



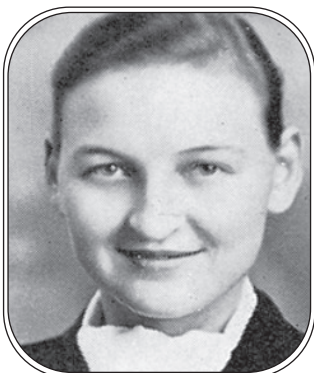
The JOURNAL



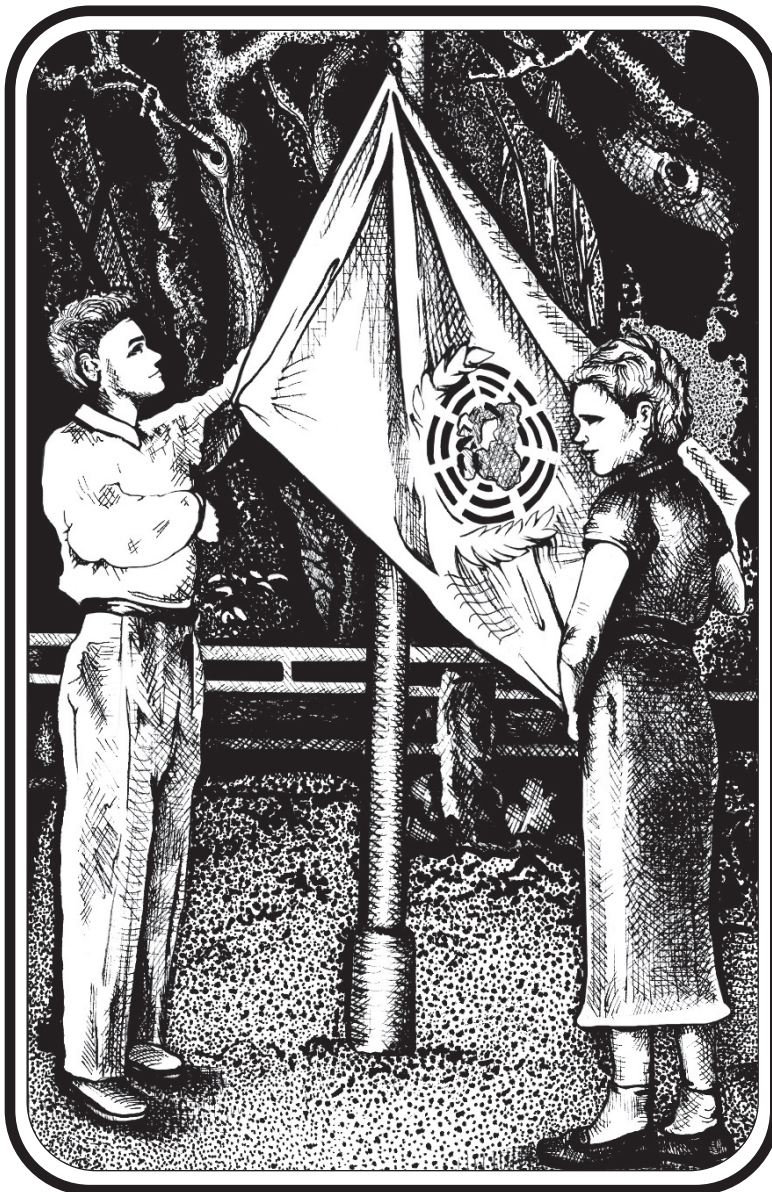
*Fort Smith
Country Club*



*Mame Stewart
Josenberger: Teacher*



*Judges of the Western
District of Arkansas*



A College Begins

*An interview with the Kasten sisters,
Fort Smith Junior College graduates*

Vol. 40, No. 2, September 2016



MISSION: The mission of the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc., founded in 1977, is to publish the *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* and through the *Journal* and other activities to locate, identify, and collect historical data; to publish source materials and historical articles, all pertaining to the city of Fort Smith and the immediate surrounding area. Preservation of Fort Smith history is our primary mission, and to this end, we always welcome the loan of historical material and will return it promptly.

MEMBERSHIP & ORDERS: *Journal* back issues are available. Cost for the current issue is \$7.50 plus a \$2 mailing charge per copy. Cost for past issues is \$4 plus the \$2 mailing charge. A composite index for Volumes I through IX is available for \$10 plus a \$4 mailing charge. Cost for the complete set of *Journals*, Volumes 11 through 39, is \$225. Volumes I and II will be reproduced copies, as these issues are no longer available in original form.

Membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society includes a subscription to *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, which is published semi-annually. Correspondence concerning current or back issues of *The Journal*, membership dues and all business matters should be sent to:

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Attention: Nancy Ciulla, Treasurer
P.O. Box 3676
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

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www.fortsmithhistory.org. Our website is updated regularly and contains information on the Organization, Membership, Back Issues: How to order, Tables of Contents of Back Issues, Contacts & Links, Archives and a Gallery of Historical Images: Views of Old Fort Smith.

See the Google group, Fort Smith History Forum, for a bulletin board of current research questions. Readers may post their own research questions or topics in hopes of furthering their own research.

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webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org

MANUSCRIPTS: Submissions of all types of Fort Smith, Arkansas, related materials, including previously unpublished family Bibles, diaries, journals, old maps, church minutes or histories, cemetery information, family histories, and other documents are welcome. Manuscripts, including quotations and footnotes, must be double-spaced, using *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press). Footnotes should be numbered consecutively in the text, assembled at the end of the article, along with a list of any additional sources. The author's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address should appear only on the title page. Manuscripts may be submitted on CD disks, using word-processing program supported by Windows. Photographs should be duplicates or submitted in digital format, documents should be photocopies as they cannot be returned. Manuscripts are subject to editing for style and space requirements. Articles and images accepted will become property of the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc., unless return is specifically requested. Submit to:

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Journal Editor & Co-Founder 1977-2004

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The JOURNAL

VOL. 40 NO. 2

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COVER: Main photo: An artist's re-creation of Edwin Sudderth and Anna Kasten raising a UN flag that was handsewn by Kasten's mother.
 Artwork by Sofia N. Gamboa Lazarte
 Top right photo: Henry Helbling at age 17
 Middle right photo: Mame Stewart Josenberger
 Lower right photo: Judge Elsijane Trimble Roy

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News & Opportunities

Fort Smith Historical Society Monthly Meetings

Fort Smith Public Library

Community Room, Main Branch, 6 p.m.

September 14. Sherry Toliver and Barbara Meadows will present a program on the book they compiled on the history of Lincoln High School.

Toliver received her early education at Howard Elementary School, graduating from Lincoln High School in the class of 1962. She and Barbara Webster-Meadows founded the *Lincoln Echo* newspaper, publishing the first issue in June 1993. Toliver serves as the president of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Meadows is a graduate of Lincoln High School and moved home from California in 1993. Co-founder of the modern *Lincoln Echo*, Meadows is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Fort Smith and serves as secretary for Ninth Street Church of Christ, the Lincoln Alumni Association, and the Fort Smith Historical Society.

The authors will be joined by Tonia Holleman, a contributor to the book who is a noted researcher and speaker on African-American and Native American historical issues in this region.

October 12. Adeline Ellis and Jennifer Charter, program on ways to use everyday items to home archive and preserve family heirlooms such as photographs and documents.

Adeline is a UAFS student. She worked in the Pebley Center and this summer, she completed an internship at the Southwest Regional Archives (SARA), a branch of the Arkansas State Archives housed at Old Washington State Park.

Jennifer works at the Pebley Center at UAFS. She holds a bachelor's in history from UAFS, and is a graduate student at East Tennessee State University in Archival Studies. She interned at the Drennen-Scott House.

November 9. Calline Ellis will present a program on the history of nursing in Fort Smith.

Ellis holds a master's degree in nursing and a doctorate in higher education administration. She chaired the Division of Health Occupations at Westark, where she helped start and directed the nursing program.

April 2017. Fort Smith Historical Society Membership Drive and Meet & Greet to be held at the Victorian home of a Society member. Place, date, and time

to be announced via your email address. Please email Maggie Jones maggie1040@earthlink.net your email address to receive updates closer to April.

Journal wins award

The Arkansas Historical Association voted the *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* for its Best in Graphics Award for 2015-2016. Cathy Peterson, our designer, is pictured with the plaque.



Fort Smith Museum of History

320 Rogers Avenue

479-783-7841

September 4. 2-4 p.m., Annual Ice Cream Social. All you can eat ice cream for \$5 per person.

September 24. Museum Day Live! Sponsored by *Smithsonian* magazine, visitors receive free admission with an online ticket: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2016/tickets/>

October 21, 22, 28, 29, 31. Murder and Mayhem Haunted Trolley Tour. Two tours per evening at 6 and 7:30 p.m. \$40 per person for age 21 and over. Western Arkansas Ballet's Thriller, on the street in front of the Fort Smith Museum of History on the dates listed above.

November 11. Veterans Day Reception, 1-3 p.m.

December 10. Open House, 2-5 p.m.

February 17. Mardi Gras.

Clayton House Victorian Mansion & Museum

514 North Sixth Street

479-783-3000

For the following Fourth Sunday programs at the Clayton House, music and refreshments begin at 1 p.m.

with the presentations beginning at 1:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 783-3000 or emailing claytonhouse@claytonhouse.org. These are free to members of the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation. For non-members, a \$10 donation toward the preservation and programs of the Clayton House, 514 North Sixth Street, is asked.

Sunday, September 25. Clayton Conversations: "Embracing the Beautiful: The Architecture of Color in the late Nineteenth Century," with Lee Ortega, executive director of the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum. Shedding light on the late Victorian era in which the Claytons lived while in Fort Smith, this talk will explore styles and use of color during the late nineteenth century. Images shown and discussed will include Monet's "Impression, Sunrise" (1874) and Van Gogh's "The Starry Night" (1889).

Sunday, October 23. "A Real Home: The Richness of the Clayton House Legacy," with U.S. Marshals Museum President and CEO Patrick Weeks. The museum professional will share his passion for this region's era of frontier justice in which the chief law enforcement officer, U.S. Attorney Wm. H. H. Clayton, played a dynamic role, as well as his passion for the new national museum.

Friday, November 4. 5:30 p.m. A special Clayton House "Knox Street Book Review," featuring the new book, "Quartermaster General: A Conflict of Loyalties, the Civil War Memoirs of Brigadier General William L. Cabell, CSA (1827-1911)," by Charles P. "Chuck" Cabell. The author, a retired Brigadier General of the U.S. Air Force and resident of Colorado Springs, will visit the Clayton House and review his book based on the handwritten memoirs of his great-grandfather, William L. Cabell. Just before the Civil War, William Cabell married Amanda "Shingo" Rector in Fort Smith. Cabell served as the first Quartermaster to the Army of Northern Virginia. Rector was the daughter of Major Elias Rector, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs beginning in 1851, and Catherine Du Val Rector, daughter of Captain William Du Val. Enjoy a reception with the author beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by a program steeped in Fort Smith and Civil War history.

Drennen-Scott Historical Site

Visitor Center 221 North Third Street
Van Buren, Arkansas
479-262-2750

uafs.edu/humanities/drennen-scott-house

Crawford County Chronicles programs are scheduled for the first Sunday of every month.

For reservations and more information contact Tom Wing, Director of the Drennen-Scott Historical Site on

Facebook: Drennen-Scott Historic Site, or email at drennen-scott@uafs.edu.

Arkansas Historical Association

April 20-22, 2017

Pocahontas, Arkansas

76th Annual Conference

Theme "Great War, Great Changes."

You may register for the conference at
<http://arkansashistoricalassociation.org>

The Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) invites presentation proposals for the annual conference, which marks the centennial of the United States' entry into World War I. We are seeking presentations focused not only on World War I and the changes it brought to Arkansas, but also on great changes throughout Arkansas's history. Presentations will be limited to twenty minutes. The use of audio-visual elements is encouraged.

Please send proposals of approximately 200 words to Steven Kite, program chair, PO Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72913, 405-880-2379, steve.kite@uafs.edu

Proposals should be submitted by October 15, 2016, and include a mailing address, phone number, and email address. Proposals may be submitted by email. Please contact the program chair with any questions.

Looking ahead, the 77th Annual Conference of the Arkansas Historical Association in April 2018 is scheduled for Fort Smith to coincide with our city's bicentennial celebration.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Southern Style Mind Stretchers

Ruth Skinner Building across from St. John's Episcopal Church, 214 North Sixth Street.

Gaining Insight into Islam Series

- September 20, 2016. 6 p.m. Mary Bane Lackie, Ph.D. Islam: A Christian Layperson's View.

- October 18, 2016. 6 p.m. Najib Ghabdian, Ph. D. The Complex Wars in Syria.

- January 17, 2017. 6 p.m. Sarwar Alam, Ph.D. Islam: A Brief Introduction to the Quran and Hadith.

Gaining Insight into Genetics Series

- February 21, 2017. 6 p.m. Jeannine Durdik, Ph. D. DNA and Our Changing Understanding.

- March 21, 2017. 6 p.m. Becky Williamson, Ph. D. What Does Epigenetics Have to Do with Cancer?

- May 16, 2017. 6 p.m. Brandy Ree, Ph. D. A Mission to Teach Undergraduates Biology.

Mame Stewart Josenberger

*A Remarkable Teacher at Howard and Lincoln
and a Fort Smith Namesake*

Excerpt from the book *Lincoln High School*

Mrs. Mame Stewart Josenberger was one of the remarkable women of her age. She moved to Fort Smith in 1888 and became a leading force in black education, business, and civic circles. The Josenberger name may be best known for Josenberger Hall. The large auditorium on the second floor of a building Mame Josenberger owned on North Ninth Street was known throughout the south-central United States for the quality and quantity of entertainment presented there.

Josenberger was born in Oswaga, New York, where she received her early education. She graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a bachelor's degree in education.

Her first teaching position was at the State Normal School in Holly Springs, Mississippi, now Rush University. When she moved to Fort Smith, she began teaching at Howard Elementary School in 1888. From 1891 to 1903, she taught at all-black Lincoln High School.

A gifted teacher devoted to her profession during school hours, she also was involved in many other facets of her community. Her strong and passionate personality led her to seek out ways to uplift others of her race.

Eventually these other interests overtook her teaching career, and she left the profession in May 1903. She accepted the position of Grand Register of Deeds in the Order of Calanthe, which she held for the next 15 years.

Her husband, William Ernst Josenberger, also was a community leader. In addition to being one of the early black postal carriers, he was a mortician and operated his own funeral parlor.

William Josenberger died in 1909, and his wife assumed control of the funeral home. Under her guidance it grew, and she branched out into other areas of business. Eventually she sold the mortuary to the Rowell family. Rowell Mortuary is still operating today at 611 North Ninth Street.

Mame Josenberger joined St. Augustine Episcopal Church in 1909 and devoted her considerable efforts to the church as well as serving on the board of directors of Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, the National



MAME STEWART JOSENBARGER

Negro Business League, and the NAACP, of which she was a life member. She also served as president of the Phyllis Wheatley Federated Women's Club.

Josenberger Hall remained a tribute to Mame Josenberger until the 1960s. At the height of its popularity, it drew hundreds to see and hear top jazz and other performers of the era.

Gradually the building housing the second-floor hall and five first-floor buildings began to fall into disrepair. In 1967, Mame Josenberger's two business buildings on Ninth were torn down. Today, few Fort Smith residents—black or white—can find the spot that once jumped on the beat of America's finest Negro musicians.

'To Our Courageous Ancestors'

Looking back at Lincoln High School

By Arkansas State Rep. George B. McGill

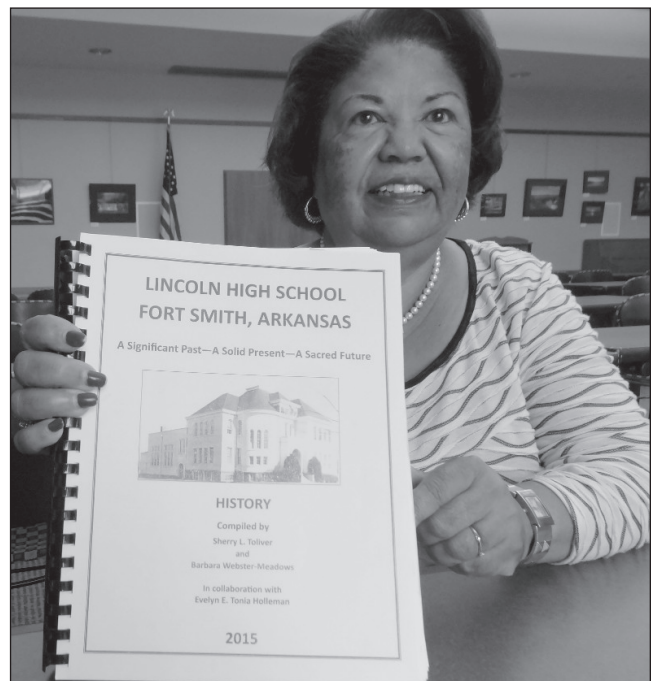
L*incoln High School* can be presented as the history of a culture. This culture rested on a foundation built with academic excellence, community pride, dignity, and success. I recall how I felt when I walked on the campus for the first time as a student. A sense of pride and purpose let me know I was now a Lincoln High student, and I could hardly wait to begin my journey.

Lincoln was much more than brick and mortar. The main building was one of the most beautiful buildings in Fort Smith, but the real beauty came from a culture braided with excellence. Lincoln High meant being taught by excellent teachers who spoke with authority and encouraged students with the love of a parent. The teachers demanded individual best, and inspired each student to succeed in life. They took personal responsibility for the success of all students.

Lincoln High School was the heart of the Black community. The culture meant excellence in all aspects of education. The students had the attitude that they were the best. The school choir reigned supreme in Arkansas. The athletic programs were envied not only for their play on the field, but because of the outstanding student/athletes who excelled in the classroom.

From the sawdust-covered floor in the wood-working shop to the chemistry class, excellence was the goal, and it was found in theater, the arts, orchestra, leadership development, and community service, all a part of the Lincoln High fabric.

Toliver and Meadow's book on the history of Lincoln High will shed light on how a culture of excellence still exists today among the many graduates and descendants of graduates. The authors were inspired to tell the story because it demonstrated what can happen when the culture of a high school campus permeates the entire community or city. It is a story of



SHERRY TOLIVER with *Lincoln High School, Fort Smith, Arkansas: A Significant Past—A Solid Present—A Sacred Future*

academic excellence, pride, caring, community, dignity and success.

Aristotle wrote, "Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution. It represents the wise choice of many alternatives—choice, not chance, and determines your destiny."

The Lincoln High School culture was no accident. This book, *Lincoln High School*, brings to light that storied past.

'Two Months on the Rivers'

*An excerpt from Shelby Johnson's account
of an 1889 houseboat trip from Kansas to Little Rock*

You are about to read [an excerpt from] the travel log of a houseboat trip in the fall of 1889 by Shelby Johnson, his son, Edymond, and various friends and acquaintances. The purpose of the trip was to collect furs and see the sites as they floated down the river. They lived off the land, hunting and fishing and selling furs to buy necessary supplies. Shelby at this time was forty-six years old. He was born January 11, 1843, in Shelby County, Indiana. He had been a private in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war he lived in Kokomo, Indiana, with his wife, Mary Ellen Springer. They had three children. Shelby was a ship carpenter. In the early 1880s, he and his family moved to Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he operated a restaurant and a confectionary store, and was part of the police department. He and his family lived on Lincoln Street.

The trip began on the Spring River in Baxter Springs, Kansas, on October 9, 1889. They entered the Neosho River (also called the Grand River) on October 11, and the Arkansas River just south of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, on November 9, some thirty-one days after the start. They continued floating down the Arkansas River to Little Rock, Arkansas, arriving on December 11, 1889, sixty-three days after the start. Shelby and Edymond returned by train to Baxter Springs, Kansas, two days later. The total river distance traveled was approximately 380 miles. A map of the route is included.

In 1889, rural farm population was denser than today. Farm and ranch roads had been established for horse and wagon travel but there were few, if any, road bridges over the rivers. Rivers were crossed by ford or ferry and many of these crossings had names. Railroads were more numerous than today and there were more frequent trains, including passenger trains. The railroads had the only bridges over the rivers. Our travelers crossed under four railroad bridges on the trip. The dams, locks and associated reservoirs, channel relocation, and erosion control structures that are now a part of the river systems had yet to be constructed. Post Offices existed in all towns and villages.

No effort was made to change the English or word arrangement in the log. Spellings of place names have been corrected to agree with the old topographic maps. Misspellings were corrected for common words,

apostrophes added to conjunctions, and periods added for some sentences. Periods were generally lacking in the log and the first letters of words were sometimes capitalized. Such capitalizations were left as written. Most words have been left as written such as *thay* for *they*, *thair* for *their*, *coles* for *colds*, *nots* for *knots* and *flower* for *flour*. Some illegible words or letters of words had to be interpreted and are shown in *italics*, and some words are shown as blanks because they could not be interpreted. Place names and individual names have been bolded for easy visual searching. Comments in *italics* as well as footnotes are added information or results of research to clarify items in the log.

In the Appendix are map references, photographs (some taken from post cards of the era), discussion of the log book itself, and a summary of logs of other river and wagon trips made by Shelby Johnson and his family.

Diane Wilkie of Jackson, Michigan, was instrumental in reading and interpreting the logbook and preparing the final copy of this paper.

Comments are invited and may be included in any future version.

Enjoy.

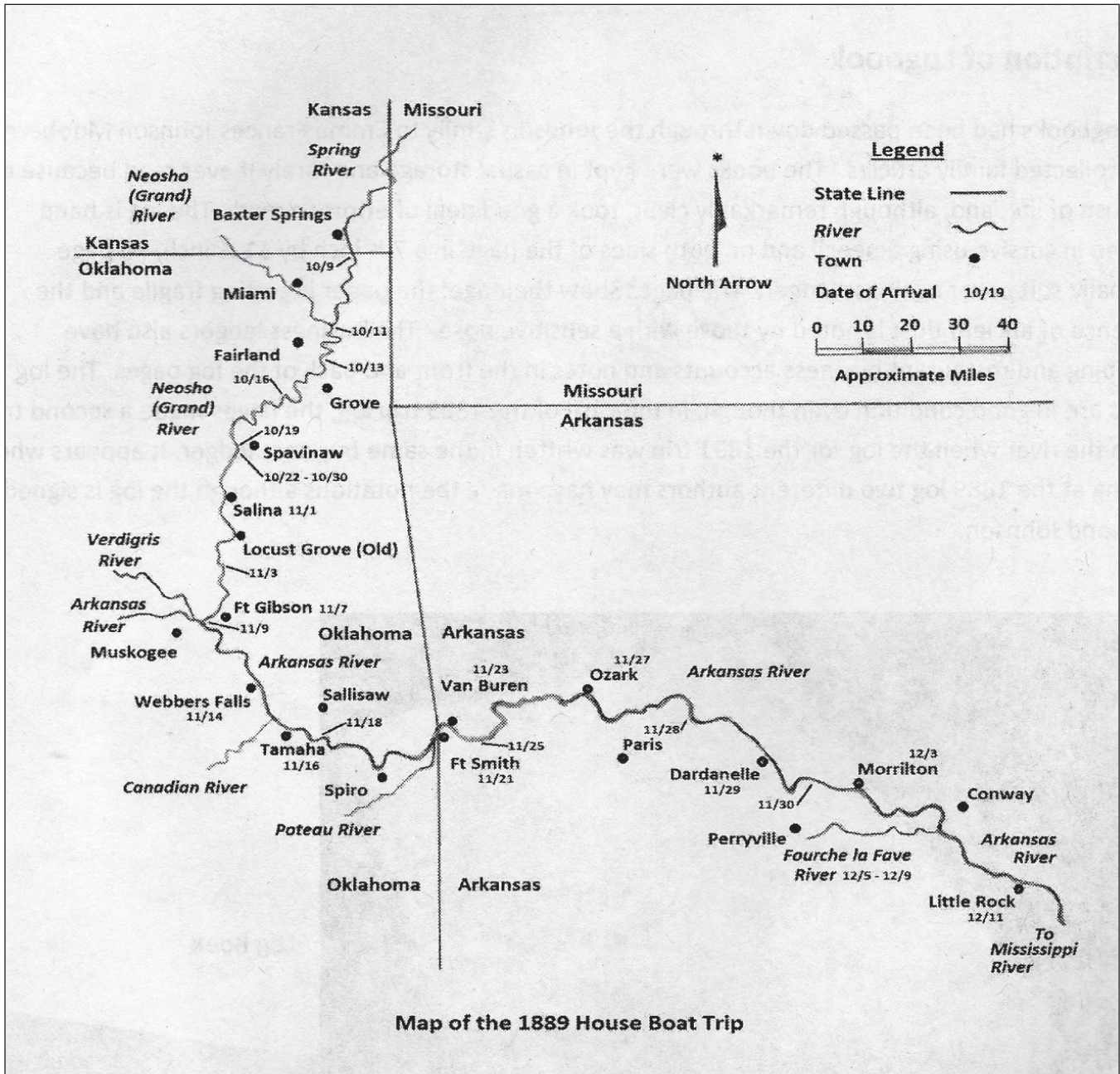
David G. Mooberry,

*A descendant of Shelby and Edymond Johnson,
March 31, 2015.*

Editor's note: After becoming aware of this remarkable and historic account of a sojourn on some of the navigable rivers of the region, *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* received permission from Mr. Mooberry to reprint the following excerpt of the trip log as the travelers entered the Arkansas River and boated through Fort Smith to the Fourche la Pave River, a segment of their journey which took them almost a month to cover. We pick up the log entries beginning on Friday, November, 9, 1889, as the houseboat entered the Arkansas River from the Grand River.

4:00 pm Ed Brown and E Johnson take a walk up in town to look around. We see the cotton gins. There are some few buildings in Fort Gibson. The Railroad Runs through Main Street. Hogs

Map of Route



Map References

United States Geological Survey 1:125,000 maps mostly used between 1885 and 1897 were used to review the route described in the log. Place names and distances between place names as related to time of travel were amazingly consistent with the topographic maps. Occasionally names in italics have been added where map research may have clarified a location name in the log with a current name.

running everywhere. To the depot is one half mile East of the Bridge. Thair is a nice place for a town here. The River on the West one Railroad. The train jut passes over the Bridge. She makes a hirble rackert. We're camped almost under the Bridge. Anyhow while we are here were are having some company. One old soldier and several others from town. Mr. John Ketchum will stay with us tonight – He is a jolly fellow

Saturday, Nov. 9, 1889

- 6:35 am All up for the day – all fat dirty hardy and sassy. We go up town to grind our Hatchets this morning. Clear as a whistle this morning. We depart for down the river this morning. The train just passes through. We are waiting for our mail.
- 9:15 am Depart
- 10:15 am Arrive at the Arkansas River.
- 12:00 am Camp at Muddy River Creek. We made Boss time. The River water is Red as can be and shallow though no trouble. We having good time.
- 3:00 pm Ed Johnson goes out hunting. When we come down today we saw some Wild Geese. Shot 4 or 5 shots but no geese, Shelby killed fish hawk at the mouth of Grand River. Shelby, Mr. John Ketchum sets traps for bear and coon. Fish plenty. Set the net. We will stay till Monday here till we hear from Home.
- Lights out for the night.

Now on the Arkansas River **Sunday morning, Nov. 10, 1889.**

- 6:00 am Up for the day. All well. Ed Brown Ed Johnson goes to Fort Gibson to see get mail. 3 miles and 3 quarters there and no mail. Come back and see Mr. Ketchum and Shelby at camp. Mr. Ketchum caught one fine Beaver and one coon. We have plenty of company. 6 white men and on boy Indian. We buy apples of a white family. Fine apples 75 cents per bushel.
- Lots of cotton acre after acre. The Railroad runs down the River from about 6 miles. It runs at the points of those large hills right between the hills and the River. We see some wild Turkey this evening.
- We have company this evening. We are having a good time. EJ and Ed Brown will go to Post office tomorrow again.

- 8:55 pm Ed Brown is writing a letter. Shelby and John are smoking. We catch some fish last night. This is nice country. The weather is pleasant clear. The train has just gone by winding around the hills. (Bound for Arkansas or Bust) We will depart very early tomorrow morning for down the River.

Monday, Nov. 11, 1889

- 7:00 am Up for the day. Ed Brown and E Johnson goes to Gibson for mail. No mail. We do some trading. We wore out when we get back. See cotton pickers out picking cotton. Shelby gets 2 opossums on coon. John gets two little Beavers.
- We don't move down the River the wind is so strong against us. We camp until wind lays. The train kills two head of cattle that we know of last night. Thay kill a good many cattle.
- Cloudy today.
- 12:55 pm Apple Dumplings for dinner today. All Fat dirty Harty and Sassy.
- 2:00 pm The wind lays and we move down the River one mile. See good Beaver signs. E Johnson hunts for turkey but no Turkey. Shelby and John goes to set traps. Shelby sees one Beaver.
- The train just now passes. It runs quite aways along the River at the rate of six miles per hour on account of the Road being narrow and crucked. The kill lots of stock along thair.
- Ed Brown is not feeling very well this evening. His lungs hurt him. We hear the evening gun plain at Gibson this evening.

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1889

- 7:00 am Breakfast over. Ed is not feeling very well this morning. We have had a Big Soaking Rain last night. Its cool and the wind is in our favor. Cloudy. Shelby and John goes to traps. John gets two coon. No catching any beaver. Shelby one coon. We made the fastest time that have made on the trip. Thay can't catch us hardly with row boat.
- 12:00 pm Dinner. Wind in our favor. We go flying can't hardly stop wen we want to. Some ducks. We see three Big seagulls coming along. Pretty thickly settle on the Arkansas River.
- 2:20 pm The wind is so against us that we can't travel a bit. We have got to tie up till she lays.
- 4:00 pm We tie up for the night. We send Ed Brown to get a bucket of water at the creek.

6:30 pm Shelby and John goes out deer hunting with a big headlight. John has a cusin living on the other side of River. He goes up to visit him and comes back to camp and takes a Beaver up to him and Borrows his big headlight to go deer hunting. Shelby goes out to set traps on creek at 4 o'clock. Ed Johnson goes out hunting. Sees plenty of deer sign. Clear just now. Thair was a flock of some kind big birds just now went over. White cranes we think.

We made fast time today. The fastest on the trip. We travelled some 9 or 10 miles by land and did not run half of the time. We can see the train again tonight below us. Running today the road runs in next to the River. The weather is cool yet. The River is wide here. I should say.

Ed Brown is reading his book. He has read some too or three sense he has been out on the trip. We are only six miles from Webers Falls. We will stay over here tomorrow to see if we can't kill a deer. It will be deer I expect (ah Rats) we will have coon or beaver tomorrow if we don't get no venison. Big Inigne me shootie Heep deer me no coward killie Heep Bears. E Johnson Ed Brown will take a round up for deer tomorrow. Rats. Rats. We had nothing stronger than coffee since Fatty left.

Shelby and John did not see any deer.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1889

5:00 am Up for all day. John goes to take the head light back and he will take breakfast thair at his cusins this morning. Ed Brown Ed Johnson will take a scout this morning for deer. Cloudy and cool. River Raising. Big frost.

12:00 pm We will move down the River. Ed Johnson goes out and cripples a deer. Did not get him. 2 point buck.

3:15 Camp for the night. Shelby and John goes to set traps. Ed Brown goes out to see if he can find a buck. He gets one quail today at 3 shots. Shoots 2 barrels at once. Clear weather moderately cool. We will make Webers Falls tomorrow by noon anyhow. We had beens for dinner.

