
BROWN, WILLIAM WALKER	JUN 1, 1919	HORNE, WILLIAM W. JAN 30, 1886
BUSBY, WILLIAM L.	JAN 29, 1916	HUGHES, ELIJAH FEB 6, 1924
CHASE, SAMUEL C.	APR 19, 1907	JOHNSON, JOHN F. JUN 29, 1919
CLAY, JAMES H.	JUL 31, 1917	KANNADY, JEREMIAH R. APR 25, 1882
CLAYLAND, JAMES L.	NOV 7, 1927	KELLY, J. G. APR 26, 1916
CLEVELAND, ISAAC M.	NOV 26, 1901	KIRK, H. H. DEC 9, 1921
COBLE, F. A. J.	SEP 2, 1921	KLEIN, F. J. MAR 31, 1913
COOK, CHARLES	DEC 31, 1915	KOEGEL, FREDERICK JUL 1, 1913
COOK, CHRISTOPHER C.	APR 6, 1910	LONG, JAMES B. NOV 11, 1909
COOPER, T. H.	SEP 25, 1917	LYONS, ANDERSON AUG 1, 1916
COPE, T. S.	DEC 27, 1911	LEFLORE, CAMPBELL NOV 4, 1896
COTTRELL, WILLIAM .J.	FEB 28, 1926	MARKLEY, GEORGE SEP 18, 1917
COX, GEORGE W.	JUL 25, 1916	MARSH, E. W. D. JUL 25, 1912
CROMWELL, SAMUEL L.	JUN 25, 1913	MCDANIELS, JAMES M. JUL 30, 1916
DAVIS, C. L.	DEC 5, 1921	MCKENNA, EDMUND FEB 9, 1910
DAVIS, ISAAC	FEB 19, 1911	MCMINN, BURRELL J. MAR 21, 1932
DAVIS, PLEASANT REDMAN	JUL 8, 1910	MEADEN, FRITZ MAY 23, 1915
DUNN, WILLIAM N.	MAR 8, 1924	MING, WILLIAM J. APR 6, 1929
EARLY, WILEY W.	FEB 3, 1915	MITCHELL, ELY E. AUG 16, 1922
FAUCETTE, GEORGE C.	APR 14, 1907	MITCHELL, MILLARD APR 13, 1922
FORT, ARTHUR O.	JUN 9, 1930	MOORE, BILLIE FEB 14, 1914
		MOORE, THOMAS MAR 9, 1920
		MORGAN, VINCENT AUG 1, 1913
		MORROW, JOSEPH T. FEB 6, 1914
		NELSON, JAKE JUL 20, 1918
		NORRID, JOHN H. MAR 16, 1922
		NUTLER, JOHN A. JUN 18, 1918
		ONG, HARRY MAY 11, 1926
		OWENS, WILLIAM J. NOV 8, 1920
		OZMENT, ELI AUG 5, 1923

PARKE, FRANK	DEC 2, 1902	STEWART, JAMES C.	OCT 12, 1923
PARKE, SARAH ISH ¹	JAN 19, 1918	STRAIN, HESTER C.	JAN 14, 1924
PIERSON, JOHN ALBERT	DEC 1, 1865	STORY, JOHN	SEP 10, 1921
POWELL, J. N.	MAR 4, 1917	STRONG, C. H.	FEB 13, 1917
POWELL, JUDGE R. T.	FEB 16, 1926	STROUP, WALTER BALFOUR	AUG 26, 1902
PRIEST, WILLIAM A.	FEB 17, 1910	SURRATT, HENRY S.	DEC 21, 1910
RAUB, WILLIAM N.	NOV 28, 1923	SUTHERLAND, T. S.	FEB 14, 1922
RAY, LAWSON	MAY 7, 1923	TASH, JACK	APR 21, 1929
RECTOR, JOHN D.	MAY 25, 1864	TAYLOR, ALFRED	NOV 14, 1927
REED, JAMES A.	JUL 25, 1934	THOMAS, JIM	DEC 6, 1920
REUTZEL, CASPER	AUG 19, 1901	TRABUE, PRESLEY	MAR 30, 1904
REYNOLDS, JAMES ELISHA	JUN 27, 1920	TRIESCH, CONRAD	JUN 9, 1917
ROBERTS, J. S.	MAR 26, 1915	TUCKER, STEPHEN	JUN 19, 1914
ROGERS, JUDGE JOHN HENRY	APR 21, 1911	VAN BROCKLIN, JOHN	NOV 20, 1920
RUSSELL, JACOB D.	FEB 20, 1924	WALKER, SAMUEL E.	OCT 9, 1923
SANDELS, REV. JOHN	OCT 15, 1874	WALLACE, JOHN W.	MAY 30, 1918
SAWYER, WILLIAM G.	DEC 11, 1913	WALTON, JOSEPH J.	APR 18, 1887
SEE, JOHN	NOV 11, 1907	WEAVER, JOHN FRANKLIN	JUL 6, 1931
SENGEL, CHARLES	FEB 8, 1898	WHEELER, W. W.	FEB 16, 1915
SENGEL, GEORGE	JUN 25, 1925	WHITE, WILLIAM H.	JAN 15, 1920
SENGEL, JOHN, SR.	DEC 19, 1889	WILLARD, JOSEPH HENRY	JAN 30, 1885
SMITH, CHARLES W.	MAY 20, 1916	WILLIAMS, B. J.	DEC 20, 1920
SMITH, ISAAC C.	MAR 31, 1918	WILLIAMSON, CHARLES W.	JAN 19, 1913
SMITH, J. R.	JAN 18, 1913	WORKINGER, W. M.	OCT 11, 1914
SOUTHARD, WILLIAM F.	MAR 28, 1928	WRIGHT, ELIJAH W.	MAR 18, 1926
STEPHENS, BENJAMIN F.	FEB 5, 1919	WRIGHT, JAMES C.	SEP 15, 1920