Thursday, Nov. 14, 1889

6:00 am All up but Ed Brown. John has gone to his traps. Shelby is getting breakfast. Cool clear wind in our favor. Where we camped yesterday

was lots of deer. It was a Boss Place to hunt. We will travel for Webbers Falls this morning.

10:15 am Webbers Falls nice town. 5 cotton gins here do more business here than at Gibson. Shelby John Ed goes up to see the city of Webbers Falls. We get mail from home. We will go on down.

12:25 am We depart for the River.

12:55 pm Illinois River

1:40 pm Mud Creek¹ camp. The Canadian no campie to much people living here no Beaver.

2:50 pm Canadian River camp. Some coon signs and good Beaver sign. We get into a big bunch of turkey about 30. Ed Johnson shoot at them 2 times. No turkey. We will go after them tomorrow. We will stay over tomorrow on the Canadian. Plenty of deer sign. Ed Johnson was in the Choctaw Nation this evening.

Friday, Nov. 15, 1889

8:40 am Up for the day. Ed Brown Ed Johnson goes out for turkey. See turkeys don't get any. Shelby gets one turkey that nows of and killed one that he did not get. Got one Beaver. Turkeys by the holesale and deer. John has not come in yet.

7:15 pm John gets one Beaver. Shelby and Ed go out deer hunting. Shelby comes in a little while. Ed Brown comes in at three. Ed Johnson comes in at five. Ed Brown sees some turkeys. Lots of deer sign. No deer. Shelby and John streaches Beaver hides tonight.

Saturday, Nov. 16, 1889

8:00 am Up for the day. Rain all night and snowed. Together we have all bad coles. Ed Johnson goes out after turkey. See some did not get any. John Ketchum catches 2 coon. We move down the River see some ducks one goose and stop at some stores² to get flore. We will go to the Vian Creek.

5:00 pm Camped in the Vian Creek.³ Some beaver sign. The wind was against us for some time. John says this is the place for deer and turkeys. He saw one flock of turkeys. This is nice clear water. Cloudy all day clear now. Pretty cool weather. We had stued pumpkin this week, sweet potatoes today and we have Beaver stake for supper. We are all tired out tonight. John is telling some of this old time stories that happened long time ago. We will stay here at the mouth of the Vian two days. Lights out for the night.

Sunday, Nov. 17, 1889

8:00 am All up Breakfast over getting better of our coles. John goes out to his traps. Shelby goes out after turkeys did not get any Turkey. Cool and clear. We are within twenty five miles of Fort Smith by land. 70 miles by water. The next creek is the San Bois about fifteen miles down the River. Ed Johnson and Shelby goes out hunting deer. Ed kills a big wolf on top of the mountain. He saw five of them. No coon or beaver. Coon got away. Shelby gets rabbit.

2:00 pm Ed B Ed J goes out hunting. Don't see anything. Lots of quail not many deer in here. No turkeys much. Shelby shoots at goose did not get him. To far off. We hear the steamer down the River. It goes to Webbers Falls after cotton. John goes to his traps.

Monday, November 18, 1889

6:00 am All up feeling all right. Well and harty. John gets one coon one beaver. We have beaver stake for breakfast this morning.

9:00 am Depart for down the River. Salisaw Creek next.

1:00 pm Ed Brown Ed Johnson goes after ducks get 2 big mallards duck. We see the steamer down the river this morning. She went down south to Smith again. Shelby is out scouting around. John is washing today. He will set traps this evening. The Salisaw Creek is muddy stream.

6:20 pm No turkeys or deer here. We will go to Cashe Creek 15 miles. Sanbois Creek just below. Ed B stayed in camp this evening. Shelby killed one squirrel.

Tuesday, November 19, 1889

7:20 am Depart for the Arkansas River. No coon or Beaver.

12:00 am Noon dinner. Ed Brown eat 8 pancakes or slap jacks if you please.

1:00 pm See nine wild turkey. Thay fly across the River. Shelby gets one of them. We will have turkey next meal. Clear warm pleasant today. We just have past the Coal Shaft. The steamer takes coal to Smith.

3:18 pm Cashe Creek clost to Rock queiry.⁴ Steamer takes Rock to Fort Smith. Ed Brown says that we had as well be traveling as to stop now. We past Slab Town about one hour ago. Lots of saw logs there. Thay go to Fort Smith to. Shelby

came across a trapper. He is from Indiana. Came from there quite a while ago. He seen a good many of the folks thair he said and he knew some of Ed Brown folks in Indiana.

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1889

6:00 am We are in 20 miles of Fort Smith, Shelby and John put out some traps for coon. All up for the day. Ed Brown is about the last fellow out of bed. He gets thair just the same. Turkey Breast for Breakfast.

7:15 am Depart for down the River. John one coon.

11:00 am Camp at Rock Bluff. Cedar till you can't rest. Big ones at that. Every time we pass a house their will come a dog or a boy. He stands for a moment and turns and runs in the house and tells all of the family and here thay come in a regiment dogs and all. The houses are about every 3 and 4 hundred yards apart one each side River. Some places closer than that. Thay will stand and look as far as thay can see us. Thay look tough in some localities.

1:10 pm The steamer just passes going after cotton. Border City steamer and we pass the Cleveland Steamer pulling snags out of the water and about one half hour we pass the Wm. Doulee Steamer unloading cotton.

5:00 pm We go into camp. Ed Brown Ed Johnson goes out after geese. Do not get any geese.

Thursday, Nov. 21, 1889

6:00 am All up. We go down the River one mile to a big drift to get breakfast. The Border City comes down this morning loaded with cotton seed. She goes a flying. Breakfast is ready.

12:42 pm Fort Smith, Arkansas

6:00 pm Camped at mouth of Porteau River. Thair is some 7 or 8 house boats here. Some nice ones. Steam ferry and thay are pumping sand on the barges in the water. Thair is 4 steam boats here The (Dulie) (Cleveland) (Border City) and Kansas. Plaining mills founderys brick works and big company building. Whistles in all directions and all tones. Trains in most all times.

7:00 pm Ed has packed up his stuff and John and Shelby helps him to the depot with it. We hate for Ed to leave us. I believe he was homesick. Shelby John and E Johnson will try the trip a while longer. We are feeling pretty good. All well. The wind blew us to the bank So today.

Since we have landed her today there has been some 10 or 12 persons to visit us and to look at the Eagle. Their is trains going all times.

There is not as much game on the Arkansas as far as we have come as there is on Grand River. It is too thickly settled. Once and while some turkeys and that is all. Ed eats supper with us. He goes at one o'clock tonight. Shelby and John try to sell their furs but the buyers want furs for nothing and they won't sell at all. While Shelby and John were up in town they see two big deer which were shipped in Fort Smith. Fort Smith is quite a town.

A good ways above there was a big raft of logs in the water and on the bank. There were hundreds of them. There was a small raft landed here this evening.

The steamer Drake comes down this evening with two big barges loaded with cotton seed. She was quite heavy loaded. She came near running in the bank just above the Border City. Did run in the bank this morning the wind was so against then and short curve at that.

The Porteau River is a nice stream. Ed Brown buys himself a new hat this evening. Ed Brown says he does not want to go away.

We had some visitors last night. We could see the Sugar Loaf Mountain⁵ today. John has gone up in town. Ed is looking at his book. Shelby is asleep. Ed Johnson will go to see Ed Brown off on the train. The weather is clear.

Friday, Nov. 22, 1889

6:00 am All up. Will stay here a while today. Weather pleasant cool. Whistles blowing. John stayed up in town last night. It seems very lonesome since Ed Brown went away. Ed Johnson could not sleep last night for the trains making such a racket.

Breakfast is ready. John comes in. He stayed in town last night. Shelby and Ed goes up in town to get some groceries. There is a good many deer shipped in Fort Smith. Fort Smith is a nice town.

11:15 am Depart for down the river.

12:13 pm Nice weather clear pleasant. We float down. Today nicest day we have had for 2 weeks.

1:34 pm Wind in our favor. Go right along flying by Big Rock Bluff below. We saw deer in market this morning plenty.

Shelby buys Ed Brown rubber boots. John Ketchum buys Ed leather boots.

6:00 pm Shelby shoots 4 geese flying when coming down today. Did not get any geese. We are camped on Lees Creek. Beautiful stream of water. Clear. The Iron Mountain Little Rock Railroad run on east side of bank. The road stops at Van Buren and one train goes over to Ft Smith every day. They Run from Van Buren on the San Francisco Road to Smith.

Van Buren is 2 miles down the River. The bridge is eight span long. The steamer Border City passes going after cotton seed. We meet the Drake coming down.

Ed Johnson goes out up on the mountain to see how far he can see. Can see Fort Smith plain. Can see for 40 or 50 miles around. Saw the most that have saw since out. The prettiest sights can see the range of mountain on the west side of river 40 miles south of Ft Smith high ones. Shelby gets one squirrel this evening. We do not know whether we will go on below Van Buren or not. We will wait a day or to. We have for our suppers this evening Beaver tails. They was Boss.

Saturday, Nov 23, 1889.

6:40 am All up. John and Ed are getting breakfast. Shelby is gone to get his traps. The whistles are blowing at Fort Smith. Cool clear weather.

8:20 am Depart for Van Buren next. Shelby gets one mink.

10:00 am Van Buren nice town. Shelby and John sells their furs here. We don't know whether we will go on down or not. We will stay here today. Visitors come down here to see the Eagle and Beaver hides. The bridge⁶ is one Duisy. Some house boats down here 2 or three. John gets his gun repaired here at Van Buren.

12:00 am Dinner Next.

The switch engine crosses the bridge coming over to Van Buren to switch. Cloudy wind from south west.

3:00 pm There has been about 14 trains past over this bridge today.

4:00 pm We see a party out boat riding. They get stuck on sand bar. This is a pleasant evening. The wind has laid.

8:30 pm Ed goes to mail letter. Shelby gets groceries this evening. John goes over to Fort Smith to take the train in. There is some nice buildings in

Van Buren. It is an old town. Some nice brick stores going up. Ed Johnson gets a shave and a haircut this evening. Shelby likes Van Buren some better than Fort Smith. We may stay over here tomorrow. Van Buren have several manufacturies such as caning factory ice works cotton gins and one thing another.

We do not kill much game at present time or do anything all though we have to keep up the log all the samey.

Sunday, Nov. 24, 1889

7:30 am All up but John. He comes in at 4 o'clock this morning. Weather pleasant cloudy. We will start down the river this morning for Dardanelle. That is at the Petty Jean Creek. We will go up that to the source and cross over to the source of the Porteau River and come down to Fort Smith.⁷ Its misting rain right smart at present.

Last Sunday we were up on the Vian⁸ Creek.

Depart for down the River. See a big flock of geese and a loon just now. See a big flock of geese again. Some fellow shooting at them.

2:35 pm Stop for dinner. We have a talk with a man from Baxter Springs. He worked on the flouring mill. He is fishing. Glad to see us. Some coon sign.

6:10 pm We are camped on the point where Mud Creek puts in the river. 8 boys comes to see the boat today and play around. No game yet. Few geese. Shelby and John goes out to set traps.

Cloudy wind out of north cool.

O we're in the state of Arkansas. We have stued apples for our suppers.

8:00 pm Lights out. Lights out. Lights out for the night for the night.

Monday morning, Nov. 25, 1889

6:32 am All up. Rained last night. Raining yet. Wind in our favor. No fish. We stop. The wing against us. See some geese. Shoot at them. No goose. Cloudy cool.

Shelby goes out hunting. We are camped on Little Vashe Grasse Creek. We will go to Big Vashe Grasse after dinner. Some scatern turkeys in the woods. Good many ducks.

2:00 pm We were camped close to Big Vashe Grasse Creek but did not no it. We will trap tonight here. Shelby makes a big oar for the big boat go flying wind blows or not.

5:45 pm Ed Johnson kills a wood chuck. Shelby and John have gone to set traps for the night. Still raining.

Tuesday morning, Nov. 26, 1889

5:40 am All up but John. Rained all night and still raining. John says he is taking cold again. Ed was not feeling very well yesterday.

The Arkansas folks have a dance last night. We have fried mush for breakfast. How is that for high. Shelby and John have gone to thair traps. Its raining so that we can't travel much to day. Shelby gets two minks. John gets nothing.

8:40 am Still raining like sixty. We shall stay here till it quit raining. Arkansas folks tells us we aught to be on the Petty Jane River to trap and hunt.

10:00 am Off the Mulberry Creek.

12:15 pm Made a pair of big oars.⁹ One fellow can row and make big time afloat and dinner ready. Go flying. Still cloudy misting rain. We have made biggest time since on the Arkansas River.

3:15 pm Big Creek. The creek is up raising some.

6:40 pm Camp.¹⁰ All the Little Stream up. Flying. We stopped about 3 miles up the river to get wood. Get wood and go on. See Big cabin boat come to cabin boat. It is about 50 ft. long picture gallery. We think river is going to raise. Go on down the river a ways. Mountains on each side of river. A _____ full along the river comes out and wants to know if we have anything to drink. See no geese today. Some duck. We passed Frog Bayou some 6 miles up the river. We think we will make Dardanelle tomorrow. Still misting rain yet. We are somewhat tired tonight.

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1889

7:15 am All up Breakfast ready. River raised 2 feet and one half. The wind in our favor. Cloudy cool.

8:15 am Depart. We are getting into the mountains again. Pinery. Ed shoots at geese 3 shots. Long ways off. We see a fine cedar grove. Ed shoots once more at geese. Shelby 7 times at geese. No geese. Too far off.

12:20 pm Dinner Afloat. See some more geese. Shoot several times. See Ozark¹¹ Town. Nice place. Some nice buildings there. We do not stop. Mountains yet.

Stop at Roseville to get some groceries. Town on the west side of river. We do not now what

the name of this place is. We suppose its Roseville. Camp at sundown. River still raising. Good many geese and good many ducks. 40 miles by land to Dardanelle. We make good time today.

Thursday morning, Nov. 28, 1889

- 7:18 am All well and harty. Clear and cool. Wind in our favor. I had to stop writing to kill a mouse. The river raised one foot and one half and still raising. We come through some beautiful scenery yesterday. Pinery and cedar we passed.
- Ozark and Roseville both nice towns. One on the east side of the river and one on the west side of river.
- We wait a while until the wind lays. Blows to hard for us. See good many ducks this morning. Good many geese yesterday. Shot a good many times. Did not get any. To far off.
- 7:50 am Depart. Go flying.
- 9:45 am See cotton gin on south side of river. 2 or 3 nice houses. The wind blows like sixty.
- 12:00 am Stop for dinner. Wind blowing. We are within four miles of Clarkesville. Next creek is Cane Creek and next after Cane is Shoal Creek. Two ferry men comes to see us. We pass Cane Creek. River rising yet. We will camp at Shoal Creek. Twenty 25 miles to Dardanelle. We are clipping time.
- 2:20 pm (No entry)
- 4:00 pm We pull in Shoal Creek. Nice stream, nice house on north side. Big cotton gin. Shelby goes up the creek to look around. Shelby goes up the creek and gets pine nots make hot fire. Big mountains up where he was. These mountains are all Pine. We are all tired out. The river is still rising. Pretty rough for a while this evening. A Boy says thair is turkey in these woods.

Friday, Nov. 29, 1889

- 7:22 am All up. The 6 o'clock bell rings at this place. We are within sixteen miles of Dardanelle. Pleasant weather cool clear. River raised about one foot last night. The wind in our favor. Not blowing so hard as it was yesterday.
- Breakfast is ready.
- Shelby goes after some geese. John and Ed is cleaning up the boat.
- 9:05 am All fine and seedar timber fine scenery mountainy. River very calm. We keep a close watch out for a steamer this morning.

- 9:30 am Just now see some geese and we see another big bunch coming up the river. Nice morning. See some 2 hundred geese in once bunch. Lots of them. Pleasant today sun shines warm.
- 2:00 pm Dardanelle. Big steamer here. 2 of them. Big bluff above Dardanelle Ha, ha. 21 miles to Petty John River. The river is to a stand still tonight. Some tell us everything about that Petty Jean River. Will go and see for ourselves.

Saturday, Nov. 30, 1889

- 7:07 am All up. Breakfast all over. Good many comes to see the eagle. One man comes to see the boat. We will try to sell the boat here and build a small flatboat and go on down to the Petty John River. The River fell last night about 8 inches. Weather pleasant cool clear. Shelby and John goes up in town to see and look around. The River is falling fast. The mice raised thunder last night in the boat. We kill one once and a while.
- The Steam ferry is a large one. A Side Wheeler instead of stern. In fact all steam ferrys are side wheelers.
- 9:00 am Depart for Petty John River. We see good many geese. Shoot several times. No geese though. To far off.
- 12:00 am Pulled like thunder. Soon be at Petty John. Dinner over. Ed kills another mouse. We will get rid of them after while wont we.
- 2:40 pm Depart for Petty John.
- 3:00 pm We landed at Petty John River 3pm
- 6:30 pm Shelby goes out looking for signs. Does not see any. Ed goes out hunting. See one turkey. John's hand is painning him some.

Thair is a cabin boat here besides ours. This is a swift stream. We shall go up it in small boats. Ed was making up the bed. He discovered a clean pillow slip on the pillow. Ha Ha. We did not know that. We won't have to wash for some time yet will we. The wind is raising. The moon shines clear. Shelby has gone over to the cabin boat to have a talk. John is asleep. This stream is up some more than the river I suppose. We have shot some twenty or thirty times at geese but the geese are wild. We got pretty close on to some but did not see them until they flew. The river is falling. We are within 70 miles of Little Rock.

Sunday morning, Dec. 1, 1889

- 6:00 am All up. Shelby is getting breakfast. Ed goes

out for geese. See no geese and go back after turkey. Sees no turkeys. Comes in. Shelby goes out up the River. See some turkeys below. Goes after them. Shoots nokes out feathers no turkey. Ed goes out after turkeys again. Stays all day. Shoots 2 times at one squirrel. Gets him. This eve shoots 2 more shots gets one squirrel and shoots again no squirrel. To dark. Shelby shoots at geese no geese. Bad luck today. No good no good shootie on Sunday. There were several come to see us today. 2 fellows come to see us and the Eagle skin. Shelby sees some big cat fish coming up to the top of the water. It has been pleasant today. This evening the wind raises. Blows pretty hard. Some few turkeys and squirrels and that is all there is right here. The mountain is about 400 feet high. It makes climbing to get to the top. The Steamer from Little Rock comes up today loaded with goods going to Dardanelle and other points. The name of it is John Adams.

Monday morning, Dec. 2, 1889

- 6:00 am All up well and hearty. The wind blew like Sixty. Clear and cool.
The Red birds is singing. Ed goes out sees geese light down on sand bar. No geese to far of. Bad luck. Shoot 3 shots comes back helps Shelby load cartridges. Goes out again. See same bunch geese again. Shoot across river at them. They comes back where I shot at them first. They flew down the River again. The wind blows pretty hard. Come in for dinner. See one flock quails.
- 3:00 pm John and Shelby takes a notion to pull down stream. John goes out this morning and gets a squirrel at 4 shots. The fellows we had gave out just before got redy. Here they come 3 of them. That concluded to take the boat and throw little stove in all right. We rig up buy a boat of the other man across the creek and pull down stream all a boat a piece come 10 or 12 miles.
- 4:00 pm We stop to make a pair of oars for John and John steps over boot top in water come on. See some geese. Ed slips on them. Shoots once sitting. Miss. To far and fly. Shoots several times. Another Bunch come over. Shelby shoot sonce at them. They come to Ed. He shoots at them some. Misses all time. Bad luck no meat. Shelby shoots and duck. No duck. No good anyhow. Ed has to catch up. He shoots 10 times. That is a poor lot and no geese. Camp, stretch

our tent, take it as you may. Dark. Ed has the soar throat. We come about 12 miles by water. The mountain still continues long and high.

8:50 pm Lights out for the night.

Tuesday morning, Dec. 3, 1889

- 6:00 am All up. Ed goes after geese. Has two shots close. No geese. Shelby and John pulls out. Ed catches up. See lots of geese so wild can't get on them. We strike Morrilton town. We get groceries. John goes ahead. We catch him in about 10 miles. We stop buy some turnips and sweet potatoes.
- 12:00 am We were tired when we stopped last night. We camped on some creek.¹² We did know the name but forgot. We shot lots yesterday but no game. Clear yesterday.

Wednesday morning, Dec. 4, 1889

- 9:00 am All up. Cloudy cool. The steamer passes last night going flying for Little Rock. Shelby and Ed shoots at woodchuck some 12 or 14 shots. Killed him in 2 or 3 shots but did not know it. He lodged in a tree after we killed him. Negroes yelping and singing picking cotton. John is on the trade this morning. Boats. Him and a negro. He can't run his boat very well.
- 10:00 am We see beaver sign and good coon sign. We camp for the day. Shelby goes out after something for coon bate. Shoots four shots at ____ Woodchuck and don't kill any. He thinks thair is something the matter with his gun. Him and John tries thair guns at a mark. Shoots to the left so dirty is all the matter. Ed is not feeling very well. Ed goes out don't go 100 yards until he sees a rabbit. He catches him. Make good coon bate. John makes himself a pair of oar lock. He can run his boat now. John and Shelby have gone to set thair trap. Ed stays at camp. The negroes seem to be as happy in Arkansas as angles. All the time Hollowing or singing or Preaching. Make some kind of racket all time. We are within 9 miles of Fourche la Fave River. They say plenty of deer turkeys and lots of coon.
- 8:50 pm We can hear the night yelling. Lights lights out.

Thursday, Dec. 5, 1889

- 6:00 am All up for the day. Clear pleasant. Ed is got

the soar throat yet. John and Shelby have gone to thair traps. We will go on to the Fourche La Fave River.¹³ We are not far from Little Rock. John is on the trade this morning again.

Shelby gets nothing.

John gets 1 Beaver.

8:15 am While Ed is waiting for John he goes out and gets one squirrel.

11:23 am Fourche la Fave River nice stream. Good coon sign.

12:00 am Camp for the rest of the day. Nice day. Creek or river rather is not swift. Go flying. Shelby goes to set his net to catch some fish. John did trade his boat. We saw big bunch geese. John skinned his beaver.

Endnotes

¹ Likely Dirty Creek.

² Probably Tamaha, Oklahoma.

³ Log calls Vian Creek Salisaw Creek on this day, November 16, 1889. However, they camp in Salisaw Creek on November 18, 1889. Vian Creek matches well with stopping for flour and travel time and distances to Salisaw Creek, Cashe Creek and Sanbois Creek.

⁴ Existing gravel operation on abandoned oxbow near Spiro, Oklahoma. In 1889 the river was in this oxbow. It appears extensive relocation of the Arkansas River channel since 1889 from Robert S. Kerr Dam to Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

⁵ Four mountain peaks approximately twelve miles south of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

⁶ St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Bridge between Van Buren and Ft. Smith.

⁷ They did not attempt the trip up the Petty Jean Creek (Petit Jean River) and down the Porteau River. Streams would get narrower up the watersheds, but the tributaries of the two streams are close together at Mansfield, Arkansas, some twenty-four miles south of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

⁸ Log says Sallisaw Creek but last Sunday, November 17, 1889, they were on Vian Creek. See footnote for November 16, 1889.

⁹ River is probably too deep to use a pole.

¹⁰ Possibly the Mulberry River six miles downstream from Frog Bayou.

¹¹ Log states White Oak but White Oak is a small town and, in travel time, too close to Mulberry River.

¹² Likely Cadron Creek.

¹³ Log says Fush malen River but this river is likely the Fourche la Fave River. There is a Maumelle River eleven miles further south but with travel times and description of the river channel it is likely Fush malene River is incorrect.

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Fort Smith and The Great War

Part V (Final)

January 1-December 31, 1918

By Jerry Akins



Southwest American, January 1, 1918

Compared to 1917, domestically, 1918 was a quiet year. There were no food riots; they were replaced by coal riots. There were fewer miner and race riots. However, there were more lynchings; sixty-two compared to thirty-eight in 1917. Patriotism sometimes got out of hand with beatings, forced removal, lynching and tarring and feathering. International Workers of the World, the Wobblies, were still busy with their tricks and defending themselves in court. Doesn't sound all that quiet does it? But, comparatively it was.

The front pages of newspapers were filled, primarily,

with events of war in Europe. Secondly, newsmen concerned themselves with "the Bolsheviks," their revolution and their peace negotiations with the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria. The parleys among them had been going on at Brest-Litovsk since December 1917.

The Russian revolution had not gone the way the high-minded egalitarians had envisioned, a U.S. type of democratic government. At times it's hard to sort out the Russian government, the Soviet, the Whites, the Mensheviks, the Reds, the Bolsheviks, and the Cossacks.

But the Bolsheviks (Russian: "One of the majority") became the dominant force and, on the night of July 16/17, 1918, murdered the Czar and his family. Like the Germans, the Bolsheviks had spies and factions in the United States.

In Germany, the Kaiser had war, not only on eastern and western fronts; he had soldier mutinies and massive strikes at home. Germans were starving, soldiers weren't being paid. There were laborer riots; the Bolsheviks had no small part in those.

The Germans had been probing for terms for an armistice for months. On January 8, President Wilson issued his "Fourteen Points" for an end to the war. Germany's Chancellor von Hertling issued his conditions. England's Prime Minister Lloyd George had presented his terms on January 5. Among those they partially agreed on five of the terms. But, then the Russians, who were treating with the Central Powers at Brest-Litovsk, objected to the return of certain lands acquired by conquest.¹

In the U. S. Congress, on January 10, the suffrage amendment passed in the House and went to a vote of the Senate with the endorsement of President Wilson and Billy Sunday. The passage was "made possible by three members of Congress disobeying the advice of their physicians and going to vote when they should have remained in bed," and the speaker of the house voting in favor.²

But that January of more immediate interest was "Meatless, Wheatless" and sometimes heatless days for the whole nation. The meatless and wheatless part was due to shortages created, not only by diversion of food stocks to supply our military forces, but also by large shipments of food stocks to our allies. The heatless part was due in large part to the railroad companies' systems designed to increase freight mileage; at least that's what the government accused them of.

In 1917 the government had taken control of the railroads and placed them under the directorship of William G. McAdoo and the U. S. Railroad Administration. With the cooperation of Harry Garfield, the Federal Fuel Administrator, McAdoo ordered coal trains moved eastward ahead of all other freight regardless of priority.

Actually the coal shortage was due to the increased demand for coal for wartime production, and shipping priorities on some commodities being higher than for coal, as much as it was the railroad's manipulation of routing. Shipbuilding and the requisite steel industry consumed tremendous amounts of coal. In addition, coal was exported to friendly countries. The United States supplied more than one-third of the world's coal.³ But, until an exceptionally cold winter set in, priority had been given to shipping foodstuffs, much of which was shipped overseas to our allies.

In New York, "shivering mobs" had stormed a coal yard, seized coal from trucks and stoned company offices.

In the nation's capital, churches closed to save fuel. In Georgia, Dan Carr, escaped fugitive, had a different method to deal with the cold: he adopted the bloodhounds sent on his trail. "Those dogs are as good as an electric heater. At night I tied them to my legs and they slept on my feet, keeping me as warm as if I'd been at home," he was quoted as saying.⁴

Fort Smith was soon to experience a coal famine, too. But in Fort Smith it wasn't quite as bad as D. C. or New York, but January 1918, "having broken every conceivable record for this section," finished the month with "the thermometer near zero, 18-day ice covering the Arkansas River and 19-day snow still on the ground."⁵ The city commission passed an ordinance "requiring all owners and occupants of buildings, tenements and vacant lots in the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, to keep sidewalks in front of said tenements, building and lots swept clean from snow and to immediately remove snow after falling and making it a misdemeanor to fail or refuse to do so."⁶

Fort Smith's coal shortage was relieved partly by the large gas reserves discovered in Crawford County and Mazzard Prairie in recent years. But that too had its limits, plus the fact that the Light & Traction Company did not avail itself of the cheap gas. At least L & T did not intend to pass on to home owners any savings from buying local gas.

Industrial users of natural gas were supplied by Clear Creek Gas and Wildcat companies at a much lower rate of three cents to six cents per 1,000 cubic feet. "It appears to the complainants who are only domestic users, that with all the enormous supply there is at hand for the heavy consumer, the Light & Traction Company ought to find a way to draw on some of the various supplies to meet exigencies of the present severe weather for the small consumer."⁷

In December 1917, L & T had notified its customers that household gas rates would increase to twenty-five cents per 100 cubic feet after the last meter reading of December. The Fort Smith commissioners immediately ordered an audit of L & T's books. In that audit they found that the company was buying from, among others, Southwestern General Gas Co., owned by the parent company of Light & Traction Company. The audit showed that they could make ample profit at a rate of seventeen cents. On January 31, 1918, the city commission had the final reading and passed an ordinance fixing the rate of gas supplied by the Fort Smith Light & Traction Company to residents of Fort Smith at seventeen cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

Eventually it came to the point where even with suppliers like Clear Creek and Wildcat, and with the governance of the federal and state fuel administrators, the *Southwest American* announced, "GLASS PLANTS TO CLOSE IN MIDDLE OF SEASON TO AID FUEL

CONSERVATION.” Thursday, January 24, 1918, was the first “lightless night” in Fort Smith and Van Buren when all electric signs in the twin cities were darkened to conserve fuel. That was due to an order received by County Fuel Administrator John Davis. It had nothing to do with the fact that Fort Smith Light & Traction Company used natural gas and crude oil to fire its boilers. Thursdays and Sundays were designated as lightless nights, when not only electric signs were unlighted, but only one street light per block on Garrison Avenue was lighted.⁸ Just the month before the City Commission had negotiated with the Light & Traction Company for the lighting of “The great white way” of Garrison Avenue.⁹

On January 23, the newspaper declared that, “Weather Breaks and Snow Melts,” although how it did is a wonder. It went on to state that the sun rose on a four-degree temperature and that Fort Smith was colder than Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City or Denver. Unfortunately for Dave Hall and his wife, the *Southwest American* had announced exactly one week before, “Old Negro Couple Frozen to Death.” They were estimated to have been about ninety-eight years old. Their bodies had been found in their home on Texas Road by neighbors who had come to bring them food and fuel.¹⁰

“Meatless, Wheatless days” were a different thing entirely than heatless days; they lasted all year, not just the winter season. Meatless, wheatless days were imposed by Food Administrator Herbert Hoover and ignored by many. But other “_?_less” days were to come.

Agricultural production had been an item of concern since before the war started. The *Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture* for 1914 reported that while there had been a population increase there had been a decrease in some agricultural products.¹¹ Before the U.S. entered the war there was a shortage of wheat, both because of shipments to allies and because of shortfalls in production. Even then citizens were asked to conserve on food in general, but especially on wheat. Regularly recipes appeared in the newspapers for “war bread” using corn, barley, oats, and other concoctions. Hotels and restaurants were expected to limit their breads, baked goods, and pastries.

As the war progressed commodity supplies got more and more scarce. Herbert C. Hoover, who undertook the task to feed Belgium after it had been overrun by Germany, was appointed by President Wilson to head the Food Administration after the United States entered the war.¹² In that capacity he attempted to control by mandate, food production, distribution, and consumption with the aid of state and county food administrators; sometimes a seemingly futile task.

In Sebastian County the first food regulation orders

were issued on Friday, February 1, 1918. The order from the national food administrator specified that the instructions “are mandatory on all alike,” the merchants were “not to advertise flour and sugar, but to advertise their substitutes as broadly as possible. --- Merchants violating these rules run the risk of being refused flour and sugar by wholesalers”¹³

For the five years ending 1915 American sugar consumption, domestic and manufacturing, was 8.15 billion pounds per year.¹⁴ Domestic production of cane and beet sugar equaled twenty-three percent of that amount. Our island possessions, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Philippines, produced twenty-six percent, and from Cuba and other foreign sources, fifty-one percent.¹⁵ The per capita consumption of sugar for 1917 was 88.3 pounds, a four-pound increase over the five-year period ending 1914.¹⁶

Food Administrator Hoover thought he had an idea to control sugar consumption.