NOTE: The "CONFEDERATE REST" which is in the cemetery contains only 16 Confederate veterans and their names are included in the list above

1. Sarah Ish Parke was a Confederate Spy, Courier and Smuggler but not officially in the military side of the Confederacy.

The above list is continually updated as information is found or received from others.

Email from Jerry Akins
Date: Thursday, September 23, 1999
Subject: Racing

I was glad to see the article "States First Races Staged in Fort Smith". It is more confirmation of what I already knew. I would like to elaborate on the line "was in the vicinity of what is now Greenwood Avenue." In 1980-81 I owned a house at 524 Belle. While I was working on it an old black man visited with me and told me that there used to be a horse track there. I could never find a living person to confirm that. But the fact that the name of the development is named Homestretch Row convinced me that the story was true.

Later I acquired two books of plat maps of Fort Smith, some dated as early as 1884. On page 30A, in a partial plat of Fitzgerald Addn., filed August 26, 1906 by John Tatum it shows Race Track Way where the Sonic Drive-in now stands. On the east side of the 500 block of Belle is Homestretch Row. On the west side of Belle, where the transformer sub-station now stands, is Backstretch Row.

This may not be of any interest to anyone but me, but I was glad to see the article.

Thanks,
Jerry Akins

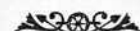
OLDER AND WISER

God grant me the Senility to forget the people I never liked anyway. The good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered: I started out with nothing; I still have most of it. My wild oats have turned to prunes and All Bran. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser. I finally got my head together and now my body is falling apart.

It's not hard to meet expenses They're everywhere.

From *The Counselor*, publication of Western Arkansas Counsel and Guidance Center, Inc.



1903 Newspapers

FORT SMITH ELEVATOR

June 12, 1903 – December 25, 1903

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

by Dorothy Doville and Thelma Wray)

*(Editor: Spelling, punctuation and grammar appear
as printed in Fort Smith Elevator)*

JUNE 12, 1903

ARRIVAL OF IMMIGRANTS

Incomplete Figures for Past Years show a Heavy
Influx of Aliens.

The number of immigrants arriving in this
country continues to increase. Statistics for the
twelve months ending April 30 last, the returns for
May not having yet been compiled, show that the
immigrants arriving numbered 803,272. They
were divided as follows:

From Austria-Hungary	189,789
From Italy	227,463
From Russian empire	128,482
From German empire	34,920
From United Kingdom	59,856
From all other countries	160,762

During this period 74,530 Hebrews arrived,
about 41 percent of whom came from Russia, 25
percent from Austria-Hungary, 10 percent from
Roumania, 12 percent from Germany and 12
percent from all other countries.

It is believed by officials of the bureau of
immigration that it will be shown that the number
of aliens who arrived in May was close to 75,000.
In the past a larger number of immigrants have
entered the United States in the month of May
than at any other time of the year. The fiscal year
1882 holds the record for the number of
immigrants landing. In that year 778,000 were
brought over owing to the enormous increase in
immigration this year, however, the department
officials believe that the record made in 1882 will
be surpassed and that by July not fewer than
850,000 aliens will have been admitted to this
country.

JUNE 19, 1903

AGAINST THE STREET FAIR

A number of the citizens of Fort Smith met at
the court house Tuesday evening and held a
meeting to protest against the holding of a street

fair in this city next fall. We understand the reason
urged against the holding of the carnival is the
license incident to such occasions and the
demoralization consequent thereon. Steps were
taken to notify the officers of the city on the
intention of the organization to interfere with any
feature of the fair that has a tendency toward
infraction or disregard of the law.