HOOVER SAYS GOVERNMENT OUGHT CONTROL

By The Associated Press.

Washington, Jan. 2—Government purchase and sale to consumers of all sugar used in the United States and control of the amounts and kinds of food to be served in public eating places, were advocated to meet abnormal war conditions by Food Administrator Hoover today, in testimony before the senate committee investigating sugar.

He said additional legislation conferring upon the food administration such powers should be enacted by congress.

Food conservation came up only casually during an all-day examination of Mr. Hoover, but the administrator revealed that results from conservation plans formulated for hotels and restaurants had been disappointing because of the deliberate failure of some to cooperate with the administration. Those seeking to help had been forced to abandon their efforts, Mr. Hoover said, in order to meet competition.¹⁷

Hoover didn’t quite get that, but the administrators of food, fuel, and transportation did acquire what today would be considered to be, nearly dictatorial powers. Regarding purchase and hoarding of excess flour: “A penalty of a \$5,000 fine and a term of two years in the penitentiary is provided for violation of the food regulations.”¹⁸

That last quote was in reference to one man who had returned to Fort Smith merchants 250 pounds of flour. He was either hoarding or speculating on price increase, but due to the price of wheat being set by the government, he

had lost money. However, it was less of a loss than the penalty for the violation. Draconian as it may seem, that's the way it was.

Flour could not be sold in towns in quantities of more than twenty-four pounds, and the country forty-eight pounds. Whenever a dealer sold flour he was required to sell an equal amount of corn meal, corn flour, rolled oats, rice, barley flour, soy bean flour, corn starch, rice flour, peanut flour, bran, hominy, potato flour, rye flour, and oatmeal. If one had on hand authorized substitutes, then they might buy flour by signing an official declaration certificate kept on hand by all dealers.

Mondays and Wednesdays were wheatless days, and every evening meal was a wheatless meal every day. Graham bread is not a wheatless bread and was not to be eaten at wheatless meals.

Tuesdays were meatless days. No beef, pork, mutton, or canned or preserved meats except canned fowl were permitted.¹⁹ Meatless days were at first protested by livestock growers. They claimed that because of meatless days, cattle were increasing and becoming a burden to the growers. Pork was the greatest need of the allies and should be conserved instead of beef, veal, mutton, and lamb.²⁰ But, they were told by Joseph P. Cotton, chief of the meat division of the federal food administration, that meatless and wheatless days would continue.²¹

At first people were told that brains, tongues, and liver were allowed on meatless days. But a few days later the public was notified that these were forbidden also. All breakfasts were to be meatless. Eggs were allowed, but it was forbidden to eat hens at all.

The days that certain things were not to be consumed were listed and each day there was a notification in the newspaper.



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The Southwest American
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But by March 4, there was a temporary suspension of the meatless meal and porkless Saturday. Restrictions on mutton, lamb, and beef were lifted, and the public had only to deny itself beef and pork on Tuesdays.

Sugar was still restricted to three pounds per person per month. Hotels and restaurants were urged not to put the sugar bowls on the tables.

Apparently chickens and fowl had become a problem. They appeared in city commission minutes more than once. On March 23 the commission passed an ordinance to prevent "the running at large of chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guineas or other fowls within certain limits of the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and prescribing penalties."²² The penalty was fifteen dollars per day for running afoul of the fowl ordinance.

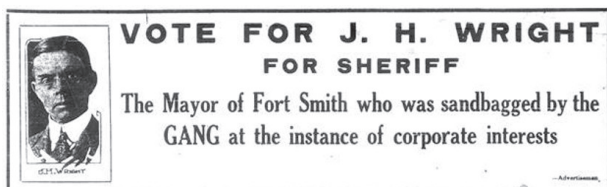
But, more important to the commissioners were dogs. In March they passed an ordinance setting a tax of two dollars and fifty cents on every male dog kept in the city and four dollars for every female dog.²³ Several times during the year, there were notices in the newspaper advising people of the danger of rabies and to keep their dogs confined. Still, each month of every year, there was listed among the city's expense items: "Killing dogs." That duty was assigned to one person and in 1918 that item ranged from twenty-six dollars in February to \$155 in May, for a total for the year of \$685.²⁴

Human health was also considered. Along with the expenses for health and hygiene was always one item that makes this writer curious. Although smallpox was never discussed in commission minutes and was rarely mentioned in the newspapers, it was always listed in the expenses. In 1918, the expenses ran anywhere from two dollars and fifty-five cents to \$184.01, for a total of \$862.12 for the year.

On April 2, "with proper regard to the United States Government," and with two pages of whereas and therefore, the city commission passed a resolution "setting up the clock one hour to the end that daylight may be conserved."²⁵ How that was received by the public is not recorded.

Ousted ex-mayor J. H. Wright wasn't done with city government yet either. In 1917, he had taken his conviction of making a pre-election promise of office and of nonfeasance during the telephone strike to the state Supreme Court. In March, the court reversed the nonfeasance conviction, but confirmed the pre-election promise conviction. That conviction carried a fine of fifty dollars and costs and prevented him from holding office during the present term. To that decision Wright appealed again to the Supreme Court.²⁶

The May 19, the *Southwest American* carried an ad across the top of page 11A:



But Wright was not to be sheriff. He came in third, with incumbent Sheriff Claude Thompson winning.

On April 16, 1918, Congress passed The Alien Enemies Act, which made "all natives, citizens, denizens, or subjects of the hostile nation or government, being males of the age of fourteen years and upwards....liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured and removed, as enemy aliens."²⁷ Also passed that year was The Sedition Act of 1918, an amendment to The Espionage Act of 1917 that forbade "disloyal, profane, scurrilous or abusive language" about the U. S. government, flag, or armed forces during wartime.²⁸

Those acts lead to extra business for the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas, where the cases were tried. And, by extreme patriotism and over interpretation, to headlines like: 400 Penitentiary Convicts Apply Tar and Feathers to Army Officer, Alleged Spy. That occurred in the New Mexico State Prison. But, in Sebastian County, Oliver Kerr was arrested for telling a committee soliciting for Liberty Bonds he "would not buy the blankety, blank bonds nor contribute to the blankety blank Red Cross. If President Wilson wanted money let him print greenbacks as Lincoln did." Fortunately for Oliver he did so before April 16 when the bill was passed.²⁹ But in other parts of the country there were more tar and featherings, whippings and even lynchings.

In Fort Smith and Sebastian County most incidents were not much more serious than Oliver Kerr's. Paranoia and over interpretation caused most of those cases. Six men from Hartford, Arkansas, were "severely manhandled" and accused of "pro-hunism." But, when they were brought before the federal judge Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Holt said that after interviews with seventy-five citizens he had developed no evidence to present. And so went most of the cases that made the newspapers. In fact, in June Judge Youmans sent forty would-be jurors home to tend to their crops. Believing crops were more important than jury duty, he ordered them to report in September when their crops were laid by.³⁰

But, in Crawford, Washington, and some other counties, it was a different story. The W. C. U., the Working Class Union, "sprang into existence" in "Hobo Hollow," at Van Buren, Arkansas, on August 25, 1917.³¹ The organization became widespread in Oklahoma and gained some national standing. Chief among their

objectives was resisting and obstructing the recruiting of men for military service.

But in some cases violence resulted, especially when the W. C. U. combined forces with the International Workers of the World (I. W. W., Wobblies). A circuit court in Mena, Arkansas, sentenced Ben C. Caughran, alleged leader of the W. C. U., to death for the murder of Deputy Sheriff Charles Kirkland.

Across the country the W. C. U. and I. W. W. were accused, and in many cases were guilty of, violent acts. But citizens were quick to blame any perceived skullduggery on the Wobblies. A Charleston farmer found nineteen head of his cattle dead. A veterinarian declared that the cattle were poisoned with strychnine. It was generally believed that I. W. W. or other enemy workers were responsible. That was the belief on July 3. But on July 8 "It became known today that tick fever, and not strychnine poisoning, was responsible for the death of sixteen head of cattle...." The tick fever/cattle dipping battle was still going on.

As the nation progressed more into the war it began to progress more into restriction of "enemy aliens." There was more and more enforcement of the Trading with The Enemy Act of 1917 that restricted trade with countries hostile to the United States. Without reading all of the legalese, it apparently gave the government the power to confiscate property of enemy aliens.

That power reached all the way to Van Buren, Arkansas.

Van Buren Smelter is in Government Hands Because Enemy Owned

That was the headline of the article in the *Southwest American* on July 24, 1918. The action was not entirely unexpected. It was known that Enemy Property Trustee, Fredrick Palmer had been watching "certain developments in connection with the cashier's direction of the affairs of the company." The plant was owned by "great metal interests in Germany and its affairs have been in charge of Vogelstein & Co. of New York." Workers and citizens were assured that the actions would in no way interfere with the operation of the plant.³²

These types of seizures were nothing new, just new to this area. In June, newspapers announced that the property of Mrs. Lilly Busch, millionaire widow of Adolphus Busch, was ordered seized by Alien Property Custodian Frederick Palmer.³³

Today, your Bayer Aspirin is once again a German-owned company, as it was prior to World War I. But in September 1918, they ran a disclaimer ad in *The Washington Times* telling citizens that they could use Bayer products with confidence because every officer and every director was an American citizen. And they could depend

on the contents of every tablet and every capsule was made "on the banks of the Hudson" as it had been since 1904.³⁴

About the same time that Mrs. Busch's property was being confiscated, it was decided that enemy immigrant women over the age of fourteen must register as men had previously. The paper gave a complicated list of conditions requiring, or not requiring, registration. Among them was one that today seems questionable: "Any American woman who married a German alien has lost her citizenship and must register provided her husband is still living and no divorce has been secured." The women were supposed to start registering Monday, June 17, and by Thursday, the U. S. Marshal's office was flooded with questions from rural postmasters. Two women were German by birth but had married Swiss men; what in that case?³⁵

It appears that the women were in no hurry to register. It also appears that the government had no idea how many alien enemy women there were in the country. A month after the registration began, far fewer women had registered than was estimated to be in the western district of Arkansas.

More important to American people than the registering of alien enemy women was the registering of American men. The Selective Service Act of 1918 set the requirements for men for military service. Provost Marshal, General Crowder's "work or fight rule," an extension of that act, required men eligible for the draft to rather be in military service or employed in some "necessary" occupation.³⁶ That part of the Selective Service Act had far-reaching effects. It called on citizens to "report to the nearest draft board the names of men within draft age who are habitually idle or who are employed unproductively."

In Louisville, Kentucky, the question arose whether college boys home on vacation who play tennis were "war loafers." Two young men of prominent families were arrested on charges of vagrancy. Actually when arrested, they were not playing tennis but standing on a street corner puffing cigarettes. On recommendation of the prosecuting attorney, both men were freed.³⁷

That "unproductive" business reached into the national pastime. "Pershing's boys can't see why husky athletes should play for fat salaries while they fight and die for America."³⁸ But by the time that question arose, the World Series was coming up. The question went past the provost marshal all the way to Secretary of War Baker. Representatives of the baseball industry argued their case based on the social value of the national game. On July 26, professional baseball players were given until September 1 "to seek essential employment or be called to the colors."³⁹

In the end sentimentality won out. The series was played early between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs. On September 11, in the sixth game, Boston won the last baseball game of the war and the last World Series for

either team for a long, long time.⁴⁰

In September 1918, the nation and Fort Smith began to have much more to worry about than baseball. In fact, the western world had more to fear. On August 13, the *Southwest American* published a small article saying that influenza was creating havoc in Germany, that it was "assuming alarming proportions in Berlin." By September 16, Boston, first naval district, reported 357 new cases of "Spanish Grip" and ten deaths due to it. New York reported 184 new cases. In New Orleans six cases were found on an incoming steamer before it docked.⁴¹

On September 24, Fort Smith was touched by the flu epidemic when it was reported that "Archie Burton, Fort Smith's youngest war hero, died Tuesday afternoon at the naval base hospital at Philadelphia." Archie had somehow gotten into the Navy, had been across the sea at least once, although he would not have been fifteen until November 19, 1918.

By September 26, Camp Pike was quarantined, camp hospitals were overflowing, and patients were being put into barracks. Numerous cases were reported at Carlisle, Stuttgart, Texarkana, and Little Rock. A general epidemic was expected over the state.

All kinds of remedies, cures, tonics, and preventatives—some serious and some pure quackery—came along. A serum had been tested at several army camps and claimed to be almost a positive preventative of pneumonia, which was the leading cause of deaths attributed to influenza.⁴² Maybe so, but by 1957 they still hadn't developed an effective flu vaccine. At Fort Eustis, Virginia, we were given flu shots and they worked. They worked so well that within three days the hospital was full and there were 265 of us in barracks. Maybe we just needed "a tablespoonful of Swamp Chill Tonic" as recommended daily in the 1918 newspapers, or a dose of Pape's Cold Compound.

The second week of October saw major shutdowns of social and business activities, even the U. S. Supreme Court adjourned. The Fort Smith Light & Traction Company ran a special large ad on October 9 informing trolley riders that the cars would only be loaded to seating capacity. In the past, during rush hours, they had carried standing passengers. The epidemic, however, reduced the number of riders anyway. On the society page, all social activities were cancelled. Mayor Arch Munro issued a proclamation that "all public assemblages are hereby prohibited within the limits of the City of Fort Smith from this date until further notice..."⁴³

At five o'clock on October 11, the funeral of Louis J. Davis, flu victim, was held at his home in accordance with the ban placed on public funerals. As suggested by the Board of Health, only relatives and immediate friends were in attendance.

Again Southwestern Bell operations were hampered, but this time the operators were not out voluntarily. One half of the operators in Arkansas and adjoining states were absent due to influenza. It was not possible to bring in workers from other places; the whole country was having the same experience. Star Grocery appealed to their customers to have patience. They were handicapped by sickness and were "employing some inexperienced help and they are doing their best."⁴⁴

The Sunday, October 13, edition of the *Southwest American* reported the epidemic not abating, but possibly becoming less virulent. In the next sentence, they reported that the Friday's compilation was 136 new cases, but about 600 cases had been reported since the epidemic began. But by Tuesday, the estimate was more than 1,000 cases with eleven deaths. And the pool halls were closed.

As October progressed, fewer and fewer influenza cases were being reported, but still the numbers seem staggering. On October 22, the health department reported only 114 cases over the Saturday-Sunday weekend. But the next day, the count went up again to seventy-three for Monday with two deaths. The same report said that in the first twenty-one days of October, there were sixty deaths in the city. But subtracting bodies shipped in from out of town and cases brought into town from surrounding towns the total deaths of Fort Smith itself was closer to thirty. By the end of the week, the paper reported that so far in October there had been 2,500 cases and fifty-one deaths from Influenza.

In the midst of the flu epidemic, with the fire department decimated by influenza, "the most terrible tragedy which has visited Fort Smith in some years, and which resulted, in addition, in the injury of a score or more men and women and destruction of more than half a million dollars of property in the heart of the city's wholesale section [occurred] yesterday."

On Tuesday afternoon, October 22, at 1:50 o'clock an explosion in the building of the Fort Smith Coffee Company and the Fort Smith Commission Company destroyed that building. The resulting fire leapt across the alley and destroyed the four-story building of W. J. Echols & Company, wholesale grocers. Five boxcars that sat between the buildings were a total loss. It was believed that an accumulation of gas from a leak probably caused the explosion, "scattering contents, animate and inanimate, like so much chaff" and bringing down the building. Other surrounding buildings were damaged either by the fire or by water.

C. V. "Pat" Riley and T. F. "Tom" Morrison were buried beneath the ruins of the Commission and Coffee Company building, and John Ray and Charley Childs, porters in the building, were missing. James R. "Dick" Etter, building engineer, who had run seventy-five feet through the flames, died overnight.⁴⁵ Others who were injured, some seriously,

some not, were hurried away in ambulances and private cars.

The next day the Coffee Company and Commission Company ran a large ad in the *Southwest American* notifying their customers that there would be a temporary delay in filling their orders, but supplies were en route. They expected to resume business in a few days. Below that, in a smaller ad Meek Candy Company told their customers that although their building and contents had been damaged by fire they expected to make deliveries in about a week.

On the same page with those ads was a notification from the U. S. Health Department explaining that "in no instance must a burial permit be issued until the filing of the certificate of death with the city clerk." With the influenza epidemic, doctors had been so busy that undertakers had not been able to get in touch with the attending physician in all cases of death. As a solution, it was suggested by the health department that physicians make out proper paperwork and leave it at his office where the undertaker would apply for it.⁴⁶ Fortunately that measure would only be temporary, for the epidemic was abating.

For the families of the four men lost in the fire, the health department order may have made little difference. The bodies, or what remains there were, were so badly burned that they were identified only by pieces of clothing, personal articles or, in the case of Charley Childs, by the circumstance of where the charred remains were found. There being no forensic analysis then as there is today, it had to be accepted that they were properly identified.

As is usually the case after some catastrophe, there was a cry for better fire department equipment. It was obvious that, though the fire department had modern equipment, it was not adequate equipment for what they had encountered on October 22.

1918 was the year that Fort Smith's fire department became a modern fire department. In January, the city commissioners had authorized the disposal of the last of the fire horses. The same month they had authorized the early payoff of three trucks amounting to \$2,486 that was not due until a year later. That same month they had authorized the building of fire station No. 5 near the glass factory area. If you have a new station, you need a new truck. In the March 29 meeting of the commission, they approved the purchase of a Studebaker truck and equipment from American-LaFrance to transform it into a chemical and hose truck.

In May the city bought a LaFrance auto-pumper for a total price of \$14,388 to be paid in four yearly payments, the last being on April 15, 1920.

On June 1, the firemen petitioned the City Commission to be paid semi-monthly. That action was postponed. It must have been postponed until the next year for it never appeared in the commission minutes for the rest of 1918.

But after the Commission and Coffee Co. fire, the field of attention changed from building and equipping and painting stations to an aerial truck, one that could reach a four-story building. In the November 2 meeting, such a truck was discussed but due to a larger amount of allowed claims (\$13,292.27), and a large amount of that accruing to the fire department, that item was postponed.⁴⁷ But the Businessmen's Club came to the rescue, saying that they would "confer with the city commission in the matter of supplying the city fire department with more adequate equipment...."

In June, the adequacy of Fort Smith's new LaFrance auto pumper had been tested and proven satisfactory. At 10:30 Monday morning, June 10, a blaze was spotted on the Fort Smith-Van Buren free bridge that carried rail, trolley, foot, and wheeled traffic. The fire quickly spread through the tar-soaked ties and planking.

The fire departments from both cities responded, Fort Smith with their new LaFrance auto pumper. Van Buren responded with their No. 2 truck, but soon found that they would need more chemicals. The No. 1 truck was called for but took too wide a turn and got mired in mud. The fire was contained about 4:30. Temporary repairs were made and the bridge put back in service.

By October 9 the bridge repairs had been completed and negotiations with the insurance companies done. On November 4 engineer Ira Hedrick approved the final work on the bridge, and the new electric installation on the lift span. The bridge was fully in service.

Two days after the engineer's approval, the bridge again caught fire. At about 3:45 on Friday morning, November 8, fire was discovered on the bridge again.

The first time the bridge had burned, the Van Buren fire chief had been so impressed with the Fort Smith LaFrance auto pumper that he wanted one. By the time of the second fire, Van Buren was the proud owner of a LaFrance auto pumper. The Van Buren fire department responded with their new auto pumper. They attached the hose line and found that even with the new hose line it was too short; the Fort Smith fire department responded to the call.

A different bridge had been on the minds of Fort Smithians for some time: The Garrison Avenue Bridge across the river to Oklahoma. In August 1917, the Bridge Board thought that they had entered into a contract with H. C. Gass to build a 3,000 foot, reinforced concrete bridge for \$434,500. Gass was called to town to discuss details of the contract, and the next day there was a lawsuit. Gass had deposited a guaranty check on which before the "certified" stamp was handwritten the word "not."

The Gass lawsuit bounced around through the court system all of 1918 and was eventually set back until

sometime in 1919. In the meantime, the Bridge Board started over with the bid process and were waiting for Oklahomans to raise \$50,000. Also, they were waiting on word from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis approving the bond issue to cover the project. I. H. Nakdimen had notified the Sebastian Bridge District in August that he would guarantee the purchase of the \$500,000 in bonds.

The bridge had been vigorously opposed by the same "Gang" that had "sandbagged" Mayor Wright, the owners of the Light & Traction Company, the owners of the Gould or Iron Mountain Railroad Bridge and some of the banking interests of Fort Smith. The Iron Mountain Bridge was a toll bridge to wagon and pedestrian traffic. The losses to the owners of the bridge must have been considerable, for at one time they offered to lease the bridge to the city of Fort Smith. Their terms were to lease it to the city for \$10,000 in tax relief. The trouble with that deal was that they had only paid \$7,500 in taxes the previous year.

From Washington, D. C., the bridge board waited for word from Congressman Wingo regarding the application for building the bridge. During the war, a moratorium had been put on such building because the iron was needed for the war effort. On November 14 that telegram came, ending; "So you are at liberty to go ahead. WINGO." The way was now clear. The bid process got under way. The bridge that was to be started in 1917 was not started in 1918 either, but now it would be built.

The Garrison Avenue Bridge, besides providing an avenue for Sequoyah County residents to get their produce to markets and spend money in Fort Smith, was intended to be part of the Jefferson Highway system. In June 1918, work had commenced on a five-mile road between Fort Smith and Van Buren that was intended to link up with a forty-five-mile road through Crawford County and over the Boston Mountains. Someday, someday, their dream of a road from Shreveport to Canada will come true.

They had secured the bridge, but other minds turned to the air. War combat needs had speeded aircraft development and general interest in flying. Some even believed that soon airplanes would fly across the ocean. With airmail routes being assigned "between St. Louis and Dallas, Tex., and other points in the southwest" Fort Smith businessmen wanted to be prepared.

The arrival on December 12 of three Army airplanes with one local pilot, Lt. A. G. Williams, generated interest in aviation, plus a need for a landing place. The commander of Call Field, Lonoke, Arkansas, had contacted Mayor Arch Munro asking him to arrange for a landing place for the machines and to care for them overnight. The Country Club was selected, and the planes were parked near the street car tracks in view of all of the passersby.

The Businessmen's Club and City Commission immediately got busy and began a survey for a permanent site for a landing field which ended up with two possible sites. The one chosen was the Harry E. Kelley property near Cliff Drive south of the Burk Brick Plant.

On the state level, a constitutional convention had struggled and wrangled since July 1 to put together a new state constitution. From the first day there was fighting among the delegates. Some wanted to adjourn, because of the war, until October 1919. Some questioned the legality of the convention. But the dissenters failed to gain a majority.

Nothing went well. The convention started on July 1, and by July 29, they were "flat broke." It didn't get much better from there. Almost daily the paper reported "mire into uncertainty" "killing own work." Maybe it was the heat, but there didn't seem to be much interest on the part of the delegates. Regularly there were fewer than fifty of the 100 members present. It took fifty-seven to form a quorum.

After several reversals and "double flops" and votes without a quorum, they finally hammered out a new constitution and voted to adjourn until September 18. In September, they set a date for a special election in December.

November 6 was the date of the off-year general election, and the turnout was unusually light. In this election there were also constitutional amendments submitted for vote. It was thought that there was little interest in the amendments because voters thought that new constitution would be adopted and that would obviate the amendments. But surprise, surprise; the new constitution was rejected by a margin projected to be about 8,000.

Nationally the usual corruption and "boodling" associated with wartime industry took place. The only difference in this era was some of the interesting names associated with dishonest practices.

Early in the year, the investigative committee rounded up the usual suspects, "the malevolent combination" of meat packers. Armour, Wilson, Cudahy, Swift, and Morris comprised the "food trust" that apportioned the meat industry among themselves. That was nothing new although they successfully denied it. But it was also proven that they, not only through banks, owned the Chicago Stockyards, they controlled the industries that consumed their by-products; tanneries, leather, soap, and fertilizer companies. They were accused by the Federal Trade Commission of profits as high as 263.6 percent for a three-year period. But the packers countered that the commission used the wrong set of figures to calculate that and that the real margin was about 14.25 percent.⁴⁸

The "boodling" wasn't limited to people like Armour and Swift. Even Army officers and raincoats were not exempt. "A nationwide conspiracy between manufacturers and contractors' agents in Washington to solicit

government war orders under an agreement to pay commissions illegally to the agents was disclosed today by the department of justice."⁴⁹ That initially led to the indictment of four Boston businessmen. The trail led, also, to the arrest of an Army lieutenant and a captain of the quartermaster corps on charges of trying to defraud the government on contracts for raincoats. Besides the procuring of the contracts being illegal, the raincoats were shoddy and fell apart in use.

But more interesting was the scandal involving the aircraft industry and the unlikely name involved. Gutzon Borglum, recent recipient of a \$2,000,000 contract to do a sculpture on Stone Mountain (far in the future, Mount Rushmore) "a man who swings facts and theories and notions without the judicial application that carries conviction,"⁵⁰ was front and center in that investigation.

Borglum, a personal friend of President Wilson, went to the president and complained of deficiencies in the government's aviation program. Wilson suggested that since Borglum had criticized the work that he go and make an informal investigation. Borglum took his personal commission to be an official commission and made serious accusations concerning the integrity of some managers and high military officers.

Almost immediately, his accusations began to backfire. When the subject came to a congressional hearing, letters, telegrams, and sworn statements were produced revealing Borglum's duplicity. The accuser became the accused when it was shown that at the same time he was inquiring into the government's aviation program, he was secretly negotiating to form a private airplane company to take government contracts capitalizing on his association with the president.⁵¹

Borglum immediately replied that it was a frame-up. Within a week, the president had announced his opposition to the inquiry. Within the month, he had ordered a reorganization of the aircraft boards. Nothing more was heard of the accusations against Borglum.

In copying a week's worth of newspapers a day for weeks then reading through them at a similar rate, time becomes compressed. It seemed like about June I could see the German army and the German country begin to crumble. I know it didn't seem that way to the soldiers in the trenches; it rained that summer in France.

In June headlines changed from "Hun Pour Troops as Through Funnel Toward Marne" to "Enemy Advance Is Checked by Reinforced Allied Lines" to "Yanks Holding Back Enemy in Vital Part of Advance." That change was between June 1 and June 5.

That last headline from the June 5, 1918, issue of the *Southwest American* is one of the earliest times that American soldiers were referred to in print as "Yanks."

Prior to that, newspapers called them “Sammies,” a name that they understandably abhorred. The “Doughboy” name that I’ve heard all my life (that’s a long, long time) I saw in print exactly six times in four years of reading World War I newspapers. Four times I saw it in Fort Smith papers and twice in Washington papers, all in the last half of 1918.

Actually on April 3 this hopeful headline appeared on the *Southwest American*:

“HUN MACHINE HAS SPENT ITS FORCE”

The German attacks had diminished to the point that, according to an Associated Press reporter, what little fighting took place was initiated by the French and British. Reports by German prisoners indicated that German losses may have been as high as seventy percent.

Up until April 1918, French and British troops and soldiers of the British colonies had fought valiantly and alone. Now Pershing and the American troops “were hastening to join in the fray with their French and British comrades.” More than 100,000 “Sammies” were moving into British and French positions by April 10 to supplement their losses.

German losses were 330,000 during the April offensive, including one airman, Baron von Richthofen, the Red Baron. He was replaced by Herman Goering. The Red Baron’s death on April 21 was announced in the *Southwest American* on April 23, in the same issue that announced that John Phillip Sousa’s band would play in Van Buren, Arkansas, the following Friday. Ironically, the man who started it all, or at least gave the Austro-Hungarians and Germans the excuse by shooting Archduke Ferdinand, died a week later. Gavrilo Princip died from pneumonia on April 28, 1918.⁵²

By the end of May, 650,000 American soldiers had arrived in France with 10,000 more arriving per day. Despite German losses and allied increase in manpower, the Germans continued to throw their men into battle.

In the Battle of Belleau Wood, June 6, 1918, Americans experienced their first significant loss of 5,000 dead. But after that, through French, American and British counter-offensives, the tide turned. Observing it on paper 100 years later, by July the allies seem to roll up the German, Austro-Hungarian, and Turkish forces.

But in July 1918, Fort Smith experienced its first casualty. Although it would not be reported in the newspaper until August 9, Victor Martin Ellig died July 22, 1918. A week earlier Quentin Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt’s son, had died in an air battle over Chateau-Thierry.

In mid-1918 an enemy that doesn’t choose sides appeared. The world-wide influenza epidemic decimated armies on both sides. The flu caused more casualties than combat. It was especially hard on the already weakened

German army. But all fought on, fighting flu, rain, mud, and each other.

There were nasty battles, nasty in conditions and savagery, deaths and mutilations. But there were lighter moments. The September 21 edition of the *Southwest American* related the story of two Yanks who captured two “Boches” and told them there was white bread for all prisoners. The Boches told the Americans to wait, that they would round up more prisoners. “After about fifteen minutes the two returned with thirty-seven other Germans, all glad to be captured.” On September 26 they reported: “Territory gained, prisoners taken, guns captured—none were as important as the thousands of acres of grain fields and vegetable gardens regained between the Marne and the Vesle Rivers.” Crops planted by the French, cultivated by Germans, harvested in the wake of Foch’s armies by French soldiers, restored farmers and German prisoners and eaten by American soldiers.

The September 22 edition proclaimed: “Entire World War Situation Is Reversed in Six Months” on one side of the front page. On the other: “French and British Troops Steadily Advancing Toward Hun’s Hindenburg Positions.” That was all true, but it was not yet a rout. There was still tough fighting ahead—and mud.

The World War did not take place only in France and Belgium. On the other side of the Empire, the Italians, who first allied with Germany, now were part of the Entente fighting Austrians and Turks. The Turks were fighting General Allenby’s troops in the Middle East. In September, the British victory, aided by rebel Arabs, took Palestine and cleared “the Holy Land of the unspeakable Turk.” By October 1, Allenby’s troops, along with soldiers from India, occupied Damascus, Syria. Somewhere among the British and Arabs was one T. E. Lawrence.

By mid-October Belgium was liberated. Now the Hun must face not only the French and Brits, but also some very motivated Belgian soldiers. In October only the mud favored the Germans. It slowed the allied supply lines and allowed them to make temporary stands. But it was a futile attempt; by then they were in full flight. German prisoners were being taken by the thousands.

The German government sent armistice proposals to President Wilson based on his Fourteen Points, but they were lacking. The Germans wanted to stop the fighting, which is all an armistice is, with Germany retaining all of the conquered territory it now held. Germany had made several overtures to Wilson and the Entente of allied powers, but all contained unacceptable conditions, especially Germany’s retaining of the Alsace-Lorraine mining areas. The Entente had, all during the war intended to punish Germany severely when it was over.

On November 8, 1918, representatives of the German

government were presented with armistice terms by British Marshal Foch. The Germans were to evacuate all occupied territory west of the Rhine River, surrender all weaponry including all submarines and battleships, and were subject to indefinite continuation of the naval blockade. The Germans were given seventy-two hours to consider and answer the terms of the allied demands beginning at 11 a.m. Paris time November 8, 1918.

On November 9, the Kaiser's Imperial Government collapsed and a German Republic was proclaimed with a provisional government. The Kaiser sought refuge in Holland.