\$100 REWARD

I will pay one hundred dollars reward for the
recovery of the body of my son, Clarence
Coleman, who drowned April 16, 1903, in the
Arkansas river at Fort Smith. Had on light shirt,
gray check pants, blue cap, lace shoes; 10 years
old, 53 inches high.

Mrs. L.A. Coleman
823 North Fourth St.
Fort Smith

Mr. J.E. McBrayer of Tamaho, I.T. and Miss
Sallie Mayes, of Fayetteville, were married on the
8th inst. The *ELEVATOR* extends congratulations.
The bride is a charming young lady, and is known
to many of our people. The groom is an all round
gentleman and one of the most successful
business men in the Territory.

JUNE 26, 1903

Last Monday Governor Davis pardoned Will
Walker, of Sebastian county, convicted January
10, 1903 in Diamond township of carrying a pistol
and fined \$50.

A FLOATER FOUND

Last Friday morning a fisherman at the free
ferry, about six miles east of the city, discovered
a body in the water. As soon as notified Justice
Fry had the body removed to Charles A. Birnie
and Company where it was viewed by a
coroner's jury. It was in an advanced stage of
decomposition, and there was nothing about it
that would give a clue as to who it was or where
it came from. The pockets of the clothes yielded
a watch, \$1.50 cents in money, a toothbrush
and a pearl handled knife. The clothing was of
good quality. The body had evidently been in
the water a long time.

JULY 3, 1903

Mr. T.N. Sloat is preparing to build a handsome residence on South Thirteenth St.

The Sebastian County Musical convention will hold its annual picnic at Greenwood on Saturday, June 27.

Application has been made for the pardon of Tom Farris, who is now serving a term in the penitentiary.

August Breen was painfully hurt last week on the Fort Smith & Western railroad tracks by a rail falling on his foot.

Adolphus Metis was arrested last Friday by Pleasant Berry of the instance of the constable of Rogers township on a charge of assault with intent to kill.

Mr. Ulysses I. Bugar and Miss C.E. Hightower, of Bonanza, were married in this city on June 25, by Rev. E.T. Edmonds. The wedding took place on Catholic Avenue.

Last Friday, Judge Falconer appointed Mr. Con Burke, a member of the board of examiners of pensions for Confederate soldiers. T.W. Bugg, of Barling, and Maj. M.T. Tatum, of Greenwood, are the other members of the board.

Horace Haywood stands a good chance to chop cotton on the State farm after the next court meets. Last Friday night the House of Lords was visited and tapped to the extent of \$15, two quarts of whiskey and some cigars. The next day Horace Haywood attracted attention by having more cash than usual and was taken in. A search of his trunk revealed the missing whiskey and some of the cigars that were stolen. It has been but a few months since Horace was the recipient of one of the governor's pardons.

The Arkansas Democrat speaks of Harry E. Kelley as Fort Smith's Past Master Hustler. Well, Harry is sorter built that way.

The reception at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Oscar L. Miles last Friday evening was one of the most brilliant affairs of the season, the occasion being the twenty fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Miles. The attendance was large, and the event was enjoyable in every way.

Ira D. Sankey, the evangelist, has become hopelessly insane.

JULY 10, 1903

The United States has granted 3500 patents to women.

Messers. Dustin and Mahoney, president and manager, respectively, of the Fort Smith Western railroad, were in the city Monday. They say their road will build a fine depot in Fort Smith one of these days.

the Elevator is pleased to note a great improvement in the condition of Mrs. H.B. Sparks. Since our last issue her case has taken a great change for the better and unless unforeseen contingencies arise, her recovery is assured.

The first through train to enter the new Fort Smith & Western depot rolled in about noon on Thursday, July 2. There was quite a crowd of people on hand to witness the occurrence, some of whom may live to see the fine building the company will build—when it gets ready.

Mr. Ed Dunn returned Monday from Springfield, Mo., where he went last week to take part in a minstrel entertainment given in that town. He says the show panned out all right, netting about \$100. Mr. Dunn has no small amount of ability as a performer, and upon the occasion named was received with great élat.

Robert Whitney, colored, was knocked from a street car and severely injured last Saturday evening about half past 6 o'clock. He attempted to board an electric car on the wrong side while it was in motion, and struck an iron trolley pole, which rendered him unconscious. He was taken to his home shortly after his mishap.

Monday afternoon Dr. J.G. Thomas' horse broke loose from the hitching post in front of Germann's drug store and a couple of blocks up Garrison avenue, landing against a lamp post in front of Klein & Fink's jewelry store with the buggy in a very dilapidated condition. During the run the run-away collided with the buggies of Alvin Haglin and Joe Ward, damaging a wheel of the latter and tearing two wheels off of Haglins' vehicle.

Work began Monday upon the reconstruction of the interior of the county jail of this district, and when completed the Bastile will be more inviting place than it is at the present. The cage will be removed to the second story of the building, cement floors will be laid, and the walls will be lined with heavy sheet iron or steel..

Separate apartments will also be provided for white and colored prisoners. A. Elleffson has the contract for doing the work.

Mrs. Earl, who for a couple of months has been serving a sentence in the Jail here under the sentence of a Territory court for violation of morality laws, has been pardoned by the president. She took the train for the north shortly after her release and it is thought she had gone to Ontario, her old home. The individual who was convicted jointly with Mrs. Earl is a traveling preacher. The two met somewhere, became infatuated with each other, and then got in trouble.

JULY 17, 1903

Last Monday, Leon Jones, 16 years of age, was bitten in the thumb by a rattle snake while picking berries in the Poteau bottoms. He was brought to this city and placed in Belle Point hospital for treatment.

Last Tuesday Deputy Sheriff Warner, for Sheriff Barey, settled with the county for the taxes collected this spring, turning over to Treasurer Rye the sum of \$26,039.71.

D.S. Patrick, John Danner and Enoch Petty have been appointed a board of equalization for the Fort Smith district of Sebastian county.

Hizzoner Judge Freer fined Simon Joel \$5, Monday, for smoking in the court room while the court was in session. The smoking made no difference to the judge himself, but he thought the dignity of the law should be upheld.

A number of the young people met and organized what is known as the "Young People's Christian Temperance Union", with the following officers: President, Miss Wright; Secretary, Miss Charles Younger; treasurer, Miss Alma Hambric. The society is composed of young people belonging to the various churches of the city.

The Elevator is in receipt of the catalogue and official program of the Fort Smith Colored Agricultural Industrial Exposition, which will make its annual exhibit at Boulevard Park, Fort Smith, September 1,2,3,4 and 5. The territory embraced in this exposition covers Northwest Arkansas and the Indian country, a splendid field for the work of such an institution.

C.A. Lambert, a printer who has been working

in this city for a year or two, was arrested last week at Mulberry, where he was employed at a sawmill, upon a charge of bigamy. Saturday he was examined before Esq. Fry, who placed him under a bond of \$250. He is alleged to have three wives, two of whom he secured in this city. His last wife seems disposed to cling to him, apparently caring little for the position in which she is placed by the previous conduct of the man who deceived her. How Lambert managed to be successful in captivating so many of the fair sex is difficult to determine, for he is by no means handsome of feature, and besides is badly crippled in his legs.

JULY 24, 1903

Heinrich Berdina and Demetrig Senovsker were married in this city last Saturday by Father Keller. Both are Austrians and live in one of the adjoining mining town.

Little Aubrey Wright, who was so badly hurt last week, by a fall from a tree, is resting easily and will recover, although his injuries will confine him to his home for a longtime.

Last Monday a special grand jury in the federal court returned a true bill against Ed Gish for counterfeiting. Gish is suspected of being one of the main guys in the recently unearthed Bonanza job.

The Cherokee Gin Company, with H.J. and J.H. Payne as managers, is building a large gin house in the Cherokee Nation opposite Fort Smith. The company will use both round lap and square bale process.

Through a peculiar mistake William Mickle, posseman to Deputy Marshall Robert Fortune lost his leg one night last week and may lose his life. The deputy and posseman were scouting the woods near Wilburton for a whiskey peddler. In the dark each mistook the other for the outlaw and in the fight which followed, Fortune shot Mickle in the leg, necessitating amputation.

JULY 31, 1903

OUACHITA COLLEGE and conservatory of FINE ARTS---J.W. Conger, President, Arkadelphia, Ark. The largest college in the state, thirty teachers in the faculty. Young Ladies' Home elegantly equipped. Young Mens' Home under splendid management. One of the largest conservatories in the south. Military tactics under a United States military officer.

Splendid practical Business college. Terms reasonable. Write for 10 page catalogue to J.W. Conger, President, Arkadelphia, Ark.

Ed Johns, A. Bossier, and L.S. Cox, who at the recent term of the Greenwood court were convicted of misdemeanors, have been lodged in the Fort Smith jail all to serve out their terms. The Greenwood Jail is not considered so strong as it might be.

Walter Lester, colored, was severely hurt Saturday evening about dusk in the eastern part of the city by being thrown from a buggy against a tree. The buggy he was driving was pretty badly smashed.

I will pay one hundred dollars reward for the recovery of the body of my son, Clarence Coleman, who drowned April 18, 1903 in the Arkansas river at Fort Smith. Had on light shirt, gray check pants, blue cap, laced shoes, 10 years old, 53 inches high. Mrs. L.A. Coleman, 823 North Fourth St., Fort Smith.