At 5:10 a. m. November 11, 1918, a German delegation signed the armistice effective at 11 that day, the 11th day of the 11th month. Fighting went on until that time with 2,000 casualties experienced that day by all sides.⁵³ And somewhere in a German hospital a blinded corporal seethed at the malfeasance, the nonfeasance, of his government and the betrayal by the Jews.

In Washington, D. C., on November 11, Fuel Administrator Garfield suspended the lightless night order for that night only for the peace celebrations.

When it ended and the final tally was made, it was revealed, according to Chief of Staff General Marsh, there were 54,492 American deaths due to combat or disease. The flu epidemic in the states killed 82,306.⁵⁴ Although the doctors weekly pronounced the influenza "abating" and other verbs, Fort Smith experienced its last influenza death on Christmas Day.

The Yanks in Europe did much more than fight along with the French, British and all the others; they built docks, roads and railways. Never let it be said that American soldiers don't do their part in every way. A dispatch datelined: Paris Dec. 7—"The birth rate of France, statistics show, is slowly increasing after many years in which it steadily declined." That despite the man shortage.

Out of war come advances in science and technology besides better weapons to kill each other with in the next war; tanks, the Browning .30 caliber machine gun and the Browning Automatic Rifle or BAR. The aircraft industry came into its own. But, proclaimed the war's greatest medical triumph was prevention of gangrene. Doctors at Johns Hopkins University developed an antitoxin from the bacilli that cause gaseous gangrene by inoculating horses with those bacilli. The horses did not die.⁵⁵

Another product of the war: if you're a man who wears a wristwatch, thank a Yank. Before World War I, wristwatches and men who wore them were considered effeminate.

Long before the war was over, but not long enough, people saw the need for rehabilitation of the returning soldiers. One year and two days after the United States entry

into the war, Congress was asked to pass a bill to provide for vocational rehabilitation and return to civil employment of disabled veterans. Senator Hoke Smith planned to bring injured soldiers to Washington to show the needs for appropriate vocational training for men injured in battle.⁵⁶

The Army's plan to "rebuild" a soldier was to construct sixteen convalescent and reconstruction hospitals, one in each military district. By building hospitals in each military district it would put soldiers as close as possible to their homes. The facilities were to be fitted for extended treatment of every known disease and disability whether caused by projectile, gas, or fire.

"Shell shock" was a different matter. First, it was believed by some that there were two kinds of shell shock. The first was injury to the nervous system due to exposure to nearby explosions. The other kind was mental rather than physical and "can and is being prevented by talking with soldiers and encouraging them." The second kind of shock was attributed to the strain of war and depression. The method of prevention was for officers to mingle freely with the enlisted men and encourage them.⁵⁷ Later it was decided that shell shock was a form of hysteria and was treated in appropriate hospitals.

After the armistice, the bitterness of some of Fort Smith's citizens did not decrease. In fact, the editorials in *The Southwest American* showed the blind arrogance of a conqueror.

KEEP THE SCHOOLS CLEAN

Americans must immediately realize the importance of the study on French and Spanish languages and literature.

They must be alert against any reaction to the study of German speech and textbooks.

The schools have been purged in large part. The process must go on to completion.

These things are even more essential now that the war is won than when it was being fought.

Americans need more extensive knowledge of French to reap the benefits of that closer kinship of aims with France, made real by war, and for business reasons. And they need Spanish to meet the trade opportunities in South America torn from German clutches.

German is not needed. We can't trust German literature for a generation. It will take a repentant Germany half a century to purify the poisoned well-springs of its own thought. And a Germany broken up into a lot of jangling little states isn't likely to be a serious trade factor in the world for some time to come.

The work of revising American educational systems and standards to meet new needs and conditions must go on.

And it never will be complete until Philander C. Claxton, the German-loving United States Commissioner of Education, is driven into abdication. His job should be filled by a man alert to the spirit of a new time.

That was the editorial on November 14. On November 8 the editor had blasted Commissioner Claxton because he “wants us to study German, so that in [the] future we may have closer relations than ever with this beastly system.”

The country wanted to rid itself of all vestiges of Germany. “The Boy Rangers Will Gather German Books to Help War Mothers. The War Mothers have announced that they will gather all German books of whatsoever kind in the city and will sell them as old paper...”

The collective thought of the Entente was to grind Germany into the dirt so that it would never rise to be a world power again. They wanted reprisal for the atrocities of the Hun, and there were atrocities; and ruined lands. Thus the brutal terms of the Treaty of Versailles where one of the parties involved did not treat.

By December, Fort Smith was getting on with the business of a progressive city. The Garrison Avenue Bridge seemed to be a done deal, especially now that restrictions on war materials would be lifted. Mayor Munro had received a letter from the United States Engineering Department inquiring as to water terminals and transfer facilities on the Arkansas River. Location of an airport was established and there was talk of an airmail route from St. Louis to Springfield to Little Rock to Fort Smith and on to Tulsa.

Fort Smith also was taking measures concerned with fire safety—fire equipment and water supply. On Sunday, December 1 a sixteen-inch water main had broken on Wheeler Avenue.

The Kelley and Echols interests put up an interesting proposition to the city that had genuine concerns for fire safety, and at the same time was self-serving. It involved both installing a sixteen-inch water line along Spring Street between Towson and Wheeler Streets to maintain water pressure during use of water by the fire department and moving the city’s water supply to Crowe Hill.

At the time Crowe Hill was two-and-a-half miles from the basins where the stand pipe was located, which was the present city water pressure source. From the description of settlement at the time it was a considerable distance from any settled or platted area. But it was near holdings of the Sebastian Land Company and other speculative land holdings.

At a meeting of the Businessmen’s Club, a committee composed of Charles B. Eads and Harry Kelley reported to an advisory board on a study of needed improvements to the city’s waterworks system. They found that the water supply of the Poteau River was inadequate in times of drought. The

solution to that problem would be a dam across that stream. But that had been stopped before by an injunction by Oklahoma.

On the matter of an aerial firetruck it was decided that “it would be of doubtful value.” The saving in insurance risk would about equal the expense of operating the truck.⁵⁸ So the fire department ended up about where it was in November 1918. The water department made some headway and eventually the reservoir did move to Crowe Hill.

The City Commissioners closed out the year on a motion by Commissioner Smith that the following resolution be adopted and placed in *The Times Record* in the issue of January 1, 1919.

Resolution: That the mutual cooperation is necessary for success and achievement has been convincingly evidenced by the gratifying consequences of the World War and now that the dawn of peace is so apparent and in order that the united support which we have contributed as a community, and our share in accomplishing these results may not disappear, let each of us pledge ourselves anew at the beginning of this new year and with the same degree of faithfulness and loyalty which we have exhibited in the past in support of war activities work towards the development and expansion of our city.

As your representative we will earnestly strive to merit the confidence you have reposed in us. But in order that the full measure of success may be consummated we should be assured of your undivided adherence in the advancement and promotion of the splendid natural advantages of our city. Therefore, to this end we solicit your enlistment and the advocacy of this resolution.

Arch Munro, Mayor, T. A. Bayley Comm. No.1, M. F. Smith Comm. No. 259



Jerry Akins is the author of Hangin’ Times in Fort Smith: A History of Executions in Judge Parker’s Court. He volunteers his time and considerable expertise to history organizations all over the city of Fort Smith, including to the Fort Smith Historical Site and the Fort Smith Historical Society.

End Notes

- ¹ *Washington Times*, January 9, 1918, p1
- ² *Washington Times*, January 11, 1918, p14, col. 7
- ³ *Southwest American*, January 24, 1918, p3 col. 6
- ⁴ *Washington Times*, January 24, 1918, p1 col. 5
- ⁵ *Southwest American*, February 1, 1918, p5 col. 5
- ⁶ Fort Smith City Commission Minutes, January 10, 1918, p29
- ⁷ *Southwest American*, January 13, 1918, p1 col. 3

⁸ *Southwest American*, January 25, 1918, p5 col. 2
⁹ City Commission minutes, December 31, 1917
¹⁰ *Southwest American*, January 16, 1918, p5 col. 4
¹¹ USDA Yearbook for 1914, p12, para. 2
¹² www.whitehouse.gov/1600/presidents/herberthoover
¹³ *Southwest American*, February 2, 1918, p5 col. 1
¹⁴ *Yearbook of USDA*, 1917, p 445 para. 1
¹⁵ Ibid. p 447 para. 1
¹⁶ *Southwest American*, February 22, 1918, p2 col.4
¹⁷ *Southwest American*, January 3, 1918, p1 col. 3
¹⁸ *Southwest American*, February 21, 1918, p5 col. 1
¹⁹ *Southwest American*, February 21, 1918, p5 col. 1
²⁰ *Washington Times*, January 15, 1918, p6 col. 6
²¹ *Southwest American*, January 16, 1918, p1 col. 3
²² City Commission Minutes, March 23, 1918
²³ City Commission Minutes, March 16, 1918
²⁴ City Commission Minutes for year 1918
²⁵ City Commission Minutes, April 2, 1918
²⁶ *Southwest American*, March 5, 1918, p1 c3
²⁷ Law.Cornell.edu/us code
²⁸ www.history.com
²⁹ *Southwest American*, April 16, 1918, p5 col. 6
³⁰ *Southwest American*, June 12, 1918, p2 col. 5
³¹ *Southwest American*, June 21, 1918, p2 col. 1
³² *Southwest American*, July 24, 1918, p5 col. 1
³³ *Southwest American*, June 18, 1918, p1 col. 5
³⁴ *Washington Times*, September 25, 1918, page 2 col. 7,8
³⁵ *Southwest American*, June 20, 1918, p2 col.
³⁶ recordsofrights.org
³⁷ *Southwest American*, July 2, 1918, p3 col. 3
³⁸ *Southwest American*, August 27, 1918, p6 col.1
³⁹ *Southwest American*, July 27, 1918, p8 col. 3
⁴⁰ *Washington Times*, September 12, 1918, p18 col.1
⁴¹ *Southwest American*, September 17, 1918, p1 col. 3
⁴² *Southwest American*, September 29, 1918, p1 col. 2
⁴³ *Southwest American*, October 9, 1918, p6 col. 4,5,6
⁴⁴ *Southwest American*, October 12, 1918, p8 Ad
⁴⁵ *Southwest American*, October 23, 1918, p1 col. 7
⁴⁶ *Southwest American*, October 24, 1918, p2 col. 4
⁴⁷ City Commission minutes for 1918
⁴⁸ *Southwest American*, June 30, 1918, p1 col.1
⁴⁹ *Southwest American*, June 18, 1918, p1 col. 3
⁵⁰ *Washington Times*, May 7, 1918, p1 col. 5
⁵¹ *Washington Times*, May 16, 1918, p1 col.6,7
⁵² firstworldwar.com/bio/princip
⁵³ *The History Place-World War I Timeline-A Fateful Ending*
⁵⁴ *Washington Times*, November 23, 1918, p2 col. 1
⁵⁵ *Southwest American*, August 11, 1918, p2 col. 5
⁵⁶ *Washington Times*, April 6, 1918, p15 col. 2
⁵⁷ *Southwest American*, July 24, 1918, p4 col. 1
⁵⁸ *Southwest American*, December 6, 1918, p10 col. 3
⁵⁹ City Commission Minutes, December 31, 1918, p168

Letters From Readers

Inquiries will be published in the *Journal* as space allows and should include the following:

- Your full name and address.
- Full name of ancestor about whom you desire information.
- Definite time period (birth, marriage or death date or date appearing in a certain record at a definite time period).
- State the relationships (names of parents, names of children, names of brothers and sisters, or in-laws).

Material should be submitted using word-processing programs supported by Windows. Do not abbreviate any words; put all surnames in capital letters; capitalize only the first letter of given names and places; write dates as follows (day, months, year: example 25 January 1978).

Suggestions for Submission of Articles

We welcome the submission of articles, previously unpublished, covering significant historical events and persons in Fort Smith and the surrounding area. Manuscripts, including quotations and footnotes, must be double-spaced, using *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press). Footnotes should be numbered consecutively in the text, assembled at the end of the article, along with a list of additional sources. The author's name, address and phone number and email address should appear only on the title page. Manuscripts may be submitted on CD disks, using word-processing programs supported by Windows. Photographs should be submitted in digital format.

All correspondence and manuscripts should be submitted to:

Managing Editors
The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society
 P.O. Box 3676
 Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

On The Bench

Judges of the Western District of Arkansas

By Shelley Blanton

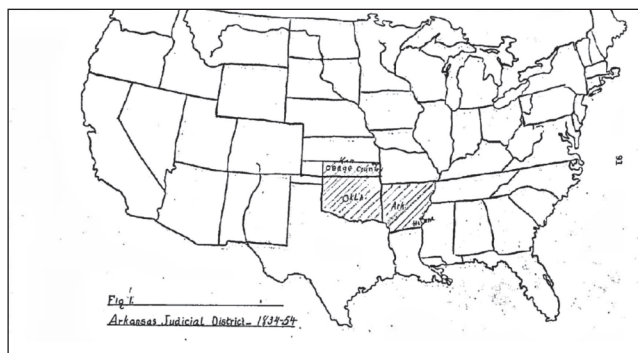
As early as 1829, it was suggested to Congress that Arkansas should be a divided district. Not until an act of Congress was the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas approved March 3, 1851, to enforce federal laws in nine counties of Western Arkansas and in Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). Two Arkansas counties were added to the district in 1854. One judge presided over both the eastern and western Arkansas judicial districts. In 1871 Congress created a separate judgeship for the Western District and moved its headquarters from Van Buren to Fort Smith, Arkansas.

All crimes committed by or against U.S. citizens in Indian Territory from 1851 to 1896 were held under the jurisdiction of the Western District Court. Both the sheer size of the region (over 74,000 square miles) and the presence of American Indian courts, whose jurisdiction extended only to tribal members, complicated federal law enforcement efforts. Such conditions attracted fugitive criminals from surrounding states.

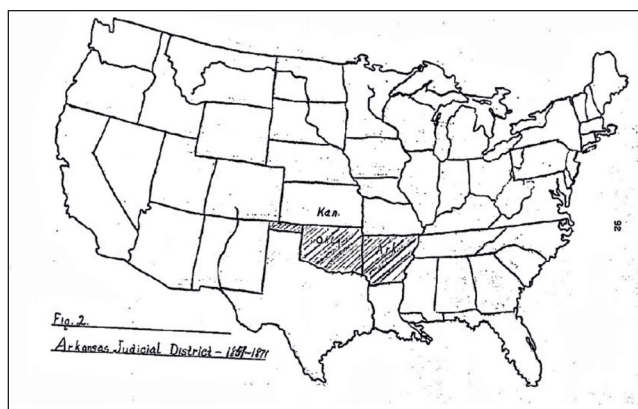
With population and crime on the increase in the Indian Territory, President Ulysses S. Grant in 1871 appointed William Story as district judge. Charges of corruption soon surfaced. Characterizing Story as a carpetbagger, his opponents accused him of accepting bribes and overcharging the government for court expenses. In 1872 a Secret Service investigator uncovered further corruption in the U.S. Marshal's Office. Story resigned in 1874 to avoid impeachment. The Western District remained one of the most expensive for the most of the rest of the century. Story's replacement not only restored the court's reputation, but also gained him national attention.

Isaac C. Parker presided during the most notorious era of the Western District Court's history. Court opened on May 10, 1875, Parker began a forceful, twenty-one-year campaign to establish justice in his jurisdiction. Three mass executions of fifteen felons within his first two years on the bench secured Parker's reputation as the implacable "Hanging Judge." By 1896 he had ordered 161 executions for murder and rape, seventy-nine of which were carried out. The vast majority of more than 12,000 cases before his court, however, represented minor offenses, of which most involved bootlegging in violation of the Indian Intercourse Act of 1834.

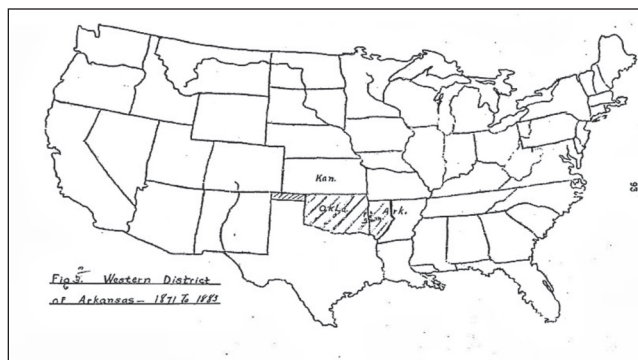
Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of the Western District Court's powers was that, under a vaguely worded



ARKANSAS JUDICIAL DISTRICT 1834-54



ARKANSAS JUDICIAL DISTRICT 1851-71



ARKANSAS JUDICIAL DISTRICT 1871-83

statute, Parker held both district and circuit court powers, effectively denying convicted felons the right of appeal. After Congress remedied this situation in 1889, nearly two-thirds of the convictions appealed from Fort Smith to the U.S. Supreme Court were remanded for new trials.

Congressional expansionists who favored opening the Indian Territory for white settlement pointed to such statistics, as well as to other criticisms of the Western District Court and its notorious judge, to advocate extinguishing the court's jurisdiction over Indian Territory. Congress dealt with part of the problem in 1883 and divided jurisdiction over the region among federal district courts in Texas and Kansas as well as in Arkansas. In 1890 the creation of Oklahoma Territory further reduced the Western District's size. Finally, with the Courts Act of 1895 Congress created federal courts within the Indian Territory, eliminating the jurisdiction of the Western District of Arkansas over the region on September 1, 1896.

Judges of the Western District of Arkansas

Number of judges who have served on the court: 25

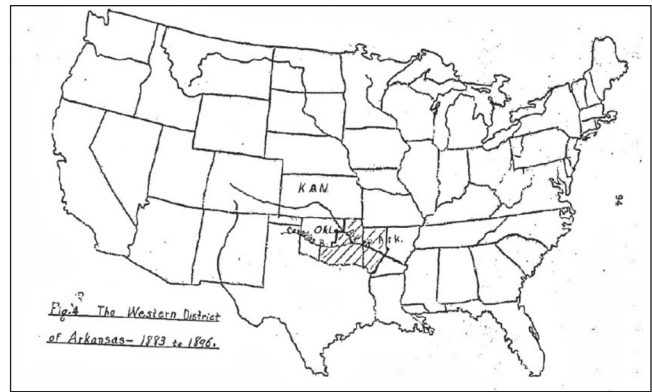
- Ringo, Daniel (1851-1861)
- Caldwell, Henry Clay (1864-1871)
- Story, William (1871-1874)
- Parker, Isaac Charles (1875-1896)
- Rogers, John Henry (1896-1911)
- Youmans, Frank A. (1911-1932)
- Ragon, Heartsill (1933-1940)
- Lemley, Harry Jacob (1939-1965)
- Miller, John Elvis (1941-1981)
- Henley, Jesse Smith (1959-1975)
- Harris, Oren (1965-1997)
- Williams, Paul X (1967-1994)
- Shell, Terry Lee (1975-1978)
- Roy, Elsjane Trimble (1977-1990)
- Arnold, Richard Sheppard (1978-1980)
- Howard, George Jr. (1980-1990)
- Waters, H[ugh] Franklin (1981-2002)
- Arnold, Morris Sheppard (1985-1992)
- Wright, Susan Webber (1990)
- Hendren, Jimm Larry (1992-present)
- Barnes, Harry F. (1993-present)
- Dawson, Robert Toombs (1998-present)
- Holmes, Paul Kinloch III (2011-present)
- Hickey, Susan Owens (2011-present)
- Brooks, Timothy Lloyd (2014-present)

Judge Daniel Ringo sentenced four men to die on the gallows in 1852 in Van Buren, Arkansas.

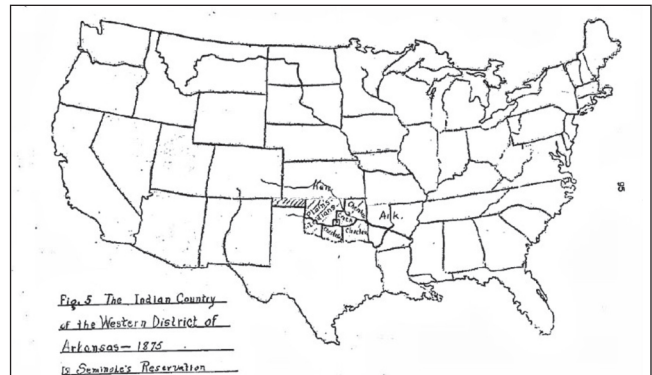
Judge Henry Clay Caldwell would not shirk from his duties, insisting that the guaranties of the Fourteenth Amendment should be observed.

Outed for bribery and overstated expense charges, Judge William F. Story faced imminent impeachment for his high crimes and misdemeanors. Also, during his term, the grand jury indicted thirty-seven offenders for murder; not one received any punishment.

Judge Isaac Charles Parker is quoted as saying, "I am the most misunderstood and misrepresented of all



ARKANSAS JUDICIAL DISTRICT 1883-96



INDIAN COUNTRY OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS—1875 SEMINOLE'S RESERVATION



WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS IN DECEMBER 1896 ON PARKER'S DEATH

men. Misrepresented because misunderstood."

Judge John Henry Rogers began, without instruction, to study law, and in the fall of 1868 was licensed at Canton, Mississippi.

Judge Frank A. Youmans never owned a carriage or car and loved to walk or ride the train, always taking a book along to read.

Judge Heartsill Ragon declared the National Firearms Act (NFA), effective July 26, 1934, in reaction to widespread gun violence during the Prohibition era, was unconstitutional.

Judge Harry Jacob Lemley presided on the

federal bench in Little Rock during the racial conflict involving the integration of Central High School. He also took a great interest in history and archaeology and had a large Civil War collection.

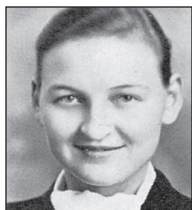
President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Judge John Elvis Miller to a federal judgeship for the Western District of Arkansas in 1941. Miller served in the position until 1979, when he was ninety-one. He was one of the oldest practicing federal judges in history.

Upon touring the Pulaski County Penal farm, Judge Jesse Smith Henley used the line “the smell of death” to describe the smell. He found specifically that the conditions of the farm did not meet minimum standards of the U. S. Constitution.

Judge Oren Harris voted against the Civil Rights Act as a congressman, stating he did so because of the potential harm to the nation’s federal court system.

Judge Paul X. Williams—the X standing for nothing more than the lack of a middle name—Williams was ordered to step down from the bench in 1982 because of a speech problem caused by a stroke he suffered.

Judge Terry Lee Shell was criticized publicly by the DEA for being too lenient on drug dealers and that such leniency was aggravating a serious drug problem in Pulaski County.



JUDGE
ELSIJANE
TRIMBLE
ROY

Judge Elsjane Trimble Roy graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1939. She was the first female to hold the position of local, state, and federal judge in Arkansas. She also served in the same courtroom that her father, Thomas C. Trimble, presided over for twenty years.

Considered “frontier aristocracy,” Judge Richard Sheppard

Arnold’s mother greatly influenced him. She published poems in the *Texarkana Gazette* shaming the Ku Klux Klan for their hypocritical Christianity. He graduated at the top of his class at Harvard Law School.

Judge George Jr.

Howard, the first black federal judge in Arkansas, attended the University of Arkansas Law School and became the first black student to win an elective office at the university and the fourth black student to graduate the school of law at the university.



JUDGE GEORGE
HOWARD JR.

Judge Hugh Franklin Waters was on a white supremacist group’s hit list after ten were charged with trying to overthrow the government. They intended to blow up Judge Waters’ home to intimidate him, according to an indictment.

Judge Morris Sheppard “Buzz” Arnold has written six books and was named the 1986 fellow in the field of history by the board of trustees of the Museum of

Science and Natural History in Little Rock.

Judge Susan Webber Wright was the judge presiding in Paula Jones’ sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton. Over the course of the next five years, she issued numerous rulings, including some that angered Clinton and supporters and others that infuriated Clinton’s detractors. Most notably, in 1998, she dismissed Jones’ sexual suit, ruling that even if he had made sexual advances to her, Clinton had not sexually harassed her.



During the Vietnam War, Judge Jimm Larry Hendren served as a military judge in South Vietnam.

Judge Harry F. Barnes sentenced Tony Alamo, an evangelist, to 175 years in prison for taking underage girls across state lines for sex. Alamo, age seventy-five, was convicted on a ten-count federal indictment. Judge Barnes said Alamo had abused his status as father figure and pastor and threatened the girls with “the loss of their salvation.”



JUDGE
ROBERT
TOOMBS
DAWSON

Judge Robert Toombs Dawson was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1998 after thirty-three years in private practice. Before law school, Dawson served in the U.S. Army and the Arkansas National Guard and is named for Robert Toombs, famed Civil War general from Georgia. Dawson assumed senior status in August 2009.

Upon Dawson’s retirement, Judge Paul Kinloch Holmes III was nominated to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas by Barack Obama in 2010.

Judge Susan Owens Hickey was a career judicial law clerk to U.S. District Judge Harry Barnes before taking the bench in 2010.

In private practice as a lawyer, Judge Timothy Lloyd Brooks focused on representing individual plaintiffs and corporate clients in complex civil litigation in both federal and state courts, with an emphasis on commercial and medical malpractice cases.



Shelley Blanton is the archivist at the Pebley Center, Boreham Library, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Map pictures obtained from James Oakley Murphy, “The Work of Judge Parker in the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas 1875-1896.” Master’s Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1939.

Court dates obtained from *United States District Courts and Judges of Arkansas, 1836-1960* and Roger H. Tuller, *Let No Guilty Man Escape: A Judicial Biography of Isaac C. Parker*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001.

The Beginnings of UAFS

*Interview with the Kasten sisters,
two of Fort Smith Junior College's distinguished students*



ANNA KASTEN NELSON, left, Anna Kasten from the 1952 FSJC Yearbook, Numa, and
Reba Kasten Nosoff, right, Reba Kasten from the 1951 FSJC Yearbook, Numa

Editor's Note: This interview with Anna Kasten Nelson and Reba Kasten Nosoff occurred on November 20, 2008, when the sisters visited the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith campus. Living with their parents, Louis and Sarah Kasten at 1723 Grand Avenue in the 1950s, the sisters attended Fort Smith High School and Fort Smith Junior College before their careers in academia, Reba in New York City with Columbia University (where she is employed still) and Anna earning a doctorate in history from the University of Oklahoma, became Distinguished Historian in Residence at American University in Washington, D. C. Their brother, Maurice, held a graduate degree from the University of Chicago.

Reba recalled her junior college theatrical experiences especially in producing *Opus and Pastels*, a musical play popularized by the Stan Kenton orchestra with all of its

saxophones. Since Reba could not locate that many musicians in the small FSJC student body, she persuaded Don Evans to comb the town. Evans wound up at the Green Frog in Moffett, off limits to college students and G.I.'s. Evans got the band there to agree to come to the auditorium and provide the music for *Opus and Pastels*. Reba remembered that the band's drummer was cross-eyed and couldn't read music, but "somehow that night when those first notes of *Opus and Pastels* came out, it made my neck hair stand up. It was just terrific!"

Anna wrote her first paper at the Junior College on Eleanor Roosevelt and the United Nations. Lucille Speakman wanted to celebrate United Nations Day but no one in town had a U.N. flag. Anna recalled that "Lucille Speakman ordered the pattern, and my mother sat down at the sewing machine and made a U.N. flag." The *Southwest*

American ran a photograph of raising the U.N. flag. This photograph has been re-created by a current UA- Fort Smith student and accompanies this article.

Billy Higgins: Greetings. Would you do the introductions, Henry?

Henry Rinne: Yes. This is an Oral History interview for Anna Nelson and Reba Nosoff. And it is November 20, 2008, on the campus of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Our subjects have signed permissions for doing this interview, and we would like to just begin by letting each of you talk a little bit about your experience in relationship to the college at the time. You were here when it was called Fort Smith Junior College, so speak a bit about how you came to be students here and what you knew about that school at the time.

Anna Nelson: Well, we were both in junior college because we couldn't afford to go someplace else. It was that or never go to college, so it really wasn't much of a choice. I had a future teacher's scholarship, but I had to work part-time in the high school's library; that was the first semester. And that was a big help, and I would work on Saturdays and Christmastime and summers and saved my money as we all did. I remember vividly how much I would have loved to have a soda in the afternoon, but I had iced tea because it only cost a dime. I didn't earn enough money to make a difference. And then the, and then the most interesting thing happened. I got an anonymous gift of a semester's tuition. To this day I don't know who gave me that.

BH: To Fort Smith Junior College?

AN: That's right. But it was to me and the Fort Smith Junior College, not just to anyone. It must have been some friend of the family or somebody. We speculated on who it might be, but I never did know that.

HR: What year did you start?

AN: 1950.

HR: You started in '50 and graduated in '52.

AN: That's right. Graduated high school in 1950.

HR: And it was all still at the high school campus. You didn't have anything to do with this [moving out to Grand Avenue].

AN: No, I think you all moved in '53, and I just barely missed it. For a while our class was almost lost in the shuffle. That is the people who graduated in '52 because of the movement. But it was a very small group. We had a number of really active former high school kids. And then we had a few from the Catholic high school who we had never known before. So we had a nice mix.

HR: Was that St. Anne's?

AN: Yes, St. Anne's. And I saw old friend Tom

Caldara the other night, last night, and so it became, we got to know some students who had not gone to the high school. And then there were a few people who were not very active, their pictures were not in the yearbook, who were fellas who came in from Paris, Arkansas, Charleston, Arkansas, whatever happened to them I do not know, I don't know that they were headed for four-year college. But they were getting additional education and they were very much there. I can see one of them in my mind right now, you know, a good looking tall fella from Paris. But they were not really active, in the first place they had to drive home in the evening, so it was a small group, and we were all pretty studious. That is the crowd that—in fact yesterday there was a comment that we all actually took what we were doing fairly seriously because everyone was going to go on to college somewhere; mostly to the University of Arkansas.

BH: Your classes were under the stadium. Did you have classes in the high school at all?

AN: No, we didn't, but we had to use the library there. We never had classes in the high school. Some of the high school teachers were sort of semi-retired who were teaching at the college; the language teacher did. But we never had classes [outside the stadium].

Reba Nosoff: Was Elmer Cook the first head of the junior college?

AN: He was the Superintendent of Schools first.

RN: See, Elmer Cook had been thrown out of the high school. They didn't think he was a good head principal or something, and they put him over in the junior college thinking that this was denigration of his position, and then he turned that college into something.

BH: Yes, he did. In '52, did you have—I noticed I think that you had cheerleaders.

AN: Did we?

BH: Well I saw that in the annual.

AN: Oh, I think there was a basketball team wasn't there? I think so. We played small towns around Arkansas and Oklahoma.

BH: So that was one extracurricular....

AN: Oh well, we had clubs, the most active one was the International Relations group that Lucille Speakman had. I don't know what the others were, but we had a lot of school activities, and then some of us didn't socialize except for that; those activities. And looking back, we did not have a heavy curriculum. I mean I didn't study like I would have now in a freshman class, but I am not sure any school was as rigorous then as they are now.

RN: I thought Ms. Krehbiel's class was pretty rigorous.

HR: That is a fairly constant comment. Maybe, Reba, you can tell us about your first years at the Junior College.

RN: Well, I was working at Colonial Hospital then and supposed to be working full-time. I was making seventy-five dollars a month and six days a week. So, Doctor Keck let me go to college. I would run out and walk from Dodson Avenue to the high school. I would take my classes then walk back and work, and I took one night school class. So, my studying was all done at night. We could read something like *Beowulf* and not understand one word of it. But Ms. Krehbiel would read it in that monotone voice of hers the next day, and I understood the whole thing. [laughing] It became absolutely clear. But that poor woman had such horrible migraines and a wooden leg besides.

HR: Oh, she did? I didn't know that.

RN: And from time to time that leg had a life of its own and would kick the waste basket and just knock us out. We thought that was the funniest thing in the world because it would bang that waste basket. But she would get so sick from her migraines that she would have to excuse herself to throw up and come back.

AN: I don't remember that. That's interesting.

RN: But she was a wonderful teacher. And I had a French teacher, Mademoiselle Tidball, who came from Fayetteville I believe. She was about this high and wore very thick belts with a buckle like this that hung right at her privates. [laughing] And she would reach up, and there were four of us in that class. One was called Monsieur Le Compiègne, I don't know what his name really was. She couldn't find a name for me, but she would reach up and write those French things, and we would translate books and things. And the years after that, when my brother and I used to make music together and a modern composer named Ned Warren, he wrote some songs for me that a student of my brother's commissioned. He came here on an evening of his song cycles and when we were through he said to me, "Your French is opera comic." So Mademoiselle Tidball didn't do a very good job. [laughing]

AN: But I, there was no French taught when I went in. We only had one language. Ms. Hamilton came over from teaching Latin, and I had her two or three years. She taught German. So I had to take German.

RN: We all took Lucille Speakman's courses.

AN: Yeah.

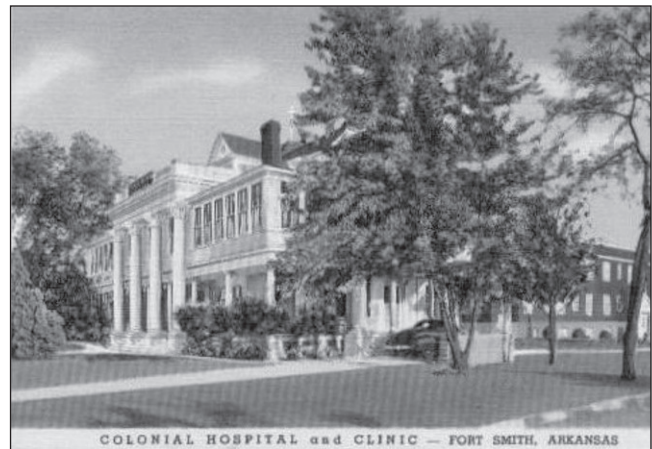
HR: And what was she teaching at the time? Do you remember what class it was?

AN: She taught sociology and she taught history. I think World History.

RN: And I took a night school course on psychology from the current rabbi who was at the Hebrew Temple.

AN: Who was that?

RN: Rabbi Gray. Whenever they were finished with our congregation they left the rabbinate, they were no longer rabbis. They couldn't take it anymore. This one



POSTCARD of the Colonial Hospital in Fort Smith

went into the upholstery business. The one who confirmed me went off into the coal business. They couldn't take it anymore when they got through with us.

AN: The one who married me became a scholar, a Jewish scholar in London.

RN: That is true. He married me, too. He died recently, but he was an intellectual.

AN: He was an intellectual, and he came here because he was paying off debts.

HR: From rabbinical school?

AN: From rabbinical school. And they would spend a year or two in a southern congregation.

BH: So this is the 1950s in Fort Smith?

AN, RN: Yes.

AN: Well I got married in '55. Or as my sister like to remind me, I graduated with a B.A. in '54, got married in '55, and got an M.A. in '56, and therefore I deserved three presents in three years. [laughing]

RN: Well, I directed the junior college variety show both years I was there.

BH: Do you remember the title of the play?

RN: One of them I remember absolutely and completely; it was called *Opus in Pastels*. It was based on the Stan Kenton version of *Opus in Pastels*, which I loved. And George Anderson was in my class and his brother was playing with Stan Kenton. And so he got his brother to give us the original sheet music for *Opus in Pastels*.

BH: Now what were your years at Fort Smith Junior College?

RN: Well, I guess it must have been '45 to '47 because I graduated in '44, went to work, and I didn't start until, sort of, the next year. So I think it must have been about '45.

HR: So, you probably had the big wave of G.I. Bill folks coming through.

RN: We didn't have very many.

HR: Not too many?

RN: No, they were still off away. In fact, at our reunions I used to see one or two people that I didn't remember going to school with us, but they said that they were in the service.

BH: What reunions?

AN: We had reunions, our class.

RN: From high school.

AN: From high school.

RN: But, you know, the high school and junior college people were almost the same in a way so that it is hard for me to distinguish between them unless I look in the yearbook and remind myself. But this *Opus in Pastels*, at that time there was a boy here named Don Evans, who you may have heard of before. He was a really accomplished musician. Homegrown. And he played in the glee club in the high school, when we used to bring our glee clubs to camp to entertain out there. The soldiers just clamored for him to sing *White Christmas*.

AN: Was he in the junior college?

RN: Yes. And Miss Clark wouldn't let him [sing *White Christmas*]. She said it made the boys sad. She didn't want him to sing those songs. And, of course, the soldiers who were as brave as, you know. There was a show on before us one time and I think from Muskogee and a soldier didn't like it so just every one of them got up and walked out in the middle of the program. And poor Mammy Faulkner and I, we were on the show after that. We thought, "Oh, boy."

HR: Tough audience.

RN: They threw money at her, but knew how to handle that. Anyway, the year I did that show we needed a band, we needed an orchestra. My idea was that we would open the show with the orchestra playing *Opus in Pastels*. And then after the band, then we would have a kind of mythical man type of thing where people would come downstairs and various things like the old girls used to do.

BH: You're seventeen when you are managing all of this?

RN: Yes

BH: So you were precocious....

RN: Eighteen maybe. So were John Holland and Kenny Gray. Doctor Kenny Gray, he is now dead I think.

BH: John Holland?

RN: John Holland. Not, no, no. John is the judge now. Not him. He was in *The Night of January 16th* [An Ayn Rand play published in 1934] that we all did.

BH: Did Jerry Kerwin play in one of those?

RN: Yes, Jerry was in it, I was in it. We did it down at the courthouse.

AN: I don't think Jerry was, Jerry was—that was the

Glass Menagerie.

RN: No. *The Night of January 16th*. He took me to the rehearsals. Do you remember that time?

AN: I was the defendant.

BH: [laughing]

RN: We had it down at the courthouse, and John Holland was in it too. What a good-looking boy he was. Wooey! And there was this tall blonde boy, and he got drunk and didn't show up. And Kenny Gray said, "I can't go on if he's not here." I thought, "What are we going to do?" So I went to get my book of Henny Penny. And read that book to them and tried to make it as sexy as possible.

BH; HR: [laughing]

AN: He had forgotten that you used to give monologues.

RN: Yes, I used to give monologues. I could make something of all that so it worked out all right. But the time that we were going to open with *Opus in Pastels*, we couldn't find any musicians around town. Don Evans combed the countryside; he went to Moffett and picked up somebody that played at the Green Frog and everywhere else, and got together a band. The drummer was cross-eyed; he couldn't read music. I left that up to him, but I am telling you, somehow or another that night when those first notes of that *Opus in Pastels* came out, it made my hair stand up. It was just terrific.

HR: Do you know Herb Brock?

RN: Sure, I know Herb. He is from my class.

HR: He was—that's what I—I thought he would have been from about your class.

RN: That band was unbelievable.

HR: Because he probably played, I'm sure.

AN: No, I don't think so.

HR: No, he wasn't playing?

RN: It was made up of bad people and thieves and low-lives. I mean, the Green Frog was a place we were all warned to stay away from in Moffett. But when it was finished, that band went on their way like it had never happened. You know, we got all kinds of calls asking if they could use them for Christmas and things like that.

BH: Do you [Anna], do your memories coincide with that?

AN: I don't remember any of it. But remember, we have got a long space of time in there. I'm sure that Mother and I, and Daddy probably too, went to see this.

RN: I don't know. My mother was very particular about going to see things like that.

AN: Mother always feared that, she was always worried that we would...

RN: ...make fools of ourselves.

AN: Yeah, we would be embarrassed.

BH: So you had a close family.

AN: We had a close family.

BH: And your parents—their occupation?

AN: Well, my mother worked here at home, and my father sold life insurance.

RN: For Metropolitan Life.

AN: Metropolitan Life. You sold twenty-five cent policies to the glass factory [workers] and you collected the debit. And so he worked until about nine, nine-thirty every night, and it was hard on him.

RN: Nine, nine-thirty? He came home at midnight.

AN: No, Reba. Not when I was growing up.

RN: He sure came home at midnight when I was growing up.

AN: Well he, well he couldn't—people had gone to bed at midnight so he couldn't sell anything. He'd take a lunch hour. He'd come home and take a longer lunch hour.

RN: We had buses then.

AN: Yes, we had buses, of course.

BH: Did you have a family vehicle?

AN: No.

RN: Never.

AN: We never had a car.

BH: So when you were attending FSJC you were walking.

RN; AN: Walking.

AN: We walked no matter what.

RN: I walked to Dodson [Avenue] to the Colonial Hospital, then to school, then back to Dodson, then home.

AN: We walked all the time. We walked downtown. We lived at Grand Avenue and Eighteenth Street, a block now in shambles. We walked everywhere. In fact, my mother's view [of distance] all of her life was, "Oh, that is far away," meaning, "I can't walk there." [laughing]

RN: Mother walked to the post office, even when she was in her eighties.

AN: The one on Sixth Street.

RN: She used to rest in Jerry's store on the way back; Kerwins [Sporting goods store at 707 Garrison Avenue].

AN: We really didn't have any money. I mean, my father worked very, very hard, but it was a company that his percentage of what he got from what he sold was very, very low. And my mother gave us a set of values that were middle-class, and everybody always thought we had more money than we actually did because we dressed better. I claimed that we were brought into the middle-class by my mother's sewing machine, which was a treadle...

RN: She made everything for us.

AN: ...which was a treadle Singer.

BH: Speaking of the sewing machine, the United Nations flag...

AN: That's right.



RECREATION OF A NEWSPAPER PHOTO of 1952 showing students Edwin Sudderth and Anna Kasten raising a United Nations flag hand sewn by her mother, Ms. Sarah Kasten. Art work by Sofia N. Gamboa Lazarte.

BH: Do you mind telling that story?

AN: Well, I mean, you know, it was, the U.N. was a big thing in those years. In fact, I wrote my first paper for junior college on Eleanor Roosevelt and the U.N. We had this international club, and it was U.N. Day. So the question was, "Where are we going to get a flag?" Well there wasn't any U.N. flag in Fort Smith, no way. So Lucille Speakman ordered the pattern, and my mother sat down at the sewing machine and made a U.N. flag with all of the countries, you know that blue flag. And the newspaper picked it up, and there is a picture of us hanging the flag. I wrote—I actually didn't realize it was Billy [Higgins] I was writing to—but I wrote and asked, "What happened to the flag?" I think in the move it just got lost.

BH: Well, and as I mentioned to you, we are going to renew our efforts, look in some other corners.

RN: Well, it may be in a box somewhere.

BH: It would be a great artifact.

RN: I think that that U.N. flag was in the Hebrew Temple for a while.

AN: No. No, it was here at junior college and we used it on U.N. Day. I don't know if they used it the next year or not; I think I was already on, maybe, the second year but and Sudderth was his name, the one in the picture I think. And he was one of those who went off to Oklahoma A&M. And there were some international students there from Scandinavia....

HR: You mentioned Elmer Cook. Do you all remember any of the other administrators that were involved in the junior college at the time?

RN: I think it was almost the same ones who were in the high school.

AN: No. We didn't have a counselor. We didn't have a dean of women.

BH: Mr. Hixson?

RN; AN: Guy Hixson

RN: Was he in the college?

AN: Yeah, I think he was.

RN: But wasn't he the woodworking, or something, person?

BH: He was a business teacher, I think. But they had, either in the high school or the junior college had made him a dean of students I think.

AN: I think he was in the college. It's really interesting that you ask. I don't remember a single administrator; not a one.

HR: Just the teachers.

AN: Just the teachers.

RN: But one of my, one of my yearbooks has a picture of my can-can dancers, which was on my first year here at college. And I know that Roy Jean Mussett was one of the can-can dancers. He looked really cute in a bonnet and dress.

RN: Well I remember Isabella Smith, but I never had her.

BH: She, I think she was a business teacher.

HR: Yeah, she talked about—and some of it may have been after they had moved out here [to the current campus at 5200 Grand Avenue] because you were in that transition, because it was really still part of the public school because they had passed the law about 1950 which said that public schools could not have colleges. That was what forced it into a private, turned it into a private school.

RN: Well I thought it was, well I knew the state was not supporting it.

HR: The state wouldn't allow the school districts to

support college education.

AN: That is interesting. The state of Arkansas decided that the public schools couldn't do it anymore, but they weren't going to do it either.

RN: Everybody knew that when they got out of high school, they were going to junior college. That was just an extension.

HR: You know, much of the reason is still the reason, I think, why students come here as well, it's the cost, is that it's affordable—you know it is the only thing they can afford, and they are often place-bound; they can't go travel, they can't pick up and move to Fayetteville or to Arkadelphia or wherever.

BH: So, you mentioned after you graduated from here you transferred to the University of Oklahoma. And were your credits accepted there?

AN: My credits were accepted.

HR: Excellent.

AN: I was missing a math credit, which they didn't tell me about when I got to Oklahoma until my last semester of my senior year, so I had to take algebra. I hadn't had algebra since the ninth grade, whenever they taught it. And I was absolutely horrified, and I thought, "Well, I'll just pass it. Doesn't make a—I'll just pass it." So I have the oddest transcript; nothing but A's, a few B's, and a D.

[laughing]

HR: You passed it and got your degree.

AN: I passed it and got my degree.

RN: I think that Maurice Kasten was able to, when he came out of the army, he, they had the G.I. Bill, you know, you could get a bachelor's degree in three years.

AN: Well, that was Chicago that allows you to do that.

RN: The University of Chicago. You could get a bachelor's degree in three years or you had nothing. You had to go the four years. And so Maurice felt that he had lost all that time and when he was overseas he was with Patton's army. He took a playwriting course from the University of Minnesota and...

AN: Which he sent home to his sister to type.

[laughing]

RN: Because he didn't know how to type, and we didn't have a typewriter either, so we had to rent a typewriter, and I sat sweating because it was due the next day by the time we got it from him overseas. And when he came back he took a proctored test and got an A, so that was another credit that he could transfer to Chicago. But after Maurice transferred all of his credits from junior college to there, he got his bachelor's degree in three years.

AN: My mother never went anywhere, and all of our relatives were in New York City; of course, we would go by train. So I guess we could count the trips. I went with



(ABOVE) Reba is second from the left on the front row of this Yearbook photograph of student government leaders. (Right) Class wits from the Yearbook. Reba is on the right and Hal Smith, future catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals is on the left

her when I was five and a half because I was still on half fare. The next time she went was when Reba graduated; it was her graduation present.

RN: Yes. I could choose between that and a wristwatch. I had never had a wristwatch.

BH: [laughing]

RN: And I thought that I could get my own wristwatch one day, but I better take this trip. [laughing]

AN: I was still twelve and a half or something. Oh, I guess at five and a half I was free, at twelve and a half I was half fare. And so we got on...

RN: ...the Baltimore and Ohio. I don't know who sold my mother that ticket!

AN: We went through Kansas City to see relatives there. It was D-Day. My mother was not hearing from my brother who was in England, and she was a complete wreck...

RN: ...We arrived in New York at absolutely dawn, and of course nobody could possibly pick us up at that hour, and my suitcase had broken, and I had a rope around it. We looked like immigrants that had come over on some steamship.



AN: Well, the trains were full of soldiers.

RN: Yeah, the troop movement thing.

AN: Of course. But we never had any relatives around here because they had all left before I was born. My father's brothers had left. And anyway, my mother never went anywhere. And when my brother graduated from the University of Chicago she went to Chicago. She thought

that, I mean she really valued that. Daddy couldn't take off from work, but she went to Chicago, and they came to Norman when I graduated. This was very important. Remember that, when mother went to Chicago?

RN: I remember when she went to Chicago. I remember because she was smack in the middle of menopause but she didn't breathe a word to my brother, of course, who dragged her all over town, you know, to show her things.

AN: Oh, and I mean it was a sense of great pride that he had gotten through the University of Chicago.

BH: Sure. Great school. Your mom was born where?

RN: Russia. My father and mother both were born in Russia.

AN: She was born in the city of Minsk [then Bielorussia, now Belarus]

BH: So when did they arrive in Fort Smith?

AN: Well, Daddy arrived early on; his brothers were here.

RN: I think my father came here when he was fourteen because he stayed in New York with my mother's family because his brother was married to a half-sister of my mother's.

BH: And what year would that be?

AN: That would have been, well it was before the first world war. He was born in 1897 so this would be 1912. My mother came in 1912, and he came, I think, in August 1912. Her story was that she had already been in this country and so he was a greenhorn. You know, she made fun of him when he came through, and I am sure he came by himself.

BH: Why Fort Smith?

AN: Because they were probably resettled by what was called HIAS, the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society.

RN: At Ellis Island.

AN: Well, Daddy came through Ellis Island; mother didn't.

RN: Well, mother's story was different; it was Daddy that came through Ellis Island.

AN: But you see, his brothers were here and the oldest brother, we aren't entirely sure why he came. We know that one of them had tuberculosis in the garment district, and HIAS wanted to get him out of New York.


RN: They came to Van Buren, actually.

AN: Yes, they came to Van Buren. They must have thought this was a healthy climate. [laughing]

RN: Mother said that when she came here to visit with her half-sister, she thought it was an oasis because she thought it was the most beautiful place she had ever seen.

AN: Well, that was in 1920.

RN: Sunny and beautiful. It was horrible in New York at that time.



A Re-examination of John F. Kennedy's Assassination:

Clearing away the fog of secrecy and conspiracy


Presented by Anna Kasten Nelson, Ph.D., Distinguished Historian in Residence at American University and UA Fort Smith alumna

Wednesday, November 19
12 p.m. • Free Admission
Gardner Lecture Hall

Conspiracy theories surround the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As one of the first scholars to access the FBI files on the Kennedy assassination, Anna Nelson will shed new light on the assassination and the events that followed.

Anna Kasten Nelson, Ph.D. was a presidential appointee to the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board from 1994 to 1998 and a member of the U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation from 1992 to 1994.

For more information contact:
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FLYER PROCLAIMING the UA Fort Smith campus lecture by Distinguished American History professor Anna Kasten Nelson regarding her service on the Congressional Review Board on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

AN: Well, yes, but she also had another couple of stories. Anyway, she arrived in 1920, never went back. They learned English quickly.

BH: Did they keep the Russian?

AN: They never learned Russian.

AN: They were in a ghetto. They spoke Yiddish.

RN: My mother and father spoke only Yiddish together in the house. They spoke English perfectly. My mother wrote perfectly. That is the first thing they did when they came to this country was learn English.

BH: So they were in far western Russia, near Poland.

AN: They were at the Polish-Russian border. My father was born in Bobruisk, which I think is now pronounced Babruysk. And it is actually still there on the map.

HR: In Belarus, is that in Belarus?

AN: In Belarus [then called White Russia]. My mother was born in a little village, which when I was being cleared by the FBI, they wrote me a letter, my mother was still alive, and just barely, and they said I had put down her country of origin but not her town. Well, her town. What

did we ever know about my mother's town? It was...

RN: ...I thought mother was from Bobruisk.

AN: Daddy was. It was Chalusk.

RN: Oh, Chalusk, right.

AN: Spell that.

RN: C-H-A-L-U-S-K.

AN: The "Husk" sound, you know. And I thought, "Well, fellas, good luck, it's long gone." Believe you me, that town is long gone. They fought two wars on that border. They had pneumonia on that border.

BH: There was more to you than met the eye with this FBI thing.

AN: Yea, well.

BH: From Fort Smith and junior college, but—

RN: When I went to work at Mount Sinai [Medical Center in New York City] we had a Jamaican fella there who says, "This is just like the United Nations with all these foreigners. We have this Chinese boy. I am Jamaican. She's from Arkansas." [laughing] You know, it was a foreign country.

AN: Well, then my brother unwittingly got a room to rent in Chicago. The family was communist. He, of course, didn't know that. [laughing] But, no, I didn't have any trouble. Except that I had foolishly written, honestly that I had left G.W. (George Washington University) in June and I had gone to A.U. (American University) in September. And I got grilled by the FBI over that. "What were you doing over those three months?"

AN: I mean that must have thought I was in de-tox. [laughing] Yeah, and I kept saying to him, "You don't understand. That is the way it goes." And I made a vow that if I ever had to do that again that I would not do that. I would just do the whole year.

HR: They have to account for every day of your life, I think.

AN: They really do, and there was three months in there.

HR: Talk a little bit about—it doesn't necessarily have anything to do with the college, but talk about being a Jewish family in this, in this town. I mean, it is not a large population in this area.

RN: When my father came there was an orthodox congregation in Van Buren.

AN: His brothers, primarily. [laughing] And his brother-in-law.

RN: When they moved to Fort Smith they made a brief stop in Coweta, Oklahoma. I think my brother was born then; he was very small.

AN: That was the depression. No, the '20s.

RN: My mother hated that [Coweta] like poison because it was dirt roads, and the dust kept flying in the house and my...

AN: She couldn't get pasteurized milk. That was the story.

RN: So mother said, "Either we go to Fort Smith or I am going back to New York." And so a friend of my father's got him a job in Metropolitan Life. I think they started him at about two dollars a week, and they told him very clearly that if any of his policies lapsed that they would take it out of his salary.

AN: I don't remember what he was [paid], but it wasn't much. Well, they didn't have a union in Metropolitan yet. When they got the union in New York in the '30s they improved the whole thing and that is when they got [some benefits]; they didn't have health care until, well I guess I was maybe nine or ten years old.

BH: So he stayed with Met Life his whole career?

RN: The whole time. He retired from there and he was one of the few agents they had who was a member of what they called the Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Club. He had a debit full of the biggest [] if you know what that means, that there ever was in this world. And he sold nickel policies to them and made sure that they paid up.

AN: He'd say, "That's [life insurance] all they got. They gotta have \$200 to be buried. That's all they got."

RN: He believed in it absolutely. When I was little, we would rehearse. I would sit in the chair with my long curls, and my father would practice his rainy day canvas on me. "Mrs. Johnson," he would day, "Are you prepared for the rainy day?" "No," I'd say.

HR: That's the beginnings of your thespian career.

RN: That's right. I'll tell you where it came from. My father had a brother who was in the Yiddish theater and was a writer for Jewish newspapers. He was the one who was married to my mother's half sister, and when she was...

AN: My mother went to work at fourteen. Her father was dying of cancer. You asked about being Jewish in Fort Smith. We were at a double disadvantage because most of the Jewish community was German-Jewish. And they were reformed and...

RN: ...They were well off.

AN: They were very well off. of course. The joke in my house was that my husband married the only poor Jew in the South. [laughing]

AN: But this congregation was well off. They had the businesses.

HR: Very good businesses, in fact.

AN: They owned their estate. And [there were] a lot of doctors. And so my parents didn't even join the temple, I think, until my brother was ready to be confirmed.

BH: Did you know the Katzer family?

AN: Oh yes.

RN: They were very good friends. Dorothy Katzer and

I played together for years. We would, I would, at that time we lived on Thirteenth Street, which became Twenty-seventh Street or something later...

AN: ...Twenty-eighth.

RN: There was an apostolic church near us and a lot of them [members of the church] were my father's policy holders. And when Passover would come, my mother would have to order the Passover food from either Memphis or Little Rock because you couldn't buy it here.

AN: Memphis.

RN: We got it from Little Rock sometimes. And she would order extra matzos for the apostolic and the Jehovah's Witnesses because they used it for their Lord's Supper. So mother would always order extra matzos for them.

AN: She had stopped doing that by the time....Reba and I have, in some ways, separate memories. I don't remember that, but I do remember that order was never on time. And, you know, my mother was just [livid], because she really kept Passover and you couldn't cook until you got the stuff. So I asked her one day, I said, "Well how come that order was always late?" I remember once, Mr. Soffer, who was the only other person they spoke Yiddish with, had to go down to the Kansas City Southern, which was not even in town to pick up the box—

RN: That must have been after my time, I don't remember that.

AN: And I said to mother, "How come it was always late?" She says, "I never had any money to order in time." [laughing] She said, "I always had to put it off because [of that]."

RN: We used to go down, you know, you can only eat scale fish, and so we used to go down, mother and I would walk down to the river until we could find the right kind of fish to buy from someone down there.

BH: You went down to Coke Hill maybe?

RN: I don't know. All I know is that she put it in the wash tub on the back porch and let it swim around until it was time to make a fish. But boy we could smell that from junior high, we could smell that from [inaudible]. It was delicious.

AN: By the time I was able to go with her to look for fish, they didn't have [the sellers] any more. She couldn't make fish anymore.

RN: We had a Vietnamese family who used to go fishing all the time and who lived next door for a while...

AN: ...Well that was very recent...

RN: ...and they would offer mother fish, and she was afraid because she did not know what kind of fish it was. Mother came from a very religious home. And although...

AN: ...Well, so did Daddy.

RN: Yeah, but couldn't have kosher food. I mean you couldn't buy it.

HR: I was going to say that you probably couldn't keep kosher in Fort Smith.

AN: You have to go to Little Rock.

RN: She used to make her own corn beef. She made her own version of borsch. She made whatever she could fix herself. But we were forbidden as children to eat in any neighbor's house.

AN: I don't remember that at all because I don't remember being invited to any neighbor's house.

RN: Oh, I wanted to go next door in the worst way.

BH: Lucille Speakman's house?

AN: Well, yeah, actually mother had had these two children, and I came along later. They were a little better off. One thing is Reba was working already and contributed.

RN: I contributed to the house.

AN: And so things were a little better, and she was a little looser, she was older. And I got to go downtown, I guess, when I was thirteen to buy thread for whatever she was sewing, and I don't think she would ever let Reba do that.

RN: Oh, God forbid. Mother never trusted me anyway.

AN: Things changed.

RN: She thought Maurice was okay. Anna was okay, but she kept an eye on me. She seemed to think somehow that I was a roustabout.

BH: Maybe it had to do with the monologues.

RN: No, it probably was the truth.

AN: But we were actually, in retrospect, aliens in our society.

HR: That is what I was wondering.

AN: We really were. In retrospect we were, we were because Christmas everybody had decorations, but we didn't, although we went out and sang Christmas carols. My parents were very...

RN: Yes, we sang Christmas carols.

AN: My parents were very smart. School was school, and whatever you did in school was okay. They had no doubt that we were ever going to lose our religion. So when I was in elementary school, my mother made me a set of wings, and I was the angel. [laughing]

HR: You were the angel in the Christmas play?

RN: Maurice was the other Wise Man.

AN: And actually we were surrounded by evangelicals. And when we lived out there on Thirteenth, now Twenty-eighth, my mother used to have to cross the street when she saw one woman coming because, I mean,

the woman used to say, "Oh, Mrs. Kasten, you have such a nice family. It's really too bad you are all going to Hell!" [laughing]

BH: Oh.

RN: The girl I worked with at the auto finance, she said to me that the Jews were the chosen people, and when it came to judgment day and Jesus came we would get another chance.

AN: We were, by the way, I was probably the only Jewish Jew in Fort Smith Junior College. For sure.

BH: —Maurice Katzer?

RN: Yes, I remember him.

BH: He went straight to the University [of Arkansas], I think, as an engineer.

AN: Well the Katzers had more money by then.

RN: They were Structural Steel. They were well off.

AN: Mr. Katzer, who had been a friend of my father's in the early years, married a Sugarman, and the Sugarman had money in the steel, Structural Steel business. So they had the money to—

RN: When I used to go down and play with Dorothy on Sundays, I thought Maurice and Ben, her younger sister...

AN: ...Younger brother.

RN: Younger brother, were the [inaudible] two boys that ever lived.

BH: Maurice became a worker in the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club.

RN: Right, Jerry's [Kerwin] uh...

BH: Jerry too. They had a great career there. There was another family that spoke Yiddish, the Wintory family. But they were German Jews.

AN: They were German Jews, and they actually were largely speaking German. Probably a version of it.

HR: Yeah, there is a German Yiddish.

AN: But they were brought to this country by Jennings Stein.

RN: Jennings Stein brought German Jews here after Hitler came to power. All of his relatives, that were any relatives at all, he brought them here and gave them a job at Stein Wholesale. The Levys had come, the Brahts, another Stein, Margo Faire, they brought her, and they brought the Wintorys. The Wintorys were the only ones...

AN: ...the Wintorys were the only ones who were not relatives.

RN: Nic had been educated in Paris. And when he came—Mrs. Wintory was a very elegant, aristocratic woman.

AN: They had money in Germany too.

BH: And a Mercedes.

AN: Yes. And they cost a lot. She never adjusted. Did Nic go to junior college?

RN: I don't think so. Nic went to work for Pollock's Garage or something.

AN: Pollock's Store.

RN: No, he went to a garage. He was a mechanic.

BH: Ross' Garage.

RN: I saw him. I went to services Friday night.

AN: I wasn't born yet but...

HR: I know his son, Ken. He is a real estate agent.

RN: See, I was working for the Colonial Hospital...

BH: He [Nic Wintory] married a Keck.

RN: He married Marian [Keck]. When I was president of the music guild, Kathleen [Keck] used to have us come to the Kecks' house to hold our meetings. She was a pianist.

HR: Yes, Kathleen taught for us for a few years.

RN: Right, and I was telling Anna, they were the ones that had that wonderful new phonograph. What was that called? Where it turned the records over. We would sit there and she would say, "I have this whole new set of records here of the symphony," and we would sit there and it would play and then it would go smash into a million pieces. [laughing]

HR: There was a story about [Kathleen] that Marian told that she went on back of a motorcycle to Chicago with some boy.

RN: Must have been the last time. [laughing] I rode on a motorcycle one time. My mother never knew it. But Mrs. Keck was a piece of work.

HR: She was still living when we came to town. I remember being over at their house there on E Street, on the corner of E and whatever it was.

BH: Anna [after graduating] you stayed at Norman?

AN: I stayed at Norman and got a master's degree.

BH: And how long did that take you?

AN: Well, we wrote a thesis then. And I graduated in '56 so it took me two years. Then the second year I was actually teaching in Oklahoma City and writing at night. I was already married. But I stayed because I was a dormitory counselor. I didn't have the nerve; part of it was, I am sorry to say we kind of grew up in an immigrant household of people who had the immigrant mentality. But also I felt like having come from the junior college I wasn't up to things, you know? Which wasn't true, but I felt like I wasn't, really wasn't up to things. So I never applied for a teaching assistant in the history department. I found out many, many years later from Gilbert Fite who was in the history department—I already had my Ph.D and he saw me at a meeting and he says, "Come on over here and let's talk." He says, "Did you ever apply for a teaching assistant?" I said, "No, I never had the nerve." He says, "We wouldn't have given it to you anyway. We didn't give it to women." So it was

just as well, so I was a dormitory counselor. We locked girls in those years, remember? Eight o'clock you lock the doors except on weekends. That's what I was, and I was pretty much on time in terms of writing the thesis.

HR: What was your thesis?

AN: It was on utopias, but it was on political changes of utopias. How the nineteenth-century utopias had been so optimistic and how *Brave New World* and Orwell's *1984* were so pessimistic. My big coup is there was a predecessor to—I haven't thought about this in years—there was a predecessor to Orwell whose name was Zamyatin who—I had to get the book from the Library of Congress and the consortium and that was my big coup that I discovered.

BH: You looked at utopians like Ignatius Donnelly?