AUGUST 7, 1903

OLD SETTLERS REUNION, VAN BUREN PEOPLE PREPARING TO BRING OLD TIMERS TOGETHER

The Press says that in answer to a call a number of citizens met in the mayor's office last week for the purpose of formulating a plan for holding an Old Settler's Reunion the latter part of August. Capt. Alvis Smith was made chairman of the meeting and D.W. Moore, Jr. secretary.

There was a general discussion of the best plans for holding such a reunion, and it was decided to have one of two day duration, the date being fixed for August 19 and 20. A committee on arrangements was selected, with A. Smith chairman and Geo. R. Wood, Charles Pape, Alex Gooding and W.C. Bastick members. These will have charge of the preparations of suitable entertainment for the occasion and has the power of appointing as many sub-committees as it may find necessary.

A register is to be opened for the names of all those eligible to membership in the permanent organization it is proposed to form, and it is expected that much of historic value of county events will come to light during this reunion. Everyone should assist in helping to make this the banner event of the year. The executive committee will arrange for the offering of prizes for the oldest couple, oldest settler, couple with largest living family, oldest bachelor, oldest maid,

etc. It will also arrange for speeches for the occasion. An effort is to be made to have Sen. Berry, Congressman Little, Judge Thomas Boles, Hon. R.L. Rogers and others present and deliver addresses.

Henry Miller was arrested in the city last Saturday on a charge of larceny. He is wanted in the Indian Territory.

William Lane was stricken with paralysis last Friday, and his friends and family are worried considerably about his condition.

At 702 Garrison avenue, Fort Smith, you will find photographer Elliott, who guarantees satisfaction. Finest work for the least money.

Kin and Frank Williams, who have been conducting bootlegging operations in the southern part of the district, were lodged in the federal Jail by Deputy Addis Bryan during the latter part of the week.

AUGUST 14, 1903

Mr. R.C. Bollinger has opened a branch of his music house in South McAlester, I.T.

Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Honsberger have a nine pound boy at their house. The new-comer is healthy and has good lung power.

The Masonic fraternity of this city are renovating their lodge room and will add to it about \$1,000 in improvements and decorations.

Nelson Walker has sold his vegetable garden on Texas road to J.B. Crowe getting \$1,000 for it. Walker is a colored man, and one of the most successful truck growers in this section.

The producing facilities of the Southern broom company have recently been increased by the addition of a broom machine costing \$1,000 which will insure it a heavier business during the coming season. This plant has made wonderful strides since its establishment and now covers a large area of territory with its products. Mr. J.A. Montgomery, its manager, is a man of energy and good business qualifications, and warrants the success that has attended his labors.

Don't shoot the automobilist. Just run him in the ditch.

AUGUST 21, 1903

Will McGinnis, sentenced to the penitentiary from Sebastian county, was released last week, his term of service having expired.

Frank Miller, who was convicted in the Sebastian circuit court in July, 1902 of the crime of robbery and sentenced to the penitentiary for three years, was pardoned by the governor last week.

Mr. Fred Dillon was married last week in Girard, Kan., to Miss Gertrude Everett. The young couple are at home at present with the parents of the groom at the lodge in the National Cemetery.

Owing to some of the onside Sixth street property owners not having been heard from, the project for paving the extension of that rough fare did not come up at the council meeting Monday night.

Dr. D.T. Johnson is staying at home taking care of a shoulder which was dislocated last week by a kick from his horse. While driving along the road the doctor's horse stumbled and threw him out of the buggy onto the shafts. This caused the animal to kick, with the result above mentioned.

Last week Mrs. M.A. Gatlin, who now resides in California, bought the property occupied by O.J. Murta, and which was for so long a time occupied by John Schaap's drug store. The property fronts twenty five feet on Garrison avenue and runs back to Rogers avenue. The price paid is \$15,000, and the sale was made through Mr. S.A. Williams.

AUGUST 28, 1903

The new St. Anne's academy will be formally opened Tuesday, September 8.

Dr. Warmack, of this city, has been selected by the miners of Jenny Lind as one of their physicians.

The automobile of Henry Dennon of the Cherokee Construction company attracts considerable attention as it rushes along the streets. Aside from Gus Bohmer's auto it is the only vehicle of the kind in the city.

Mr. John E. Tatum, circuit clerk, has appointed

R.A. Harper to the position of deputy made vacancy by the resignation of James. A. Golden. An excellent selection.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1903

CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Invitation to the Unveiling Ceremonies
Thursday, September 10.

"You are cordially invited to participate in the ceremonies at the unveiling of the Confederate Monument at Fort Smith, Ark, At 2 o'clock p.m. Thursday September 10, 1903.

J.S. McCorkle,
W.T. Braden,
W.W. Earley, Committee

The above invitation is intended for all Confederate soldiers, Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, and the public generally.