AN: Yes, you know there was that whole group of nineteenth-century people who created these optimistic, wonderful utopias and then Huxley and Orwell came in with quite a different view. That was not in the history department; that was in the government department. I will tell you something else. No one knew I got married. I left in June, and we got married between summer session and spring session, and I came back with a new name. I never told a single professor because I wouldn't have been taken seriously. So I just—it was just kind of instinctive. My consciousness wasn't raised, I just knew better. [laughing]

BH: You mentioned the commission that you served on in the 1990s in yesterday's very eloquent and very well attended...

AN: I tell you, you talk about Kennedy, and you've got an audience.

BH: You talked about him very well. You handled everything just perfectly. One thing that I was curious about, and it is quite an honor that makes you in my eyes and a lot of other people's a distinguished scholar, is that you were nominated [for this panel] by the AHA [American Historical Association] as you mentioned. So how did that come about?

AN: Well, I spent all of those years doing my pro bono work for the AHA [American Historical Association] and supporting the coalition for history. And the woman who ran that came in 1980, and she didn't know anything about declassification and then I, that's what I, I fight it all the time because I write in post-World War II foreign policy. And so I knew all of the ins and outs, and I began to testify. I just came to know the people at the AHA, and they wanted, they wanted somebody who would seriously attend these meetings; they didn't want the big name. They wanted somebody, you know, they didn't want Arthur Schlesinger, they wanted somebody who would go to the meetings and...

BH: ...and really represent the profession.

AN: Yeah. I actually sometimes get slightly annoyed because the profession knows me as somebody who fights for access; I want them to know me for what I have written. [laughing]

HR: What came from the access you gained, I guess.

AN: So, that's why I am getting this award in January. Because it was, it is all the work I did. I have spent, you know, you spend hours, and nobody ever knows about it. You're the hidden hand. It's very rewarding if you don't mind; you can do anything if you don't care who gets the credit. And so in many instances I remember we had problems with the state department—the advisory committee had disintegrated and that was an important committee. And so the woman running the coalition was trying to write some new legislation, and she called me up, and we had this long conversation over the phone. Nobody knew I was helping her write that legislation, you know. And I didn't mind that. It's the hidden hand; it can be very rewarding.

RN: Considering where my family came from and how we were raised, that the three of us turned out the way we did is unbelievable.

HR: It is.

RN: Maurice went to Columbia for his Ph.D, Anna got hers, and I worked for four presidents at one of the biggest medical centers [Columbia University in New York City]. I did their fundraising, I did all their letters. I did—in fact, one boss had a brother who had been Rudolph Hess' psychiatrist, and his brother used to write to him, and he said to me, "Answer these letters." I used to write for that man in my boss's name, and we carried on a correspondence for the length of time that my boss worked there back and forth. He never knew it wasn't his brother writing.

[After a short break, the interview resumed as the Kasten sisters spoke about their father]

AN: We—I never wanted him to be disappointed in me.

RN: We wanted him to be proud. And mother would say, "I'm gonna tell Daddy." Oh, we were horrified.

AN: He wasn't going to do anything [laughing].

RN: He was the mildest, I mean after all those hours of walking and working, we would go to sleep and hear him telling mother, who was always ironing, stories of things that happened to him. [They would] laugh and talk at night.

AN: In Yiddish. I used to think to myself, "I wonder

what other people talk about 'cause they can't speak Yiddish." [laughing]

BH: Did you keep your Yiddish?

AN: No, we didn't.

RN: I can speak some, but unfortunately, I speak it with a Southern accent.

BH: But you were in New York.

RN: Yeah. But I've tried to speak to Jews there, and they don't really understand me.

AN: Well, you see, our parents were not eager for us to learn the old ways.

HR: No. You were to be Americans.

AN: We were not encouraged [to speak Yiddish]. Maurice, my brother, who was born while my father's family was still around, he remembers certain things.

RN: He always claimed that he remembered my mother in a bathing suit, which we could not imagine. I can tell you Maurice was a true success, and he was a—he made himself into a true intellectual.

BH: A scholar. Now he didn't go to Fort Smith Junior College.

AN, RN: He certainly did.

AN: We all did.

HR: Now where did he end up? He got his Ph.D at Columbia [University in New York City].

AN: Actually, he never got the Ph.D.

RN: Finished his orals and was writing his dissertation, and his committee changed four times over the period of time. Meantime he was teaching at VMI, and he was writing his dissertation on the eighteenth-century novel, and he had long passed that. They kept changing his titles. Every time he got a new committee, they would change something else, and he said, "To hell with it."

BH: His degree is in English?

AN: Humanities. So he actually spent most of his career at Stevens Institute teaching Humanities. He lived in New York.

RN: That's in Hoboken.

HR: Hoboken, New Jersey.

AN: And he lived in the city.

RN: He saw every concert he could. He saw every play he could. He went to the film festival on almost all the movies.

AN: He directed your reading in mime, right? He would call and say, "Well, you have to get this book to read." [laughing]

RN: He called me at midnight every night and argued with me over something that I would say about a film I had seen. I'd say, "Well I didn't like that person who was the main character." "What do you mean you didn't like him? His acting was terrific." You know.

AN: He came home one summer, and it was a rare

time that we were all home because, you know, he was gone most of the time. He had just finished reading [Marcel] Proust. So, as he dried dishes, we heard the whole story. And when what's-her-name died...

RN: ...Albertine [Simonet. A Proust character]. He [Maurice] and Jerry [Kerwin] wore armbands.

AN: Well, Bill Weaver and I sent him a condolence card. [laughing]

RN: They wore black armbands there for a while, him and Jerry, for Albertine.

AN: I mean, it was a joke but—

RN: When my son was born, Maurice made me read—he had thirteen different volumes—and he made me read Proust. He said my head was going to go stale being home with just the baby. And he gave me a reading list from here to yonder. Stendhal. The *Rouge et Noir* was next.

AN: The last conversation I had with him was about a concert he had just gone to hear. And I had never heard of that man and after—see he died very suddenly, very suddenly.

BH: Your brother [Maurice]. And what year was that?

AN: It was in 2000.

RN: My music career ended with him. He and I used to work on music; you would think we were getting ready for Carnegie Hall. Every week he would play. He taught himself to play the piano.

AN: With my music.

RN: With Anna's music. And we would sing German meter, French meter, and art songs. That's how we became to know Lynn...

AN: And how did we get a piano? There was a man in the community, the Jewish community...

RN: ...Navinsky.

AN: ...whose daughter—was that his name?—whose daughter had donated a piano to Camp Chaffee. She didn't want to give it up. So when the camp closed, he was looking for somebody who would take the piano. And I guess he must have spoken to Mother or Daddy. So, we took the piano. But it wasn't ours.

BH: So, that came over on Grand Avenue.

AN: Oh yeah.

RN: When Maurice...

AN: It was oak and a good piano, but it had ivory keys that I kept having to paste on. And I came home from school one day, I was in high school, I must have been in tenth grade or something like that. We got it when I was about thirteen. And my mother was out in the yard, as she often was, working around the hydrangeas or something, and she says, "I've got some news for you," and I stopped dead in my tracks and said, "They want the piano."

RN: I think all those years I was just waiting for them

to come get my piano.

HR: For someone to take the piano, yeah.

AN: So, we bought it for \$200.

BH: You did buy it?

AN: We bought it.

RN: When Maurice was in junior high...

AN: ...and I was still taking piano at the junior college.

RN: Ms. McConnell. Do you remember her? She was the glee club teacher. She told my mother that Maurice had real talent in music and that she would like to give him free piano lessons. And mother said, "If we don't have a piano for him to practice on, he will only be frustrated."

AN: We got a Stromberg-Carlson when he graduated high school with an automatic record business, and I could sing practically line by line all of those Tchaikovsky symphonies. [laughing]

RN: And you had to turn the record over for the second part.

AN: That's right, and the Metropolitan Opera was always on in the afternoon.

RN: My mother always listened to the opera.

AN: And the New York Philharmonic was always on Sunday.

BH: In home, on the radio, you were listening to that?

AN: Oh, yeah.

RN: Maurice used to go into the living room as a young boy. And all we had in there was a gas stove and a rocking chair and...

AN: ...this was before I was born...

RN: ...maybe one other piece of furniture. It was so cold in there that you could see your breath. Maurice used to sit with his coat and his earflap cap and listen to a Tchaikovsky broadcast that came on Saturday nights or something. He'd sit with his ears, blowing smoke from his mouth listening to that broadcast.

AN: But there was a New York Philharmonic on Sunday afternoon and his friends, like Howard Curtis, who also I think came to junior college, many of them came here waiting to go to the army. And I think they all passed through, and Howard in particular was frustrated because his father did not want him to major in music. He ultimately majored in math, but his father wanted him to have nothing to do with music, so he came to our house. That was true with a lot of my brother's friends.

HR: They could get their music...

AN: Well, they could get a lot of things.

RN: They used to sit around the floor and listen to Reveille's lullabies at night, you know.

AN: Yes, not only that but they, but my mother's view was it is better for these eighteen-year-olds or nineteen-year-olds to have a beer in my living room than out

somewhere else. So, they were Baptists, they couldn't drink at home, they couldn't have a beer at home, so they used to come—but Howard would conduct the New York Philharmonic. And there were some handicaps; I mean I took Latin because I was told by one of them I should have three years of Latin in high school. And Bill Weaver gave me Moby Dick to read when I think I was in the tenth grade.

BH: There are a couple of other things. Did you have your groceries delivered?

AN: Oh, no, who could afford that? We carried them.

RN: Mother used to go to the Border City. And the Border City grocery, I think, did deliver but I don't know if they ever delivered anything. The only thing I ever knew they had delivered to my house was ice.

BH: And your house was heated with natural gas?

AN: We had gas heating. A gas stove in each room, and if you were next to the stove, you were warm, and if you were away from the stove, you were cold.

RN: The front of you was warm enough the back of you could freeze.

AN: And, but we had warm pajamas.

RN: But smooching on the front porch was murder. You really froze.

AN: Well, you were the only one that slept on that porch, and then you were grown.

RN: I am talking about smooching, not snoozing.

HR: Smooching.

BH: That's what I heard. [laughing]

HR: Until the porch light came on and somebody said—

RN: The porch light didn't come on. It was Jerry Kerwin inside saying, "Ms. Kasten, Reba is still out there. Don't you think I gotta go out there and ask her if she's ready to come in?" [laughing]

RN: He was a troublemaker.

BH: He was quite a gentleman though, wasn't he?

RN: He was a good friend, I'll tell you. He was wonderful to my mother after we were gone. He really was great. He would take her to the grocery store. He really took good care of her.

AN: He carried more of her groceries—now that you ask that question—he carried more groceries, he carried a lot of groceries. [laughing] We would actually, occasionally, if mother had a really big load, we would take a taxi. Now I hated to take a taxi. I—to me taking a taxi was being poor.

RN: Well, taxi; a taxi, you know, we went all over town [inaudible].

AN: Yea, but I would really kind of hide. I didn't want anybody to see me in a taxi because it meant that we were poor. How do you like that? [laughing] We didn't have a

car. This is when I was, you know, a little girl.

BH: You said you had such a happy home.

AN: We did. We did. We all got along very well.

RN: I quarreled a lot with my mother, over boys mostly. [laughing]

AN: We were not an unhappy family. Absolutely not.

RN: We went to Girls' State.

AN: We had a set of parents, you know, we were, we were in fact the important, most important thing in our parents' lives, especially to my mother. To her detriment because she thought all along she didn't have her rights.

RN: I think that we always lived on my father's insurance debts or somewhere near until we moved to Grand, because my father didn't have to walk as far. But those people only knew Jews from what we were. They knew we were Jewish and that what Jews were, was what the Kasten family is.

HR: You were their only experience.

RN: There was never any hostility or anti-Semitism or anything, and most of the time, my father, they thought, because he had blonde hair and blue eyes, he was Russian—they thought he was Swedish. He had an accent, you know, a heavy accent. They didn't know what the accent was. And his policyholders loved him. When he retired, they came to the house like crazy begging him not to retire and everything. My father felt that Metropolitan Life had given him a gift, and he had paid his debt, and he was out of it. After retirement he took care of the yard, he sat on the porch; he read the Jewish paper that came two days late. He loved it.

AN: But we excelled in spite of the fact that we were not a part of the German-Jewish community. We ultimately were well thought of because...

RN: My brother held it against the congregation that although they had an organist and there were various people that sang the choir that they never asked us to do any music.

AN: I used to sing with them when I was home.

RN: We sang once when he was at VMI. We sang once in the choir at one of the Baptist or Methodist churches. But our congregation never asked us. Maurice thought that they never cared about us at all.

AN: On the other hand, they sent me off to camp; they paid my way to a Jewish camp when I was in high school.

RN: He made me come to Sunday school an hour before Sunday school started on Sunday and we walked from Thirteenth Street to Eleventh Street and about Eighteenth or so. He made me go an hour early so he could play that piano and try to get Ravel's Bolero. And my job was to play that rhythm for as long as he was

hunting for the notes and not stop 'til he was finished.

BH: Ladies, this has been wonderful.

RN: I don't know how much you learned about junior college.

BH: We learned an awful lot.

HR: As it always does, it turns into more than just the—it's more than the college, it's about life and that a—those are eras and situations that are long gone, and I think there's a great need to preserve.

AN: I mean, you know, who's going to walk anymore to school?

RN: Nobody walks to school.

BH: That may change.

HR: We hunt parking places.

AN: My friend, Sue Ellen, her family had a car, and she could work at Dixie Cup at night whereas I had to work at Hunt's, so she earned a lot more money. She didn't have that car during the day. Her father took the car to work, and her mother ran a beauty shop in the front room on Thirty-something Street, Sue Ellen. So here was another person who had to go to junior college.

RN: I enjoyed my years at the Colonial Hospital. I mean, in the first place, it was a historic place that nobody paid any attention to. Pretty Boy Floyd used to put his gunmen on the stairs when he would go up to see his wife, so the story went. And it was a beautiful building; it was Hanging Judge Parker's home. So the rooms had beautiful tiles...

HR: Was that right on Dodson?

RN: It was right on Dodson.

HR: Where Holt Krock is.

RN: Tore it all down for the Holt Krock, tore it all down. But it was a beautiful historic house.

AN: They wouldn't let Keck practice in the hospitals because he had what was basically an HMO.

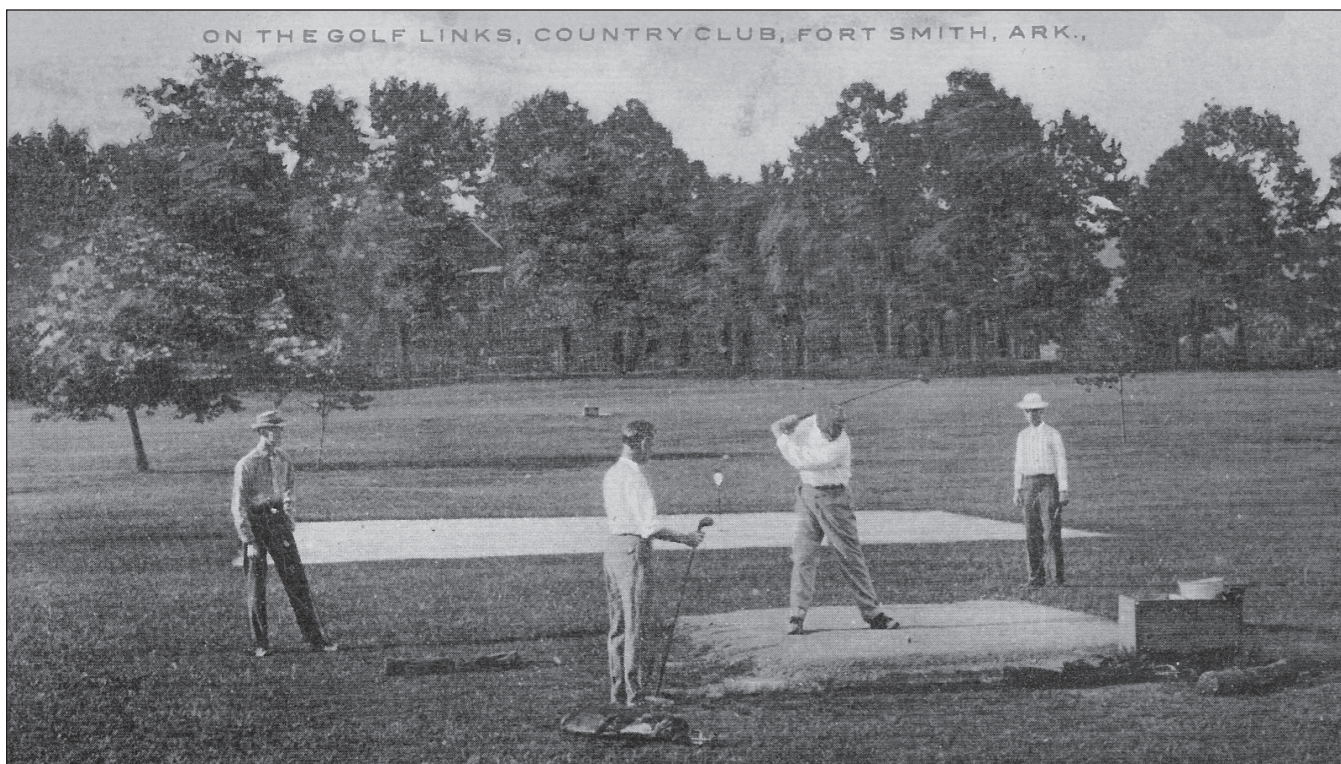
HR: And they said it was socialism.

RN: But I think I am the one that made them [Colonial] bankrupt. Because my mother said if you charge something that you pay the bill the next month. And he [Dr. Keck] bought an orthopedic table, and I paid for the whole thing the next month instead of making payments. Result was nobody got paid that month because he didn't have money for salaries. [laughing]

RN: So, I was not good for that organization, but I was there when Marian [Keck] married Nic [Wintory].

BH: Well, thank you very much ladies. We appreciate your time and all these wonderful memories. You have made a great contribution to us.

AN: Well, a lot of those memories I didn't realize I still had.



CARD POSTMARKED SEPTEMBER 4, 1909, showing golfers on first tee at Fort Smith Country Club.

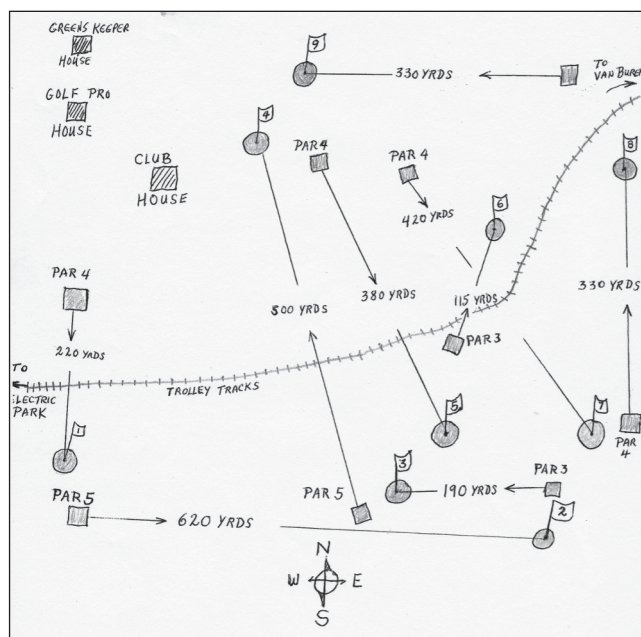
Fort Smith Country Club

A brief history of the period 1903-1955

By Dusty Helbling

A group of Fort Smith citizens organized the Fort Smith Country Club in 1903. They hired Alex Findlay of Wright and Ditson Sporting Goods to design a golf course. Alex was a famous golfer from Montrose, Scotland, who came to the United States in 1887. Over the years, Findlay designed 125 golf courses from Canada to the Bahamas.

The par-36, 3,105-yard golf course with nine holes and sand greens was completed and opened in 1904. The greens keeper may have run things for a couple of years with help from club members, as Leslie Brownlee from North Berwick, Scotland, was hired as Fort Smith Country Club's first pro in 1906 by Harry E. Kelley. Brownlee designed a nine-hole course for Lake View Country Club in Oklahoma City in 1907 and for the Muskogee Country Club in 1908. Brownlee recommended a friend, Bill Nichols from North Berwick, Scotland, as their golf pro. Then, in 1909 Brownlee recommended Arthur "Al"



1904 MAP of Fort Smith Country Club, showing layout of nine holes, club buildings, and the trolley track route that became Highway 64 into Van Buren.



LOVING CUP trophy from 1909 won by Fort Smith Country Club golfers over a team from Muskogee, Oklahoma, Country Club, 52 matches to 6.

Kendall, also from North Berwick, for the golf pro position at Fort Smith Country Club, as he was leaving to become a medical student. An interesting fact is Brownlee, Nichols, and Kendall all grew up living on the same street together in North Berwick.

Shortly after his arrival at Fort Smith Country Club, Al Kendall designed the Shreveport, Louisiana, Country Club course. Dan Mackay, a club maker from North Berwick, arrived to stay with the Kendalls a short time before moving to Oklahoma and then in 1916 was appointed golf pro at Springfield, Ohio, Country Club.

In June 1909, a tournament between Muskogee Country Club and Fort Smith Country Club golfers was held at Fort Smith. This was a match play with fifty-eight matches, of which Fort Smith won fifty-two. Another tournament in 1911 brought Little Rock Country Club members to Fort Smith, and the local golfers came out ahead again. Obviously, the Scottish pros were giving local golfers a firm foundation.

The man who probably selected and trained the Fort Smith golfers, Al Kendall returned to Scotland in 1912, married, and brought his wife back to Fort Smith where they set up house at 48 Waldron Road.

In 1912, Fort Smith Light & Traction Company started surveying for trolley tracks from Electric Park at Waldron and Eleventh streets, (Midland Boulevard), to a bridge under construction across the Arkansas River to Van Buren. It seems a franchise for electric street car to run from Fort Smith to Van Buren, upon a bridge being constructed, had been approved back in 1893. I assumed this gave right-of-



(ABOVE) Seventeen-year-old Henry Helbling, in classic follow through form.

(BELOW) Henry W. Helbling, pictured in 1993 at the age of 84 on the second green using his cross-hand putting style sixty-seven years after he set a Fort Smith Country Club course record.





CLUB HOUSE OF THE FSCC that was located on the north side of the trolley tracks subsequently destroyed by fire.

way to lay the track along the most direct route. Fort Smith Light and Traction budgeted \$16,000 for this project, a development that had to be a great shock to members of Fort Smith Country Club since the route crossed right through the course. Maybe this had been undisclosed to the founders of the golf club in 1903, when they purchased the land. Whatever happened, they ended up with trolley tracks crossing five of the fairways. This would be along the present-day U.S. Highway 64.

The right-of-way through the course changed the way you had to play the holes because when a ball hit the tracks, it would bounce any direction. Then you had the electric lines and poles to contend with. Eventually, they had to change the whole layout of the course so as that golfers did not have to play across the tracks, except on number one and finished playing number nine along the north side of the tracks. The clubhouse and first tee also were on the north side.

Al Kendall left Fort Smith Country Club in 1917 and



SIGN on the current club house railing.

worked at the Goldman Hotel until 1922, when he took a golf pro position at Wichita Falls, Texas, staying there until 1924. He then moved to Dennison Texas Country Club where he stayed from 1925 to 1928.

Another golf pro at Fort Smith Country Club, John Gatherum, learned the sport at St. Andrews, Scotland. Gatherum came to the states in 1909 and was a pro in Michigan, St. Louis, and two Chicago area clubs. He played a lot of tournaments, including the U.S. Open in 1911, 1914, and 1916. After coming to Fort Smith, in 1917, he won the Oklahoma City Open in 1919. This was a major tournament at that time. Gatherum was the golf pro here until 1926 when he went to Oakhurst Country Club in Tulsa.

Around 1925 a large part of the Fort Smith Country Club membership wanted to build a new golf course with eighteen holes. This ended up being Hardscrabble Country Club, which opened in 1927. Al Hurschfelter replaced Gatherum as golf pro, and the



DESERTED COURSE *as it looked on July 31, 2016.*

membership had planned for him to move to Hardscrabble when it opened. Instead, Hardscrabble brought in Frank Lewis from Texas as its golf pro.

Fort Smith Country Club was sold to United Commercial Travelers, which changed to U.C.T. Country Club. I am not sure if Hurschfelter stayed on as their pro or for how long. I remember Joe Duram was the pro in the last 1930s and 1940s at U.T.C. Leo Byrum may have been pro at one time at U.C.T. However, he replaced my father, Henry Helbling, at Rolling Knolls Country Club in 1941. Fort Smith Country Club's original club house burned down in 1940. It was sad to lose the old building. It was located where the Forest Park Cemetery office stands today. U.C.T. sold the land where the Sky View Drive In theater was in the 1940s.

The big change came in 1955, when Pete Parker bought U.C.T. and moved the golf course and club house to the south side of Highway 64. The cemetery took over the land on the north side. It was dangerous for golfers in those days, trying to cross the highway in traffic with metal spikes on their shoes. I think the trolley operation ceased in the late 1920s, or early 1930s, and U.S. Highway 64 replaced the tracks so the golf course was divided by the wide paved road anyway. The history of Fort Smith

Country Club since the Parker family until today is known by many, so I will not go further with this.



Dusty Helbling, the author of this piece of early twentieth-century golf in Fort Smith, lived on North Greenwood Avenue as a teenager, and he once threw the Southwest American paper on a bicycle route in the neighborhood of Arkhola Sand and Gravel. Further east on O Street was the Rolling Knolls Country Club where his father, Henry, became golf pro in 1932. This article was written a few years ago, but seems timely now as Fort Smith Country Club recently ceased operation, the ground now lying fallow, awaiting, perhaps, a rebirth.

Bibliography

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Who Knew?

The Civil War in Sebastian County, Arkansas, began a whirlwind of events that became a nightmare for one farm family that even Dorothy couldn't have imagined. It continued to blow them all the way to Kansas and dropped them back down to a farm in Sebastian County, where we find them five years later.

Who knew a family could become refugees without even leaving the county? It happened that way. This is only a partial story of the effects that the Civil War had on a family, the James and Eliza Allison family of Sebastian County. It is a story of love.

We know by the actions that a mother and father had for their children and their children's safety, they loved their babies dearly. The children in turn loved each other. We know because they stayed together after their parents died. How selfless were the older children who for the sake of their younger siblings raised them for another six years or more after their parents' death when the youngest was at least seventeen.

Question: I have ancestors from Sebastian County, who, apparently, in 1864, during the Civil War, went to Fort Smith for safety.

There is sketchy evidence in a journal that they were part of a wagon train of refugees sent to Fort Scott, Kansas, in about August 1864. Both husband and wife died one day before reaching Fort Scott, but the children were placed with relatives and friends through the duration of the war in the Fort Scott vicinity.

The parents' names are James Bird Allison and Elizabeth Ann O'Kelley Allison. The journal entry indicates that James Bird Allison was a Master Mason, and their burial was handled by the Masons, presumably in or near Fort Scott.

Any information about refugee wagon trains, participant names, dates, as well as any background information would be greatly appreciated.

I am able to come there and do further research if necessary, and am willing to pay your society or a research person for the research. I would also like to join the Historical Society.

Thanks,

B G

Answer: B G, I am in hopes this information can be of help to you. During the timeline you gave me, I found no mention of a couple who died traveling from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Fort Scott, Kansas, with the surname Allison. There were often attacks on that route. These wagon trains had military escorts. Often newspaper reports would consist of the number of passengers killed and injured.

Farmers and those in rural areas were being shot and their houses burned down. On the same hand the Union soldiers were in the middle of a war, fighting two battles—the battle to keep innocent citizens safe and the battle against the Rebel forces in war. The federal troops were pulled in two directions. The soldiers did well with limited resources, the aid of volunteers who used their talents and worked hard to make life easier and provide basic needs for the citizens. A sad time for our country. I am so sorry that your family had to go through such a difficult time. They must have felt defeated and deserted at times.

The information below explains conditions your family faced. Bushwhackers, (Union and Rebel deserters and criminals), who stole food and livestock, took any valuables in the home, killed innocent citizens, leaving no witnesses, and torched the homes of their victims. The Allison family had no choice, they had to leave the farm.

It would take hours to read through all of the micro-filmed newspapers with only a chance of finding the cause of James and Elizabeth Allison's death. Answers will be difficult to find on this end. Some portions of the micro-film are difficult to read because of the condition of the newspapers, ink blurs, etc. The newspaper was printed under difficult conditions.

Wagon trains with refugees, like the Allisons, traveled to Fort Scott, Kansas, for safety from approaching Rebel soldiers. The ability to get supplies to Fort Smith was diminishing.

The *Fort Smith New Era* newspaper had ad after ad asking for men to drive wagons to Kansas. The drivers knew they had to pass through Indian Territory, where most tribes were friendly but there still were hostile tribes who attacked the wagons. They faced bushwhackers and, of course, the Rebels. Keep in mind there is a chance James and Eliza might have died due to an illness.

Marriage of Elizabeth and James Allison

Name: Elizabeth Ann O'Kelley **Female Birth:** NC
Birth Yr.: 1811

Spouse James Bird Allison **Spouse Birth Place:** NC
Spouse Birth Yr.: 1819 **Marriage Yr.** 1833

1850 United States Federal Census District 7 Rhea

County, Tennessee (Census taken Nov.9,1850)

James D Allison	34	M	Farming	600*	North Carolina
Eliza	39	F			North Carolina
Francis W	16	M	Farming		North Carolina

Attended School

Mary A	10	F			Tennessee
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Attended School

Clarissa A.	7	F			Tennessee
Nancy E	4	F			Tennessee
Willis R	2	M			Tennessee

***Real Estate Property**

**US General Land Office Records, 1796-1907
for James B Allison- Arkansas- Sebastian, 252**

United States of America

C E R T I F I C A T E

Graduation S & C,

NO. 4.614

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas James B. Allison, of Sebastian County, Arkansas, has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a Certificate of the Register Of The Land Office at Clarksville, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said James B. Allison, according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, titled, "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the South half of the South West fractional quarter, of section nine, in Township five North, of Range thirty West, in the district of lands subject to sale at at (sic) Clarksville, Arkansas, containing eighty two acres and thirty hundredths of an acre, according to the official plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said James B. Allison, Now Know Ye, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premise and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents Do Give and Grant, unto one James B. Allison, and to his heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances. Of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging unto the said James B. Allison, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony Whereof, I, James Buchanan,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made **PATENT**, and the **SEAL** of the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON**, the first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES** the eighty fourth,

(Seal) **BY THE PRESIDENT:** James Buchanan.

J. N. Granger, Recorder of the General Land Office.

1860 Federal Census-Sugarloaf, Sebastian, Arkansas

Post Office: Sugarloaf

Dwelling Number: 246 **Family Number:** 234

James B Allison, M 44, Born North Carolina, Farmer, 1,000* 150, born abt. 1816**

Eliza Allison, F 47, Born North Carolina, cannot read/write

Mary Allison, F 17, Born Tennessee, school

Calvin Allison, M 15, Born Tennessee, school

Nancy Allison, F 13, Born Tennessee, school

Wiley Allison, M 10, Born Tennessee, school

Virginia Allison, F 7, Born Tennessee, school

Real Estate Property*

Personal Property**

During the Civil War, due to events such as those performed by the Bushwhackers, your relatives living on the outskirts of Fort Smith in the Sugarloaf area realized it was no longer just the Southern Rebel troops they had to worry about and that they would be safer in the Fort and they went there.

From the Fort Scott National Historic Site, Fort Scott, Kansas, website:

Fort Scott in the Civil War. Haven for the

Homeless—From the very start of the war, Fort Scott provided a safe harbor for refugees. In the beginning, families fleeing the warfare in Missouri poured into Kansas and Fort Scott. Later thousands of homeless passed through from Arkansas and the Indian Territory. These included hundreds of free Blacks, escaped slaves, Indians, and pro-Union settlers. Often arriving with few possessions and settled in makeshift camps about town, the most destitute of these refugees received help from the Army and citizens of Fort Scott.

Could the following be part of your family after fleeing to Kansas? Ages do not match exactly but close. Since the parents are deceased, the person providing the information could be guessing ages when providing census information. (If the death date you have for James B. Allison is correct, this is the most

likely the wagon train in which your family left.)

Fort Smith Cradle of the First Southern Free State

UNION CIVILIANS FLEE FORT SMITH—The exodus of Union citizens from Fort Smith to other parts of the Union that had begun in early summer was stepped up. Every steamboat or wagon train that left was full of refugees. On August 8, 1864, a refugee wagon train of 1,500 began their exodus from Fort Smith, leaving the mountains and valley of Arkansas.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, August 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 2—The Refugee Train Left here last Monday. It was the largest train that ever went North from this place and was composed of a better class of people than have gone heretofore.

It was a sad sight to us to see those who have been raised among the mountains and vallies (sic) of Arkansas leaving homes which they have made by long years of toil; and turning their faces to a strange land not knowing that ever another spot will be home to them, and as it were, having to begin life over again. This is but one of the results of the war which has been forced upon the Nation by a Slave Aristocracy.

These refugees will for the most part become citizens of the new North-western States, adding to them wealth and prosperity, and making for themselves homes where they can follow the industrial arts, agriculture, in peace and quietude.

Arkansas, situated as it is, will be a battle ground during the existence of the rebellion, and be in an unsettled state long after the war is at an end thus keeping many persons who desire to make this their future home from returning.

Truly, treason makes a fair field a desert.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, August 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 1—The editor left for St. Louis with his family, last Monday, where he will leave them during the coming Winter. He will visit Washington City before he returns.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, August 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 1—Rev. J. B. McAfee, Chaplain of the 2nd Kansas Col'd, went North with the refugee train. For the last two months this gentleman has been spending his whole time in the interests of these poor people. Giving up his own comfort he has worked day after day rendering them essential.

DAILY TIMES [LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS], August 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 2 a Fort Smith Items. From the

Fort Smith Era of the 6th inst., we gather the following items: Several of the men taken prisoners in the fight on the 27th ult., on Mazzard, (Sic) Prairie, have made their escape from their captors, and came in a few days ago. They belong to the 6th Kansas cavalry. They were in a very destitute condition, the rebels, according to their mode of warfare, having stripped them of the most of their clothing. One scanty meal a day was all the food they received. This is no worse, however, than the rebels fare themselves.

They confirm the previous estimates made of the rebels, setting them down at ten thousand, with ten pieces of artillery.

The following is a list of mortalities in General Hospital, Fort Smith, Ark., for the month of July: [list]

Information received lately from Texas represents the condition of Union men horrible in the extreme. They are hunted down like wild beasts, and no mercy whatever is shown them.

Another party of about 1,500 persons are about to set out from this place to seek temporary or permanent homes in the Northern States.

Many, if not most of them, are in destitute circumstances, having been utterly ruined by the war. They belong of course to the loyal part of the people, for the secesh and their sympathizers, have either gone South or stay in the country under a pretense of loyalty. The late raid of the rebels near this place, has driven all those who lived in comparative [sic] security within the lines of fortification, many escaping with little more than their lives.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, October 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 1—More Refugees A large train of refugees left here the first part of the week for Kansas. Among them were many of our best Union citizens, farmers and mechanics who remained here through the summer, hoping that they would be permitted to return to their homes and farms this fall; but the unsettled state of the country and scarcity of provisions make it necessary for them to winter in the North. Many, when the troubles are over, will come back to Arkansas, but most of them will permanently settle in Kansas and the States of the Northwest.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, October 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 2—Gone North. Dr. Winans, Medical Purveyor of this District, and Dr. Stuckslager of the 12th Kansas, went North with the train. Dr. W. will be absent for several weeks during which time Dr. Wood will act as Medical Purveyor.

After the Civil War ended in April 1865, the U.S. Army remained at Fort Scott through the summer. By October, the Army had sold their buildings and military surplus at public auction, the hospital was closing down, and the last troops were marching home. The town resumed a quieter pace, steadily growing as frontier America expanded, until the next sweep of change brought by the great railroads left its imprint on Fort Scott's history.

1865 Kansas State Census- Mound City, Linn County, Kansas (Taken June 1865)

Dwelling 169

Mary Allison	F 25	Tennessee	900*	Single
Wiley R."	M 14	Tennessee		Single
Nancy E. "	F 20	Tennessee		Single
Harriet V. "	F 11	Tennessee		Single
Francis W. "	M 31	No Carolina		Farm-
	100*	Married		
Sarah Jane"	F 26	Tennessee		Married
John M Ferguson	M 38	Tennessee		Farm-
	125*	Single		
Tennessee A."	F 14	Tennessee		Single
Theodore A."	M 11	Tennessee		Single
Eliza D. *	F 8	Tennessee		Single
Mira M."	F 5	Arkansas		Single

*Personal property +possibly Virginia Allison in 1860 Census

I found what I believe to be your family had returned to Arkansas in 1870. Census shows them in Washburn, Sebastian, Arkansas. You can do more research but the land is likely the same they were on in 1860. There were quite a few townships being formed as the areas became more densely populated after the war. Washburn in Sebastian County could have been part of Sugarloaf at one time. There is still a community in Arkansas named Washburn but the mailing address will have a different name because of rural mail routes.

1870 Census Washburn, Sebastian County, Arkansas (Taken August 5, 1870)

Dwelling 62

Francis Allison, M-W, 35, N Carolina, Farmer, 400*, 300**, cannot read/write, male 21+

Sarah J (Allison), F-W, 32, Tennessee, Keeps house
Sarah Brenam, F-W, 65, Tennessee, At home, cannot write

Dwelling 63

Calvin Allison, M-W, 26, Tennessee, Farmer, 400*, 275**, cannot write, male 21+

Mattilda (Allison), F-W, 21, N Carolina, Keeps house
Charles Allison, M-W, 4/12, Tennessee, At home
Virginia (Allison), F-W, 17, Tennessee, At home,

cannot write

Wiley (Allison), M-W, 22, Tennessee, At home, cannot write

***Real Estate property **Personal property**

We did have an inquiry in *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, Volume 22, No. 2, September, 1998. It read as follows:

Bloodworth, Harp, O'Kelley

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

I looked up the *Journal* query name, Carline A. Brown Doyle, in hopes that you could be given current contact information. Carline died in 2004, I am sorry to say....She leaves behind her husband, Gene Doyle, a son, Robert Brown and wife Tina of Little Rock, and her granddaughter, Caitlin Brown. She has a brother, C. H. Harp of Wilmington, North Carolina. Perhaps you can contact one of these relatives who might know more about her research, perhaps took over her research.

Carline Ann (Harp, Brown) Doyle, 67, of Little Rock, passed away Sunday, September 19, 2004. She was born December 27, 1936, in Norman, Oklahoma, to the late C. H. and Elvae Mae (Rodgers) Harp. She was a retired purchasing agent for Borden Dairy after thirty years of service. She is survived by her husband, son ...Brown, and his wife of Little Rock ...; a granddaughter, one brother ...Harp of Wilmington, North Carolina. Funeral services Tuesday, September 21, 2004, at First Baptist Church, Interment, Forest Hills Cemetery.

Nancy Emeline Allison was born December 1845, in Rhea County, Tennessee, and died on October 22, 1883, in Seminole, Oklahoma, when she was thirty-seven years old. She had one son with William Lee Harp.

William Lee Harp was born August 29, 1848, Hartford, Crawford County, Arkansas (now Sebastian County, Arkansas, an old mining town.)1900 Census living in Purdy, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, with second wife Mary E.

**Texas Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics
Standard Certificate of Death
Texas Death Certificate- (stamped #7010, Registrar**

#7) Death in Collin County, Texas, White, born August 29, 1848, widowed, widower of Bettie Harp, occupation Methodist Minister. 34 years, birthplace Sebastian County, Arkansas, Father- Martin M. Harp/Mother- Sarah A. Bloodworth. Informant, Harry Harp, Sherman, Texas, Burial- 2/7/1933, Celina, Texas, Undertaker-Donnel-Scott, File Date 2/18/1933, J. F. Wister, Registrar. Date of Death, Feb. 6, 1933,

Medical Certificate of Death

Dr. began to helped/attended patient- Attended deceased January 22- Feb. 5, 1933. Death 4 AM, Influenza Onset- Jan. 20th contributed by Senility, no autopsy, occupation not related death, J F Collins, MD Celina, Texas.

Child of Nancy Emeline Allison and William Lee Harp

Charles Henry Harp, born on October 16, 1872, in Dayton, Arkansas, Sebastian County, Arkansas. When Charles registered in the World War I draft his occupation was real estate and loans—self-employed. Minnie Harp, Elmer, Oklahoma, was his closest relative. He is described as tall, slender, blue eyes, dark hair. Registered 9/10/1919. State of Oklahoma, Altus, Oklahoma. Age 45.

Married- October 11, 1889, Purdy, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory

Minnie Bell Vernon, born on February 27, 1873, in Ellis County, Texas. Died April 11, 1972, 89, Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma, burial Norman I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Cleveland, OK.

Children of Charles Henry Harp and Minnie Bell Vernon

Eva Dora Harp, F, 1900-1988, b. Purdy, Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma

Eunice Bell Harp, F, 1901-1992, b. Purdy, Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma

Minnie Lee Harp, F, 1903-1997, b. Sulphur Springs, Oklahoma

Winnie Dee Harp, F, 1904-1956, b. Sulphur Springs, Oklahoma

Lena Esther Harp, F, 1904-1905, b. Sulphur Springs, Oklahoma

Florence Laura Harp, F, 1905-1975, b. Sulphur Springs, Oklahoma

Carl Henry Harp, M, 1907-1986, b. Elmer, Oklahoma

Jeannie Pearl Harp, F, 1914-1914, b. Elmer, Oklahoma

Josephine Myrl Harp, F, 1923-1991, b. Elmer, Oklahoma

I research this family and it appears that Carline Harp Brown Doyle is a descendent of a sibling of James Bird Allison.

Answer: MJ, Thank you for the information you have provided us. It really gives us a better idea of just what the conditions were there in 1864...how horrible! Your many hours of work on this project is very much appreciated.

We did find a news article on microfiche in Fort Scott about the death of James and Eliza(beth) Allison. They actually arrived in Fort Scott in poor condition and lived a few days, but both died within a day of each other. We have not found their graves for sure, but according to a local historian, they may be in section of the local cemetery without any tombstones. BG

Question: I am so glad that you like the information. It is exciting for us when we find answers. – MJ

BG, RE: Was it family lore or fact that a Masonic Lodge buried James B and Elizabeth Allison?

Thought these numbers might be of help with your search for graves of James B. and Elizabeth Allison.

The Rising Sun Lodge #8, 902 South National Avenue, Fort Scott, KS 66701 Meets 1st Monday 620-233-0249. .

Valley of Fort Scott, A&ASR, Executive Secretary, PO Box 789, Fort Scott, Kansas 66701, 620-223-1330 fsscot-tishrite@hotmail.com. Greenwood Masonic Lodge Hall, 311 West Ash, Greenwood, Arkansas 72976, 2nd Th.

Answer: Thank you once again. We have contacted the Masonic Lodge in Fort Scott and they are in the process of retrieving some records that might point to burial site. We have also contacted the cemetery there and were told there is a section where some Masons are buried. They are checking on names to determine if any are the Allison. If we dead-end there, we will check the additional sources you have provided. BG

Answer: BG, Great, I am so glad you have already contacted the Masonic Lodge in Fort Scott. I am excited about your findings. We know what it is like to make connections and are interesting in your results.

We are volunteers who had a need to know a part of history. We all started out the same way, with a question. There was someone there to answer it for us too. Believe me, all of the volunteers are excited too when answers are found.



Who Knew is a regular feature of the Journal. It is selected and written by Mary Jeanne Black, Inquiry Coordinator of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Book Review

Joanne Riddick, *The McDonnell House*. Epic Bound Books, LLC, 2015. Pp. 317. Hardcover.

For many, reminiscing about the past is achieved by looking through old photo albums. For others, this ritual involves watching home movies or listening to stories told by the older generations. Joanne Riddick has taken this concept of family storytelling to the highest level with her self-published “coffee table” book, *The McDonnell House*. This work details the rich history of her family told through stories connected by photographs. The work’s title depicts the deep attachment the family has for a historic home nestled in the hills of the Pulaski Heights neighborhood of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Riddick undertook the monumental task of putting this book together through the request of her son, David. As the self-proclaimed, “family historian” she sifted through hundreds of boxes of materials, including family pictures, newspaper articles, and letters. The book begins with Riddick tracing her lineage back to the twelfth century, where her family were members of the Clan McDonnell of Glengarry in the Highlands of Scotland. She includes a pictorial genealogy of her family that traces her roots in Scotland to her great-great grandfather, James McDonnell.

In 1745, James McDonnell fled Scotland during the rising turmoil of the “Highland Clearances,” which were a mass forced eviction of tens of thousands of highlanders by British landowners. McDonnell, his wife and son, Archibald arrived in Buncombe County, North Carolina. They survived as tenant farmers, and in 1796 Archibald, now twenty years of age, moved the family to Alabama.

In the early 1900s, the McDonnells arrived in Arkansas, where they set out to plant roots by building their historic house in the Pulaski Heights neighborhood of Little Rock. Riddick’s mother, Susan Belle McDonnell, oversaw the entire construction of the family home. The house was built in the colonial revival style for the period. Riddick provides several photos of the finished house and key elements of style from inside the house.

Riddick continues the story of her family by describing the lives of her brothers and sisters and their lives in Arkansas. The book includes pictures and stories of family holidays such as Christmas, Halloween, and other major events that effected their lives. She describes her childhood and her own marriage with photos and stories.

The modern era of the United States including the evolution of airplanes is depicted and shown through the involvement of her family in the industry.

Even though this book is clearly meant for entertainment purposes, Riddick provides a historical glimpse into the history of how families moved west across the growing nation of America during the early nineteenth century. In the case of Riddick’s family their journey led them to Little Rock, Arkansas. For many families, their journey would continue west towards the Pacific Ocean.

This work is a great example of a “coffee table” book and Riddick should be commended for her efforts. The collection of information and pictures she included in this book are well received by this reader. It is without question this work will be a discussion piece for her family and friends for years to come.

Reviewed by Steve Bowman. Mr. Bowman holds a master’s degree in Healthcare Administration and is pursuing a graduate degree in history at Arkansas Tech University.

Daniel R. Maher, *Mythic Frontiers: Remembering, Forgetting, and Profiting with Cultural Heritage Tourism*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2016. Pp. 294. Maps. Bibliography.

This book explores the difference between history and heritage, or more particularly, heritage in the service of tourism. The setting is Fort Smith, so there is much here that will be familiar to people interested in Sebastian County history. And there are likely some surprises. If you want some new perspectives on local history, I recommend that you try this book.

The author, Daniel Maher, is an academic and a cultural anthropologist, and his book was published by an academic press, the University Press of Florida, as a volume in its Cultural Heritage series. This is the intersection of history, American studies, anthropology, and historic archeology. Volumes in the series seek to “understand...the material and behavioral characteristics of heritage. How do we interpret the present and the past?” The rationale for the study as it is laid out by Maher, and

some of his discussions as he leads the reader through a variety of topics, use generous amounts of technical terms that aren't found in a casual history, so this is a challenging read for non-professionals. The book is packed with historical details, though, meticulously cited and accompanied by an extensive bibliography, that are guaranteed to reward the reader with much new information and food for thought.

In many ways, Fort Smith is an ideal subject for this kind of study because the city and its residents celebrate and promote a heritage that embraces a historical "frontier" theme. This is expressed in many ways that include the preserved architectural landscape, historical exhibitry and performance, popular history, and tourist enticements. The current activities to build a U.S. Marshals Museum, the topic of the book's last chapter, are another continuing effort to promote and embrace a frontier-related connection that will offer Fort Smith as an attractive tourist destination.

Maher first looks at the broad idea of "frontier" as it exists in history and popular culture, then uses the concept of "frontier complex" to examine several themes of frontier Fort Smith history and myth. His frontier complex is the group of circumstances and situations that are associated with much of the land in the Louisiana Purchase from the time of its formation in 1803 to 1907, the year of Oklahoma statehood. He divides this period into smaller slices of time that are characterized by major historical trends; the first, Era of Removal extends from 1804 to 1848 when the last major Removal event took place. Mahe explores the major historical events and trends in each era on a regional and national level, and in the local Fort Smith level.

How much of the popularly presented recounting of

Fort Smith's origins and history, the lawlessness in Indian Territory, law and order in Arkansas and across the border, Judge Parker's fearsome influence, the social impact of brothels and their residents, and other frontier-related themes, are grounded in historical truth? How much is shaped, deliberately or through our own cultural filters, to convey a sense of the past that is largely imaginary, and is more attuned to our present day cultural attitudes and personal experiences than to what the old documents say? Mahe explores these questions through the various ways that a Frontier Fort Smith is expressed, portrayed, and acted out. Some evidence he presents varies widely from the commonly depicted modern presentations, both in institutions like the National Historic Site visitor center and in street and costumed performances.

Separate chapters focus on components of the Fort Smith frontier story. One, of course, is about law and order, Judge Parker, and the gallows. Another focusses on the inter-relationship of White, Indian and African stories and perceptions as they play out in history and in modern stories of the frontier. This includes an extended look at Bass Reeves, both in historic documentation and in the ways that his story has been shaped to emphasize and represent. Chapters also look at performances by reenactors and other figures, the background and initiative for the U.S. Marshals Museum, the economic realities of frontier tourism in many other places, and how women are portrayed in frontier heritage tourism.

Reviewed by Ann Marie Early. Dr. Early is Arkansas State Archeologist with the Arkansas Archeological Survey, an Associate Professor at UA Fayetteville, and a past president of the Arkansas Historical Association.

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1916 Newspapers

The second half of 1916 found Fort Smith enjoying an economic upturn as the war in Europe moved inexorably closer to home. Woodrow Wilson was re-elected, but the slogan that helped him do so, "He kept us out of war," would not remain true much longer. The principal news vehicle of the day for most Fort Smith residents was the Southwest American and the headlines each day brought more details of the World War now raging just across the Atlantic Ocean. But, here at home, life was good. New pockets of natural gas promising huge amounts of profitable energy seemed to be found almost daily and industry was booming. Southtown was expanding to accommodate new workers to fill the needs of its growing manufacturing base. Victor Moore, Mary Pickford, and Charlie Chaplain entertained citizens at Fort Smith's multiple theaters, and every week seemed to bring a new parade, rodeo, or fair to the city. Streets were crowded and dangerous as street cars, trains, and automobiles shared space with horse-drawn wagons and pedestrians. The manufacture and sale of alcohol was prohibited across Arkansas as a result of the Newberry Act of 1915, and Near Beer gained in popularity. The city experienced a heat wave with record temperatures causing citizens to press into service an impromptu beach where the Poteau River joins the Arkansas; leading to a police crackdown on the wearing of bathing suits on city streets. National strikes were everywhere in the news, and even the students at the local Fort Smith High School got into the act when one of their own was expelled over a questionable infraction. Women's suffrage was taking the country by storm and the ranks of fraternal organizations such as the Shriners swelled with new members—it was indeed, a great time to be alive in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Saturday, July 1, 1916

LAST JURY TRIALS ENDS IN ACQUITTAL

Joseph Limberg, white, a blacksmith and I. J. McNeal, negro restaurant keeper, were acquitted by separate juries in the circuit court Friday night on charges of illegally selling liquor. The jurors trying Limberg came before Judge Paul Little on two occasions to receive interpretations of the

judge's instructions. Following their last visit to the court room, they agreed upon a verdict within 15 minutes.

Immediately following the verdicts Judge Little discharged the jurors and this June term of court came to an end. It was marked by one hung jury in the criminal division. More than a score of persons were convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary.

Limberg's blacksmith shop was closed a month or so ago by injunction obtained by the prosecuting attorney under the Woods nuisance act.



Shooting Scrape Hearing

Will Watkins, negro, will be given a hearing before Judge P. C. Fisher on Monday on a charge of assault with intent to kill Bud Valentine, another negro, who was shot in the knee at Watkins' place of business, the Blue Goose restaurant at Ninth and Rogers, Thursday night. Valentine was confined to his bed Friday, but it is not thought his injuries are dangerous.

Sunday, July 9, 1916

SMELTER EMPLOYEES[sic] NEED 60 HOUSES

AT SOUTH FORT SMITH

At least sixty houses are needed in the immediate future at Sout[sic]

Forth[sic] Smith to house about 100 of the furnace men employed by the Fort Smith Smelter company's plant at that place, according to officials of the company. A dozen houses and a small hotel are now under construction there, but these will house only a very small part of the men who are seeking homes in the fast growing suburb.

The Mazzard[sic] Land company is building ten houses now, and the Boyer Lumber company has two under construction. A hotel with twelve rooms for boarders is also under construction.

Efforts to get a five cent fare to Fort Smith in order to allow the furnace men and other employes[sic] to live in this city have sa[sic] far failed of their object, and the smelter company is now endeavoring to secure capitalists here to invest in property near the plant.

The furnace men will number 120. All make comparatively good wages, and are able to live in good homes at reasonable rentals.

Tuesday, July 11, 1916

LOCAL COMPANY GETS CONTRACT FOR 1,000 WAGONS FOR U.S. ARMY

W. H. Johnson, general manager at the Fort Smith Wagon company, returned Monday morning from Moline, Ill., where he spent the past week conferring with officials of the John Deere Plow company, the parent organization of the Fort Smith company, concerning a contract that has been awarded the corporation by the United States government for 1,000 wagons for army use. Details of the contract were closed at the Moline conference.

The greater portion of the contract will be filled by the Fort Smith plant as all parts of the vehicles with exception of the wheels will be made here. The wheels will be supplied by the Moline plant. The wagons are to be built of oak, hickory and poplar. They are known as escort wagons and are used for commissary purposes.

The wagons are of medium weight and built for extra endurance and all kinds of climatic conditions. They are supplied with heavy canvas tops. The local plant will commence at once turning out the vehicles.

It is understood the contract price for the wagons approximates a half million dollars and that early delivery is one of the requirements.

More than a year ago the Fort Smith Wagon plant turned out a large contract for ambulance vehicles and artillery stocks for the European Allies.

Friday, July 14, 1916

MOVIE THEATRE FOR SOUTH FORT SMITH

Several store buildings, including a general store, a drug store and a picture show, are either under construction or in contemplation by owners of property in South Fort Smith. A building that will house a general merchandise store is now being built by James Ellis of Greenwood, on a lot north of the Arkansas Central station and west of the street car tracks. A drug store is now being planned and it is understood that the construction of the building will be started within the next thirty days. Robert Ibison of Fort Smith has purchased the lot just north of the Ellis property and it is understood he is considering erecting a building for a picture show on it. Another prospective purchaser of a lot in the city is considering opening a pool hall. At present there is no place of public amusement in the bustling suburb.

At least six new dwelling houses, four of them of brick,

are now under construction and more are in contemplation. In addition to these are the eleven houses of the Mazzard[sic] Land company and the two being built by the Boyer Lumber company, and a hotel being constructed by the Speer Hardware company.

Sunday, July 23, 1916

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-Mayor Fagan Bourland and his wife were recovering at their home, 405 North Sixteenth street Saturday evening from the injuries sustained in the accident Friday morning when their automobile was struck by a train of Kansas City Southern cars at the B street crossing. Mrs. Bourland was suffering with fever from her injuries last night, but her condition was not considered serious. Mr. Bourland was considerably improved though he is still confined to his bed most of the time. Mrs. Bourland was removed to her home early Saturday, where a nurse is in attendance. Mr. Bourland was taken home Friday.

Sunday, August 6, 1916

CASKET PLANT, EMPLOYING 350, LOCATES HERE

Although declining to make known the exact location, J. E. Tapley, secretary of the West-West Glass Casket company, of Wichita, Kan., having an authorized capital of a half million dollars, announced Saturday his company had selected Fort Smith for its factory. From other sources it is understood the plant will be located at Arkoma. Mr. Tapley has spent most of the past two months in Fort Smith investigating conditions. He says active construction work on the plant will be commenced within the next 30 or 60 days and that the entire factory will be in operation by January 1.

A bottle plant will be the first department to be placed in operation, he asserts, but while this plant is being constructed the main building and office building will be under way. The bottle plant will employ 60 persons Secretary Tapley says. Machinery for this plant is now being purchased and will be available at an early date.

According to Mr. Tapley the plant when completed will occupy 10 acres and will employ between 350 and 400 men. It will represent an investment of from \$100,000 to \$125,000, he estimates. Machinery for the glass caskets is made by special design and is not standard; as a result, such equipment is not available at once. However, it will be ready for delivery by the time the casket plant is completed.

At least two officers of the company and probably three will remove to Fort Smith and make this city their future home. Mr. Tapley expects to be one of this number. He stated yesterday the line of glass manufacture the company

had contemplated was varied, but with few exceptions it had not been fully determined what articles to manufacture. The company owns patents on a glass casket that has attracted wide attention. Those made here, however, will not be sold in Arkansas as a company operating in Ada, Okla., already holds the Arkansas rights.

One of the chief inducements that attracted the Mid-West company here was the abundance of natural gas. The company owns an inexhaustible supply of glass sand at Hickory, Okla. J. P. Miller, president of the Farmers' bank, of Jet, Okla., is president of the corporation. Not until contracts with railroads and other details are closed will the location of the plant be announced officially.

[Note 1: although I found several articles about this, it does not appear that the company ever opened a plant here and research has found no references specific to the West-West Glass Casket Company.]

Tuesday, August 8, 1916

CITY SOLONS TALK MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC PLANT WITH PUBLIC

The city commissioners will Tuesday commence "feeling the pulse" of the citizens on the question of a municipal electric light plant. At a conference to be held Tuesday morning plans will be devised to have members of the board call on the large electrical consumers of the city and interview them on the proposition of subscribing to an agreement to take current from the city in the event the city builds a plant.

The commission held a conference the greater part of Monday afternoon with Hiram Phillips, of the Phillips Engineering company, of St. Louis, who have just completed an elaborate survey for the proposed municipal system and at the end of discussion it was decided to start Tuesday interviewing prospective consumers. How long it will require to get in touch with these consumers and obtain their decision is not known, but members of the board expressed themselves as confident that the work could be done within a day or so.

In these interviews the reduced cost of current compared with the price charged at present will be explained to the consumers. Plans for the electrical system include 500 street lights and a white way for Garrison avenue. The cost of the system is estimated at \$300,000.

Saturday, August 12, 1916

BOY DROWNS IN POTEAU RIVER

Denver Dawson, 10 years old, drowned at the mouth of the Poteau river, just above the Gould bridge late Friday afternoon, when he became exhausted in deep water and sand before aid could reach him. A quantity of watermelon eaten just before he entered the water is held indirectly responsible for his death. Efforts of Coroner Hugh Johnson and members of the fire department to revive the boy with the pulmotor were fruitless, due, it was said, to the quantity of watermelon he had eaten.

The boy, a son of Mrs. Mary Dawson who lives at Eighteenth street and Little Rock avenue, had gone swimming with a number of companions in the river 50 yards above the bridge. Two Indian boatmen who live at the mouth of the Poteau, attracted by cries from the other boys, went to the lad's rescue, and one of them was within four

feet of the drowning boy when the lad went to the bottom.

The body was not recovered for half an hour. The pulmotor was used for half an hour more in a vain effort to resuscitate him. Large quantities of water, watermelon juice and pulp were removed from his stomach and lungs, but the pulmotor was never effective.

The body was removed to the Fentress Undertaking parlors where it was prepared for burial.

The accident occurred about 6 o'clock and attracted quite a crowd to the river front, which bathers have converted into a beach during the recent hot weather. Hundreds swim there each day, without thought of danger, as there is practically no current at this point, and the water shallow except for one stretch some 10 feet wide and about seven feet in depth. It was in this channel that young Dawson lost his life.

The boy's mother is a widow, who with her children, recently came here from Lamar, Ark. A 13-year-old brother of the dead boy was on the bank of the stream when the accident occurred. The boys helped support the family by working for ice wagons.

Tuesday, August 15, 1916

CAN'T STRUT AROUND ON STREET IN BATHING SUIT

Bathing suits are perfectly proper garments on the beach, but official ban has been placed on their use for



dress parade. Orders were issued to the police on Monday to arrest all persons seen in public places clad only in those comfortable, abbreviated costumes.

The matter was threshed out in police court Monday morning, after Patrolman Cowan at Iron Mountain depot had ordered J. C. Watts, baggage agent at the Iron Mountain, to appear in court. Watts had been swimming in the Poteau river Sunday evening, and walked to the Iron Mountain station looking altogether cool and comfy, but not altogether pleasing to the eyes of some of the spectators and the officer.

An old ordinance was resurrected Monday, prohibiting the appearance of bathers in public places in a "nude or partly nude" condition. A bathing suit is just enough apparel to constitute a partly nude condition in the opinion of the police, and the lid is now on.

Bathers in the river will not be molested, it is reclared[sic], but some arrangement must be made to change to street clothes at the river instead of at various places about town.

Scores of people are taking advantage of the natural beach at the point where the Poteau empties into the Arkansas just about the Gould bridge. The water there is clear and the sand beds form an excellent beach. The terrific heat of the past few weeks has made it a popular place. Many people go and return to the beach in their bathing suits in automobiles.

Police advise bathers there to secure tents for dressing rooms or make other arrangements that will meet the provisions of the ordinance.

Saturday, August 19, 1916

EX-GOV. DUKES WILL HEAD COWBOY PARADE

"Those good old days," when the "chapped," sombreroed, bandanaed and six-gun boys were familiar sights on the streets of Fort Smith, will be forcibly presented in the cowboy section of the Indian parade on Trades Day, August 26. George W. Dukes of LeFlore county, Oklahoma, ex-governor of the Choctaw nation, will head the parade, mounted on a big black horse to be furnished by John B. Williams of this city. In the parade will be numerous cowboys mounted on the wiry little cowponies for which the Williams "1 1 1" barn is famous.

While no regular cowboy program has been arranged for the day, the appearance of the bedecked "punchers" in the street pageant will lend a touch of western color to it.

The life of the frontier will be carried out throughout the day's entertainment. The Indian ball game between representatives of Pushmataha and LeFlore counties and Haskell and Latimer counties, will be the main event of the afternoon, and the presentation of Indian customs and

recreations under the title "The Passing of the Red Man," will be the big entertainment of the evening.

Sunday, August 20, 1916

These Merchants Offer 5 Per Cent Rebate

To All Out-of-Town Cash Customers

With every dollar's worth you buy in any of these stores you will receive a ticket good for its face value at all picture shows and Indian ball game. For instance: picture show admission is 10c—two of these tickets will admit you—and so on. No red tape—just make your purchases and ask for your tickets. They're absolutely free.