Program

1. music
- 2 Prayer Rev. M. McN. McKay
- 3 Music
- 4 Address Mr. Joe Hill
- Giving a brief sketch of the Chapter, and formally turning the monument over to the Daughters in behalf of the Building Committee.
- 5 Unveiling by three Young Ladies
6. Acceptance Col. Wm. M. Cravens in behalf of Daughters
7. Music
- 8 Address by Senator Jas. H. Berry
- 9 Music
- 10 Address, Gen. W.L. Cabell
- 11 Music
- 12 Benediction Rev. Jas. Brady
- 13 Music (papers please copy)

The Ladies Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church is called to meet this afternoon at 3 o'clock in the residence of Mrs. Clayland on North Fifteenth street.

At the meeting of the school board last Saturday night Miss Johnson, a graduate of Galloway College, was chosen to the place formerly occupied in Belle Grove school by Miss Hollowell. Miss Riggs, a graduate of Peabody Normal was chosen to succeed Miss Black.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1903

James C. Cherry and Miss Annie Jordan, of Pawpaw, I.T., were married at the county court house Monday by Esq. R.M. Fry.

Ethel Driver, colored, was fined \$ 21.50 by Esq. R.M. Fry, last Tuesday for pinching some bead jewelry from a street stand.

Caterpillars and other worms are doing much damage to cotton in the bottom lands around Fort Smith and other parts of the county.

The enrollment of the public schools last Monday, the first day, was unusually large, reaching 2,105. This will be increased greatly during the next two weeks.

Wharton Carnall, who advertises in another column for a "lost dog" says he has reason to believe his dog was stolen, and offers \$10 reward for the arrest and conviction of the thief.

W.L. Holder, of 223 North Twelfth street, came very near having a leg broken Friday by the fall off a barrel from a wagon. As it was the limb was severely bruised.

In the federal court Tuesday morning Judge Rogers sentenced Dr. White to six months imprisonment in the federal Jail. White is a Territory prisoner and has just completed a sentence for adultery. Several months ago he assaulted a fellow prisoner with a sling shot made of a brick tied to a rag. This is what got him the additional sentence.

The seed house of Arthur G. Lee & Brother will shortly be removed from its present quarters to the building vacated recently by the Sengel Hardware Company. This is one of the most successful houses in Fort Smith, and we are glad to chronicle its prosperity. It began business on a very small scale, but its operations have increased until it covers a very large territory.

The enterprising people of Greenwood and vicinity have induced Mayor Little of that city to call a mass meeting for the night of September 22 to meet the representatives of the Sebastian Electrical Company in a discussion of the ways and means of assisting the company in its efforts to build an electrical street railway through Sebastian county. We understand that everybody who feels an interest in the matter is invited to be present, and it is hoped that those who live in the south portion of this county will be there in numbers or by representatives.

OCTOBER 2, 1903

A.G. Lee & Bro. have moved their seed store to the building formerly occupied by the Sengel Hardware Company.

Monday evening the teachers of the Presbyterian Sunday School gave their pupils a trolley ride over all the lines of the city.

Edith Davidson, 11 years old, was knocked down on Garrison avenue Saturday by a runaway circus horse and severely bruised.

A cat belonging to Harry E. Kelley last week gave birth to a litter of kittens, one of which had two mouths and bodies and eight legs. Mr. Armour put the freak in alcohol and gave it to Capt. Stevens of the Southern.

Judge Andy Russell, who killed Jim Choate and Tuck Martin at Ganns, I.T., on the 19th of September, was discharged from custody last week by Commissioner Browne, of Sallisaw, before whom his case was investigated.

Henry Kayser, a resident of this city for about twenty years, died Tuesday from congestion. He was 55 years old and leaves a widow and three children. His remains were buried Wednesday in Oak cemetery under the auspices of the Lutheran church, of which he was a member.

Maj. B.F. Hackett, United States Marshal, came to the city last week with three prisoners, Frank Snyder, T.E. Wilson and C.C. Owens, who had been convicted by a Territory court of conspiracy to defraud and sentenced to ninety-one days confinement in the jail here.

LIFE INSURANCE MEN ORGANIZE

Saturday afternoon the representatives of the life insurance companies met at the rooms of the Commercial League and perfected an organization, electing John R. McBride president, and J.E. Weaver secretary. The others present were: Barber, George Tilles, Tom Ben Garrett, Harry M. Ramey, F.E. Champion, I.H. Oppenheimer, Prof. Peacher, T.A. Trusty, J.D. Valkenburg. The object of the association is to bring the agents closer together and repress improper practices. The association will meet again tomorrow.