Rogers Hardware Co.	909 Garrison Avenue
Patrick Show Co.	913 Garrison Avenue
Krone Bros. Cigar Co.	1007 Garrison Avenue
Fort Smith Candy Kitchen	1010 Garrison Avenue
Mantor Clothing Co.	819 Garrison Avenue
Manning Cigar Co.	905 Garrison Avenue
Guarantee Shoe Store	809 Garrison Avenue
Caldwell's Central Drug Store	803 Garrison Avenue
Catron & Godt Drug Store	723 Garrison Avenue
Castling's Market	1006 Garrison Avenue
R. C. Bollinger Music Co.	704 Garrison Avenue
Morrow's Book Store	715 Garrison Avenue
Davis Drug Co.	706 Garrison Avenue
Sol C. Cohn & Co.	702 Garrison Avenue
C. J. Murta Furniture Co.	618 Garrison Avenue
Wolf-Pollack Dry Goods Co	624 Garrison Avenue
I. Moses Model Clothing Store	518 Garrison Avenue
W. A. Johnson Clothing Co.	616 Garrison Avenue
Fashion Shop	614 Garrison Avenue
J. B. Quinn Furniture Co.	502 Garrison Avenue
Boston Store Dry Goods Co.	722 Garrison Avenue
Isaacson's, Clothing	822 Garrison Avenue
Poe Shoe Store	710 Garrison Avenue
The Sample Shoe Store	800 Garrison Avenue
Southern Millinery Co.	712 Garrison Avenue
S. H. Kress & Co.	812-14 Garrison Avenue
Sanders China Co.	806 Garrison Avenue
Pierce Shoe Store	820 Garrison Avenue
Pendergrast & McShane	902 Garrison Avenue
Palace, Crescent & Sterling Drug Stores	Garrison Avenue
Nathan Clothing Co.	622 Garrison Avenue
Ben Wolf & Co.	413 Garrison Avenue
The Fair Store	315 Garrison Avenue
Tucker Duck & Rubber Co.	515 Garrison Avenue
Fox & Turner	607 Garrison Avenue
Narisi Brothers	714 Garrison Avenue
The Marks Store	708 Garrison Avenue
Buzan & Philpott	713 Garrison Avenue
J. H. Smythe, Jeweler	705 Garrison Avenue

John Kerwin, Harness	707 Garrison Avenue
Klein & Hardway, Jewelers	709 Garrison Avenue
Art Wall Paper Co.	807 Garrison Avenue
Hambrie Furniture Store	517 Garrison Avenue
Louis Weinstein, My Taylor	711 Garrison Avenue
D. M. Marks, Photographer	
Albin Supply Co.	unreadable address
Dundee Woolen Mills	813 Garrison Avenue
M. H. Marks Ready to Wear Store	818 Garrison Avenue
Brockman's Flower Shop	unreadable address
Woolworth Five and Ten Cent Store	Garrison Avenue
Pray & Brewer, Optometrists	unreadable address

The following firms have contributed to the Trade Day

fund but do not issue rebate tickets:

Elmo Caruthers	802 Garrison Avenue
O'Shea-Hinch Hardware Co.	924 Garrison Avenue
Leard & Mowrey	717 Garrison Avenue
City Electrical Supply Co.	17 North 8th St.
Hotel Main	Heart of Fort Smith
Crabtree Transfer & Baggage Co.	Hotel Main
J. A. Tibbits	Lobby First National Bank
John B. Edwards	Turf Pool Hall
Rightway Cleaning Co.	518 Garrison Avenue
J. W. Jenkins Music Co.	814 Garrison Avenue
Fort Smith Printing Co.	17-19 North 9th Street
Wide Awake Café	522 Garrison Avenue
Manhattan Café	504 Garrison Avenue
Yantis-Harper	19 North 7th Street
Darby and Bly, Quality Printers	18 North 7th Street
Calvert-McBride Printing Co.	19 North 8th Street
Kings Barber Shop	604 Garrison Avenue
First National Bank	Garrison Avenue
City National Bank	Garrison Avenue
Gulers Confectionary	503 Garrison Avenue
Berdelles Restaurant	611 Garrison Avenue
Arkansas Valley Bank	Garrison Avenue
Merchants National Bank	Garrison Avenue
Weaver & Co., Cigars & News Store	612 Garrison Avenue
Smoke Shop	600 Garrison Avenue

Saturday, August 26, 1916

ALAMO SHOWS TO EXHIBIT A WEEK

Arrangements were concluded Friday for The Great Alamo Shows to exhibit in Fort Smith the week of September 4, under the auspices of the local Maccabee lodge. The Alamo shows compose the third amusement enterprise of the well-known showman, Col. C. A. Wortham. For years Col. Wortham's attractions have been among the features of the Texas State fair at Dallas, the Missouri State fair, the Houston carnival and other prominent events. The Alamo shows

were recently organized by Col. Wortham and are now playing their first road engagement at the Independence, Mo., fair.

Everything in the outfit is brand new, including the merry-go-round, Ferris wheel and a host of other amusements. During the week the shows are here the Lady Maccabees will conduct a popularity contest among the working girls of the city. A handsome bicycle will be awarded to the most pular[sic] boy under 16 years of age.

The Alamo Shows will exhibit on the carnival grounds at South Ninth street and Rogers avenue.

Saturday, August 26, 1916

HALF HUNDRED INDIANS HERE FOR BALL GAME

Forty-four professional Indian ball players had arrived in Fort Smith at midnight[sic] Friday for the Indian ball game, parade and pageant here today and tonight, as features of Trades Day. The Indians are making Fort Smith their first stop on a tour of the eastern states, where they will exhibit their prowess at the ancient sport of the red man and stage Indian dances, concerts, etc.

To make way for the Western association ball game between the Twins and Sherman this afternoon, the Indian ball game has been moved up to 2:30 o'clock. The parade will start at two o'clock.

In the evening band concerts and dance will be featured on Garrison avenue.

The cowboy section of the parade is expected to be one of its spectacular features. "Arizona Charley" and his wife, who are here with a western feature film showing at the Princess, have consented to join in the pageant, and John B. Williams of One One One barn, has arranged for numerous cowboys and cow ponies to form the line of march.

Rebate tickets and window cards have been distributed to the participating merchants, and plenty more are available at the Business Men's club and the Merchants' association headquarters.

A rebate ticket good for five cents at the Indian ball game or to any picture show, is given with each dollar purchase by an out-of-town customer by each of the approximately 100 merchants participating.

Five of these tickets pay the admission to the Indian ball game at The Stadium and two pay the way to any picture show.

One of the largest crowds ever seen in Fort Smith is predicted by Ray Gill, secretary of the Business Men's club, and J. K. Drane of the Merchants' association, who have been in charge of the arrangements.

Programs of the day's events have been printed by the Dayton Tire Sales company, a new concern which recently has taken the agency for the Dayton Airless tire in the two

states. These will be widely distributed during the day.

Practically all of the participating merchants are offering special trade inducements.

Saturday, August 26, 1916

INJURIES FATAL TO MOTHER OF 11

Injuries which she sustained Wednesday evening in a runaway on Little Rock avenue caused the death of Mrs. R. R. Eskew, aged 48 years, of Sallisaw, Okla., in Sparks Memorial hospital about 6:30 o'clock Friday night. Mrs. Eskew never regained consciousness. She was thrown from a wagon to the brick pavement when a team her husband was driving took fright from a street car and ran away. Her husband and four children were also thrown from the vehicle, but escaped injury.

The Eskew family was en route to Logan county, Ark., their former home to attend a reunion of relatives. They had with them at the time of the accident a small tombstone which they intended placing on the grave of their deceased child buried in that county.

Mrs. Eskew was the mother of 11 living children. They are Mrs. L. A. Tham, Mrs. D. Brashers, Mrs. George Land, Mrs. Sam Brannon, of Sallisaw, Robert Eskew, of Garland, Okla., and Elbert, Othe, Lela, Rovanja, Jewel and Lafayette Eskew.

The remains were sent to Sallisaw on Saturday morning for burial.

Saturday, August 26, 1916

"NEAR BEER" IS POPULAR

Three Car Loads of Different Varieties are Disposed in Fort Smith in a Week.

Prohibition "near beer" is going good in Fort Smith. Three cars of these soft drinks—one each of Pablo's, Bevo and Temp Brew—have arrived in Fort Smith within the past week, and are going fast. Another car of Temp Brew is expected to arrive today.

H. G. Manning, distributor for Pablo a product of the Pabst Brewing company, is selling his product as fast as he can get it. Narisi Brothers received a car load of Bevo, made by the Anheuser Busch Brewing company, early in the week and it is practically exhausted.

Bennett and Beck, distributors for Temp Brew, have opened six bars in the city and will open two more today. The drinks are all non-alcoholic.

Sunday, August 27, 1916

CITY SETS LIVELY PACE THESE DAYS

"No one could honestly complain of dull times in Fort Smith now," remarked a business man Saturday. "The

description of Billy Sunday's meetings would apply to this city lately in that 'there is something doing every minute.' Take Saturday, for instance. A paving company had possession of South Sixth street with the paving crew spread over two blocks. A citizens committee was hustling for a new municipal light plant. Every rental agency in the city had its auto service on the go with applicants looking for tenant houses, a construction crew of the Twin City Pipe Line company was rushing the laying of gas mains through the heart of the city. Representatives of that company had just completed a canvass of Garrison and Rogers avenues from the river to Tenth street, reporting contracts at every stop save three. And three or more local gas and oil companies were perfecting plans for further extending a local gas field which is already yielding nearly two hundred million feet of gas per day."

The citizen might have mentioned many more live activities which mark the new momentum which is rapidly forging this city to the front.

Sunday, September 3, 1916

FORT SMITH HOSPITAL IS SOLD BY DR. LUDEAU

Dr. J. E. Ludeau has sold Fort Smith hospital, 1425 North Eleventh street, to Dr. R. F. Williams, who has taken possession; consideration for the sale \$16,000. Dr. Williams comes from Christianburg, Va., where for many years he was superintendent of Evans hospital. His wife, Mrs. Williams, who will be associated with him in Fort Smith hospital, is a graduate nurse, formerly head nurse of Evans hospital.

Dr. Ludeau not only built the hospital, but built the excellent reputation of the institution. He announces that he will continue in general practice of his profession in this city and will continue to support the work of the hospital.

Tuesday, September 5, 1916

FORTY NOVICES FOR SHRINE CEREMONIAL

The stage is set and all arrangements are complete for the great ceremonial of the Mystic Shrine to be held in Fort Smith Monday. Forty novices have been captured and will be driven over the hot sands with no other sustenance than an egg shell of goat's milk. The famous Al Amin temple of Little Rock, will officiate at the ceremonies. The Little Rock delegation will travel to Fort Smith in three special cars.

In the morning the visiting patrol, visiting members, novices, Fort Smith and Van Buren Shriners will parade in Van Buren at 10:30 a.m. and in the afternoon the parade will be repeated in this city. The parade will be headed by the patrol from Little Rock, followed by the Fort Smith band, nobles in autos, wild animals and novices, bareback

riders, snake charmer, oriental dances, hot sands and sand tenders, Happy Herzog, alias Barney Outfield with Mechanician Parley Yaw who will lower the world's record of changing two tires and taking water and oil in ten second, automobile[sic], Said Pasha with his harem in full costume.

Friday, September 8, 1916

COUNTY WILL PAVE TOWSON AVE. WITH CONCRETE-ASPHALT

Towson avenue (Texas Road) is at last to come into its own as one of the most important public highways connecting Fort Smith with the trade field to the south, for Towson avenue is to be paved, curb to curb from Garrison avenue to South H street—eight blocks—with just such asphalt concrete as is being laid by the Kaw Paving company of Topeka, Kans., on Sixth street.

The people of this city are so favorably impressed with the paving which is being laid on Sixth street that the question was taken up of changing the plans for paving Towson and using the asphalt instead of the cement concrete, and extending the paving out to the junction of the Park avenue and South Fort Smith lines above fire station No. 4.

Towson avenue is a county road and its improvement in charge of County Judge Ezra Hester who announced Thursday the contract was ready for the signatures for placing the asphalt concrete on that street.

Tuesday, October 10, 1916 PARADE WILL GIVE SPECTATORS GLIMPSE OF CITY'S FACTORIES

Visitors and citizens will be given a new idea of the extent of Fort Smith industries when the industrial parade passes down Garrison avenue Wednesday afternoon. The committee from the Noon Civics club reports excellent progress with its plans for the event.

The manufacturers, jobbers and retailers will be represented with vehicles displaying the goods made or handled in Fort Smith. Those firms which, owing to rush of business, cannot put on a special load will put their equipment into the parade loaded for regular delivery or en route to or from freight houses.

The parade will start from Fifth and Garrison promptly

at 2 o'clock, and any who fail to get in line at that time will have to fall in at the rear. Floats and elaborately decorated vehicles from the retail stores will assemble on South Fifth street. Delivery wagons and miscellaneous trades will assemble on North Fourth street. Packing houses, oil companies and service cars have been allotted South Fourth street. All manufacturers will assemble on North and South Third street, and wholesalers and jobbers on Second street.

Any additional information about the Industrial parade can be obtained by calling R. E. Reese, phone 132, who is chairman of the parade committee from the Noon Civics club, or Secretary Gill of the Business Men's club.

Sunday, November 5, 1916

STUDENTS DEMAND SUSPENSION OF GIRL SENIOR; CALL MEETING

A mass meeting of High school students has been

called for 2:30 Sunday afternoon at the High school plaza to consider a situation which arose Friday morning when Miss Louise Henry, a senior was suspended for alleged insubordination. Two hearings of the matter, one conducted by Principal W. R. Flynt of the High school and another by Superintendent George W. Reid, have resulted in the same decision that Miss Henry be suspended pending obedience to the order of Miss Anna Martinique, who was in

charge of the study hall when the incident occurred. A petition bearing 171 names, according to the students, was presented to Mr. Flynt and later to Mr. Reid, protesting against the suspension of the student, and asking her reinstatement.

"We have not demanded her reinstatement" Said Paul Durg, spokesman for the students Saturday night. "We presented the petition to show the attitude of the students to the affair. We feel that Miss Henry was justified in her action and that her suspension is unfair." The situation arose when Miss Henry declined to surrender a note, she was reading, to Miss Martinique, Friday morning.

It was stated last night. The note, students claim, was received before school hours and Miss Henry was reading it when the bell rang convening school. She continued reading, and upon demand, declined to

DIAMONDS

BUY THEM NOW



while the market is still normal and not yet affected with England's taxation.

Virtually the world's supply of diamonds is controlled by the de Beer Diamond Syndicate, located in London.

To help appease the enormous war debt, England has added an extra tax on Diamonds, which in turn will make them soar in price.

We have a large and very complete stock of sizes and grades, at former prices.

We sell on payments to reputable people. Investigate our plan.

FINK'S

FOR FINE DIAMONDS
Corner 7th and Garrison

surrender it to the teacher in charge, students said.

The matter was brought before Principal Flynt who suspended the student, pending obedience to the order, it was stated, and an appeal was taken to Superintendent [sic] Reid, who confirmed the principal's decision. A second appeal was taken, and the school board will be asked to pass on the controversy at a meeting next Wednesday night, if an agreement is not reached in the meantime.

The meeting this afternoon was called by students, who inserted an advertisement in the Southwest American last night, calling on all students to be at the High school plaza this afternoon at 2:30. The intention of those calling the meeting was not stated.

[Editor's note: The result of the meeting was a called protest march and strike by students against the school. Striking was in the news a great deal during 1916 and apparently came into fashion with high school students as well. I noted that Fayetteville students went on strike shortly after this but for a completely different reason.]

Tuesday, November 7, 1916

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE A MIS-STATEMENT

"Following the parade the strikers went to the New theatre, where they saw the movies."

The above appeared in yesterday's issue of the Times-Record, and is not true. It is true that the students went to the New theatre a half hour before the doors opened, and offered to pay their admission. I told them that there was not enough money in the city to induce us to allow them to witness pictures at the New theatre under existing circumstances during school hours, and they left fifteen minutes before the first show began.

C. A. LICK

[Ed note: this was response by C. A. Lick to a previous article concerning the student strike by FS High students.]

Wednesday, November 8, 1916

SEBASTIAN SNOWS UNDER BOOZE ACT

Partial but reliable returns show that Act No. 2, the repeal[sic] of the statewide prohibition measure was overwhelmingly defeated in Sebastian county in Tuesday's election. All other acts and amendments carried by large majorities. The Fort Smith vote was almost 2 to 1 against the act.

[Ed note: This was an attempt to repeal the Newberry Act of 1915.]

Friday, November 10, 1916

NEGRO FAIR TO COMMENCE TODAY

The exposition to be given under the auspices of the Negro Business Men's league will open Friday. At 1 o'clock Friday afternoon the negro school children of the city will parade as a part of the program for the fair, which closes Saturday night. At a meeting to be held at Josenberger's hall Friday Dr. D. E. Johnson of Little Rock, arch deacon of the Episcopal (negro) church, will be the chief speaker.

The exhibits have been arrayed in Josenberger's and Lyle's hall on North Ninth street between F and G streets.

The premiums are on display at the stores of the negro merchants. They will be awarded on poultry, farm products, canning, needle-work, culinary, school work, etc.

The league members are hoping the white people will attend the fair in large numbers, and towards this end they extend an earnest invitation.

Wednesday, November 15, 1916

CONSIDER OFFER ON FACTORY FOR MAKING CUTLERY

Within a week the Business Men's club is to decide whether a new industry, manufacturing manicure cutlery and all kinds of scissors, shall be located in Fort Smith, according to a statement by B. D. Crane, president of the club, Tuesday. George Zimmerman and Mugo Brungham, for years stockholders and actively associated in the management of a cutlery house of wide reputation at Fremont, Ohio, have made a proposition to the club to build an entirely new factory in this city, support 15 skilled laborers and their families, buy their own site and pay all their own expenses, if the club will reimburse them for the cost of moving to this city—a matter of a few thousand dollars—after the plant is in operation here.

"Personally, I am favorable to their proposition so far as we have investigated it." Said Mr. Crane. "Of course, the decision is up to the board of directors, but so far as I have been able to determine, it is an excellent proposition for the city. The men are well acquainted with the cutlery business, and have handled a high grade product. They are embarking in an enterprise new to this city and will of course, have to establish a market, but they have built a splendid business in Toledo and can doubtless do the same here."

The proposition made by the Ohio men will be laid before the directors of the club at their Thursday meeting.

Wednesday, November 29, 1916

SLAYER OF ALLEGED HOME WRECKER FREE
Special to Southwest American

BOONEVILLE, Ark., Nov. 28.—On a plea of self defense, Alexander Amos of Magazine was exonerated in Judge J. W. Castleberry's court tonight for killing Ned Laad of this city. Amos shot and killed Laad on the streets of Booneville last Saturday night when he found Mrs. Amos with Laad. The defendant proved by two of the state's witnesses that Laad had a pistol drawn and was trying to shoot Amos before Amos drew his gun to open fire.

Two revolvers were found on Laad after a bullet from Amos' gun struck Laad in the chest and killed him. One of the pistols was in a scabbard. The gun that Laad is alleged to have attempted to use on Amos was of smaller caliber. The defense did not place any witnesses on the stand and used the state's testimony exclusively to obtain the discharge of the accused.

Todd Shepherd, who, with his wife were accompanying Laad and Mrs. Amos at the time of the shooting, is recovering from a bullet from Amos gun. The bullet struck Shepherd in the breast near the heart and according to reports at the time of the shooting it was believed Amos had intended the bullet for his wife. Shepherd has a good chance to recover physicians say.

Sentiment is much in Amos' favor. Mrs. Amos had been living at the Laad home since separating from her husband two years ago. It was expected that Laad [reporter must have gotten confused here] would plead the unwritten law, but he relied solely on the plea of self-defense to gain his freedom. He was defended by Roberts & Roberts and Judge Jephtha H. Evans. Leon Westmoreland prosecuted the cast[sic] for the state.

Saturday, December 2, 1916

**KNOCKED OUT BY ROBBER'S BLOW AND
LOSES CASH**

With a gash on the right side of his head and the left side of his face skinned, Albert Herriman, driver of a motor delivery car for Wolf Pollock Drygoods company told the police Friday night he was beaten unconscious and robbed in a garage at the residence of Al Pollock, member of the firm, who lives at 912 North Thirteenth street.

Police blood hounds followed a trail from the garage to the suburban railroad in the northern part of the city. The amount of money lost by Herriman could not be ascertained Friday night.

Herriman says he was struck a fierce blow on the

head when he stepped from the delivery car after he drove the machine into the garage. He did not see his assailant, he asserts. He does not remember when he regained consciousness. After regaining his senses Herriman made his way to the Pollock home where physicians were called and dressed his wounds. He was in a high state of excitement, and dazed for a long time.

The bloodhounds followed the trail through an alley for a distance of several blocks and then ont[sic] the street. The trail led through what is known as the sweet gum flats before it was lost. Money stolen from Herriman represented collections he had made for his firm. The sum is supposed to range about \$50. Herriman is a son of the city weigher. This is the third hold up in Fort Smith since Sunday night.

Saturday, December 2, 1916

**LARGE CROWD VISITS ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL
TO ATTEND OPENING**

For hours Friday night a procession of automobiles and street car parties were drawn to the reception and formal opening of St. Johns hospital 1425 North Eleventh street.

The building was ablaze from top to bottom and brilliant with streams of ladies and gentlemen coming and going among whom the medical fraternity of the city was largely represented. Many congratulations were showered upon Drs. C. S. Holt and J. A. Morrissey upon their new institution.

The acting superintendent of the hospital Miss V. Meacham, assisted by a committee of ladies were in the receiving line. Miss Meacham has been the night superintendent of Sparks Memorial hospital resigning to accept the superintendency of St. John's hospital. She and other members of the committee took pleasure in escorting parties of ladies over the newly equipped hospital while Drs. Morrissey and Holt performed the same service for the gentlemen guests. Carnation favors were distributed and cigars and refreshments served.

The hospital with its 22 wards and fine operating room were glistening in sanitary white enamel and snowy linen. Miss Meacham is supported by a corps of nurses and a nurse training school is to be instituted. Before the first of the year the new hydrotherapy department is to be installed and other changes made in the building. Every ward in the building has one permanent beauty in addition to its immaculate attractiveness, in the well-lighted windows each looking out upon a handsome lawn amid fine groves of native trees.

Tuesday, December 12, 1916

\$400,000 SMELTER TO BE BUILT HERE; THREE MORE ARE IN PROSPECT

Up in a fourth floor room of the Goldman hotel sits a man who is destined to be the potent factor in making Fort Smith the center of the smelting industry in the United States. He brought the first smelter here. He has plans well under way to bring to the city four more. And each of the four will be larger than the first. This he says will be only the beginning.

Smelter men are not building \$300,000 to \$500,000 plants just to catch the rain of gold that is falling as a result of the high prices which war has brought. The industry is a solid one. After Europe has taken the toll of zinc with which she metes out death to millions there will be the demand of the commercial plants for spelter. The price will go down. The section with the cheapest fuel will be the section where the greatest profit can be made.

J. H. Dietz of

Cleveland, builder of smelters, says Fort Smith has in sight the gas fields which will make this city the center of smelting. The short haul from the mines to this city also will be a controlling factor in the location of plants here when the price goes down to that point where zinc may not be produced at a profit with high-priced gas.

Mr. Dietz brought the Trumbull plant of the Fort Smith Smelting company here. He built it. Coincident with his return to the city from Canton, Ohio, comes the announcement that that company has just ordered fifteen car loads of fire brick and will upon the arrival of the material build a new kiln house.

Six Block Smelter

The project fathered by Mr. Dietz which is most nearly ready for stakes to be driven is one which will involve the erection of a six-block smelter at least fifty per cent larger than that of the Athletic company smelter which now is in course of construction. It will cost about \$400,000 and will

employ almost as many men as the two plants already secured for Fort Smith. Just when the work will be authorized by the board of director of the Ohio company for which it will be built is uncertain. These directors, who visited Fort Smith early in November, have determined, however, that a site will be chosen at this point.

The new smelter will be of 6000 retort capacity. The Fort Smith Smelter has 2400 and the Athletic will have 4000. Mr. Dietz predicts that within a comparatively short time there will be 50,000 retorts in blast here.

At least three other smelter companies are flirting with the Fort Smith district through Mr. Dietz. It is possible, he says that one or more of these deals will be closed so soon that construction work will start before that on the one already announced.

Field Good for 20 Years

"What is responsible for the confidence smelter men feel in this district?" Mr. Dietz was asked.

"Research and close investigation." Was the answer. The whole field in which there are indications of gas has been examined closely. Reports of the United States Geological

survey issued last August declare that the wells now in operation are good for about twenty years at the present output. There is little doubt that the field will develop a greater number of wells than those already existing."

Other industries will undoubtedly be attracted to Fort Smith as the smelters are being built, according to Mr. Dietz. Already he is negotiating with one firm which has nothing to do with the production of zinc. What this firm is and the nature of its product he refused to divulge because the deal had not been completed. That the concern eventually will be brought to Fort Smith by the low price of gas he is confident.

KEEP COOL CLOTHES

Every style and material that's good—all strictly tailored garments that will look well and hold their shape as long as they last.
"Palm Beach," "No-Waste," "Tropical Work-steds," "Kool Kloth" \$6 to \$15

STRAW HATS

all the latest braids and shapes
\$1 to \$4.00

Bankoks, Milano, Panamas, Leghorn,
\$4 to \$6.50

Sol C. Cohn Clothing Co.



Al Whitson selects and describes events of Fort Smith 100 as reported in the local newspapers.

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NOTES: # —Some sort of graphic, other than a portrait, is used.
* —A portrait of the person(s) named is on page indicated.
(---) —For such as title, marital status, degree, etc.
"---" —For nickname or special emphasis.
(-) —Dash between page numbers indicates the name of the person, place, etc., is carried throughout the story
(gp) —Group picture.
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- **Arkansas Stories**—A site dedicated to the stories, studies, and songs from Arkansas' past and Arkansas' future.

- **Arkansas Freedmen of the Frontier**—The African-American experience in northwest Arkansas is chronicled here. It has a lot of great links and information.

- **Arkansas Historical Association**—The mission of the Arkansas Historical Association is to promote the preservation, writing, publishing, teaching, and understanding of Arkansas history through the publication of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly as well as other activities.

- **Arkansas History Commission and State Archives**—The Arkansas History Commission is one of the oldest existing state agencies in the Natural State and Arkansas' official state archives maintained by the commission.

- **Black Men Who Rode for Parker**—A site dedicated to the African-American deputy marshals who enforced the law in the federal court district of western Arkansas and Oklahoma. Judge Isaac Parker presided over the district in the late nineteenth century.

- **Center for Local History and Memory**—The Center for Local History and Memory at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith grew out of student-faculty efforts in 1997 to collect oral history interviews to document the first seventy years of the college.

- **Arkansas Civil War Sites**—The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission website with information on Arkansas' participation in the 150th anniversary of our country's struggle with itself.

- **The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture**—The Encyclopedia of Arkansas project is proud to present these initial entries.

- **Fort Smith Trolley Museum**—For more than twenty years, the Fort Smith Trolley Museum has worked to educate people about transportation history, restore and maintain antique trolley cars, and even give riders a trip back in time in those streetcars.

- **Fort Smith Museum of History**—The Fort Smith Museum of History acquires, preserves, exhibits, and interprets objects of historical significance relevant to the founding and growth of Fort Smith and the region.

- **Fort Smith Air Museum**—Located at the Fort Smith Regional Airport, the museum is a treasure trove of

facts and artifacts that tell the story of Fort Smith's aviation history. Our readers might also enjoy this site on the History of Flight, submitted by one of our readers (Tony, a history researcher and student of Ms. Brooke Pierce in Delaware)—the site provides a fantastic time line that breaks down the early history of flight in America.

- **Historic Fort Smith**—A page containing some general information about Fort Smith history, heritage tourism in the city, and links to other sites.

- **Oak Cemetery**—A recognized National Historic Landmark with more than 152 years of history is home to the burial sites of outlaws hanged by order of Judge Isaac C. Parker, marshals, deputy marshals, an Arkansas governor, fifteen mayors of Fort Smith, and the founder of Fort Smith, John Rogers.

- **The Old State House Museum of Arkansas History**—Set in the oldest surviving state capitol west of the Mississippi; it houses a multimedia museum of Arkansas history with a special emphasis on women's history, political history, and special programming for children.

- **Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies**—The Center for Arkansas Studies proudly presents what we hope will one day become the premier online resource for historical information related to Arkansas.

- **South Sebastian County Historical Society**—The South Sebastian County Historical Society, located in Greenwood, Arkansas, is an excellent resource on the history and landmarks of the area.

- **Wikipedia Entry for Fort Smith**—The online, user-created encyclopedia has a descriptive entry about the largest city in western Arkansas.

MORE GENEALOGICAL LINKS

- **Fort Smith Library Genealogy Department**—One of the greatest resources of local genealogical information to be found in the city. The Fort Smith Public Library is also a frequent gathering place of local historians and history buffs.

- **Crawford County, Arkansas, Cemeteries**—A rich genealogical resource for Van Buren and Crawford County.

- **LeFlore County, Oklahoma, Genealogy**—Find birth and death records in support of your genealogical searches involving LeFlore County, Oklahoma.



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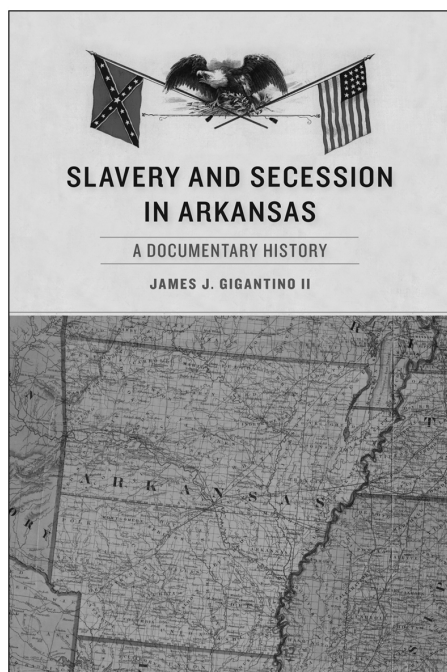
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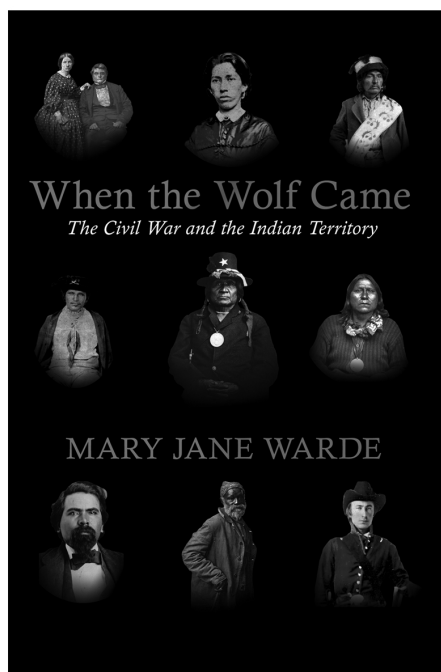


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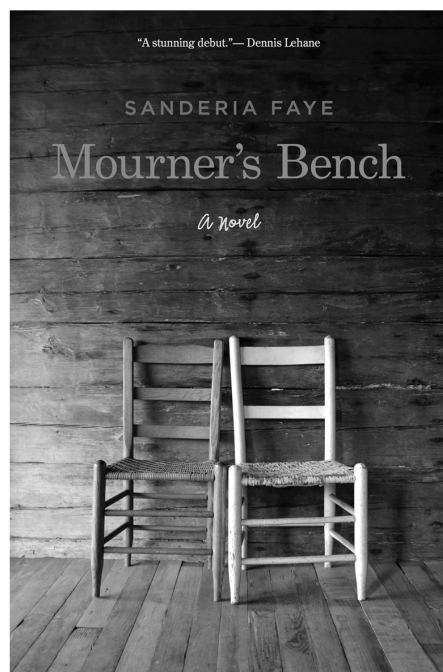


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