OCTOBER 9, 1903

FORT SMITH CHAUTAUQUA

It has been decided to hold another Chautauqua assembly in this city next June and to make the organization permanent. Manager Hunt, of the electric car line and of Lemer park, appeared before a meeting of the board of directors last week and stated that the street car company would build a fine auditorium building for the use of the Chautauqua and would in other ways improve the seventy five acres of park ground if the assembly was to be held there. The proposition was accepted. Rev. Mr. Edmonds was re-elected president and will at once enter upon the work of securing attractions.

Rev. Caleb Webb, the new rector of St. John's Church, was given a reception last Friday night at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Cate.

Porter Green, charged with stabbing a man in the Indian Territory some time ago, was arrested in this city Saturday by Deputy Sheriff Henderson.

Belle Point Hospital was the scene Tuesday evening, of graduating exercises, Misses Carrie Brookout, Bessie Foster and Emma Murphy receiving diplomas authorizing the practice of the profession of nursing.

The German Evangelical Church was dedicated Sunday with services in both German and English. Dr. Aufderhaas, the pastor, officiating at the former, and Rev. McN. McKay, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, preaching in the evening.

OCTOBER 16, 1903

Spradling avenue is the name by which the road from Fort Smith to Trusty school house will hereafter be known, having been given that cognomen by Judge Falconer in honor of his efficient predecessor.

Will Smith, Constable of Van Buren, came to the city Sunday after four men who were suspected of robbing a freight car at Van Buren Friday night. The capture came about by the arrest, by Andy Carr, of a member of the Order of Weary Willies who hid several pairs of new pants in his possession. The suspected parties gave their names as Edward Baker, Louis Snider, Frank Parker and Robert Davis.

OCTOBER 23, 1903

The young men of Bonanza have organized a brass band.

Capt. Ben Blakeley's new boat made its first trip Saturday, going to Wilson's Rock after a load of potatoes.

City Marshall Todhunter of Fayetteville was in this city Saturday after Ozie Cox, a young fellow who was dodging the authorities of the college town.

Dr. Earnest Hass and Mrs. Maude Ramey were married last week in Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. Ramey was well known in Fort Smith having been reared here.

The contest for the theatre box offered by the News Record was won by Miss Ethel Perdue, daughter of Capt. Wm. Perdue, the well known Missouri Pacific Conductor.

The suit of Mrs. Humphries against the car line, which has been before the courts for several years, was compromised last week by the company paying \$225 and costs.

Judge Falconer has appointed George H. Lyman and W.J. Murphy commissioners to assist him in the construction of the bridge across Mill Creek, for which the quorum court appropriated \$750.

OCTOBER 30, 1903

Sunday night Tom Powell's saloon received a visit from a burglar who broke open the cash register and stole about \$8.

The Pan Telephone Company here has put in a new switchboard, which will enable them to accommodate 300 more subscribers.

Alderman W.J. Johnson acted as Mayor pro-tem during the absence of Mayor Kuper at St. Louis and took hold of the city's affairs just as though he had been bred to the business.

Calvin D. Ward and Laura Belle Moore were married in this city Sunday by Esq. R.M. Fry. Both were under age, but had the consent of their parents to the desired union.

Work upon the new Frisco depot goes on without intermission, and prospects point to the building being occupied some time during the coming month. When the finishing touches have been put on, the new building will be a beauty.

The Argus says the Dyke Lumber Company has sold its yard in Van Buren to A. Rogers, a practical lumber man from Pennsylvania. E.J. Morgan, late manager of the Van Buren yards, will again take the road for the Dyke Bros. lumber mills of Fort Smith, but will continue to make his home in Van Buren.

NOVEMBER 6, 1903

Will McAuley, for several years on the police force of the city, has resigned to take a deputyship under Constable Ed Paden. Will is a splendid officer.

G.A. Burroughs, the railroad man charged with shooting a boy at Segeeyah, I.T. has been released on a bond of \$500 upon a charge of assault with intent to kill. The boy had a pretty close call but will recover.

George Washington, the Negro who tried to set fire to a house on Second street last week while burdened with a big load of bug juice was examined Friday before Esq. R.M. Fry, who bound him over in the sum of \$500.

Paul Little resigned the mayoralty of Greenwood and George S. Evans was unanimously elected to fill the unexpired term. The position of mayor is not enviable in a town the size of Greenwood, or any other place, for that matter.

Friday afternoon a team hitched to a lumber wagon ran away and was smashed to pieces. The driver, Mr. Moreland, was thrown off during the run and pretty badly hurt. The runaway caused a fine saddle horse belonging to A.V. Anderson to break loose and run into a fence injuring itself so badly that it had to be shot.

NOVEMBER 13, 1903

Grier Brothers have rented the building near the Main hotel formerly occupied by Harry Albers.

Last Friday night Mincer's store on Garrison avenue was burglarized. An entrance was made

through the rear but so far as could be ascertained nothing was taken.

There was two wrecks on the Greenwood line last week, one Wednesday and another Friday. Wrecks on that road are becoming almost as regular as the running of the trains.

August Harder's butcher shop on North Sixth street received a visit from the light-fingered gentry Monday night but as there was but seventy-five cents in the drawer this haul was not a very encouraging one.

UNEEDA BISCUIT

The crackle you hear is the sign they are fresh. National Biscuit Company.

NOVEMBER 20 1903

D.B. Sparks, City Clerk, last Friday received a message informing him that he had become a grandfather. The mother of the little one is Mrs. Pittman, of Prescott, nee Miss Kate Sparks.

Tuesday morning Esq. Sam Edmondson put on a pair of trousers of the old fashioned doeskin variety. Shortly after he had occasion to stoop forward, there was a tearing sound, and upon examination the new garments found to be split from stem to stern. Sam wore a long coat the balance of the day.

NOVEMBER 27, 1903

Claude Cox, a student at DuVal school broke his right arm one day last week while playing on the school grounds.

Pickpockets separated quite a number of people from their cash during the carnival, one of the victims being Mr. Baker, of Branch, who lost \$60.

John C. Cunningham has been appointed deputy circuit clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Frank Futrall, who resigned.

Mrs. J.K. Kimmons has been selected to fill the vacancy made at the Trusty school by the resignation of Prof Campbell. She is a teacher of rare worth and will doubtless be acceptable to all the patrons of this noted school.

Mrs. Jennie L. Ellis, wife of Dr. Ellis, of this city, was elected grand matron of the Order of the Eastern Star at the meeting of the grand lodge held in Little Rock this week. The position is the most exalted in the order.

Dick McDonald and Buck Wasson were before Judge Freers' court Tuesday on a charge of fighting, and each was fined \$10. They got into a scrap with Dick Brummett of Spiro and chewed the end of one of his fingers off

DECEMBER 4, 1903

The crying need of Fort Smith just now is no more factories or railroads, but better streets.

The steam roller to be used in making Sebastian county highways better arrived last week. Judge Falconer is heart and soul in the movement for good roads, and his work is making itself apparent in many quarters

Mr. Harder has purchased Kaufman's butcher shop on North sixth street, which now makes four under his charge, besides a grocery store. He buys his cattle, fattens and butchers them himself, which enables him to put meat on the market in good shape and at lower prices than otherwise would prevail. This is a scheme from which the public derives the benefit.

DECEMBER 11, 1903

The Dyke Bros. have bought three more lots for the purpose of enlarging their plant and putting themselves in touch with the Fort Smith & Western Railroad, over which many of their shipments are made.

Last Sunday officers raided a large gang of Negroes who were shooting craps near Hackett City, and succeeded in making a pretty good haul. All of the shooters, however, were not arrested, some of them being able to give the officers the hot foot. One chap got shot through the leg and was brought to Fort Smith hospital for treatment. The crap shooters were employees of the Midland Valley Railroad.

The Woodmen held their annual election of officers on Monday with the following result: Consul commander, Jess Putman, vice consul commander, Ed Brack, banker I.L. Thompson, clerk, E.O. Groover, escort, Rector Barling, watchman, Will Smith, sentinel, Paul Northum,

physician, Dr. Gant, managers, J.F O'Melia and Henry Kuper.

DECEMBER 18, 1903

The Reynolds-Davis company are placing goods in their new building.

James W. McBride, the blind musician and Mrs. Della M. Vandevetter were married in this city December 10, Esq. H.M. Beck conducting the ceremony.

Last week Wharton Carnall sold the Miles Dickens property on North Fourteenth street to J.R. Starzell, of the Cherokee Construction company, consideration, \$3,000. It is a good bargain.

James Sharp, who was sentenced to a term in jail for bootlegging, but given a furlough that he might go home and gather his crops, returned Monday afternoon and reported as ready to begin his term of service.

The developer says Hartford is making rapid strides toward taking in Fort Smith. Well, our sprightly contemporary certainly has good cause for crowing over the growth of its town, for Hartford is walking with seven-league steps.

DECEMBER 25, 1903

There will be Christmas trees at all the churches today, and the Salvation Army will give its usual dinner to the poor.

Theodore Smith, a well known deputy marshal, was married in this city December 16 to Mrs. Lizzie Hendrickson. Both live in the Choctaw Nation.

Cards are out for the wedding of Miss M. Louis Brown and Samuel H. Baer at the home of the bride in St. Louis on the 30th of December. The groom is a son of Mr. Herman Baer of this city.

Surprise your favorite persons with
a membership in the Fort Smith
Historical Society - - they will love
The Journal and you.



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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

Note: The article "Confederate Veterans Buried in Oak Cemetery" (pages 31-32) is in alphabetical order and the veterans have not been included in this index.

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