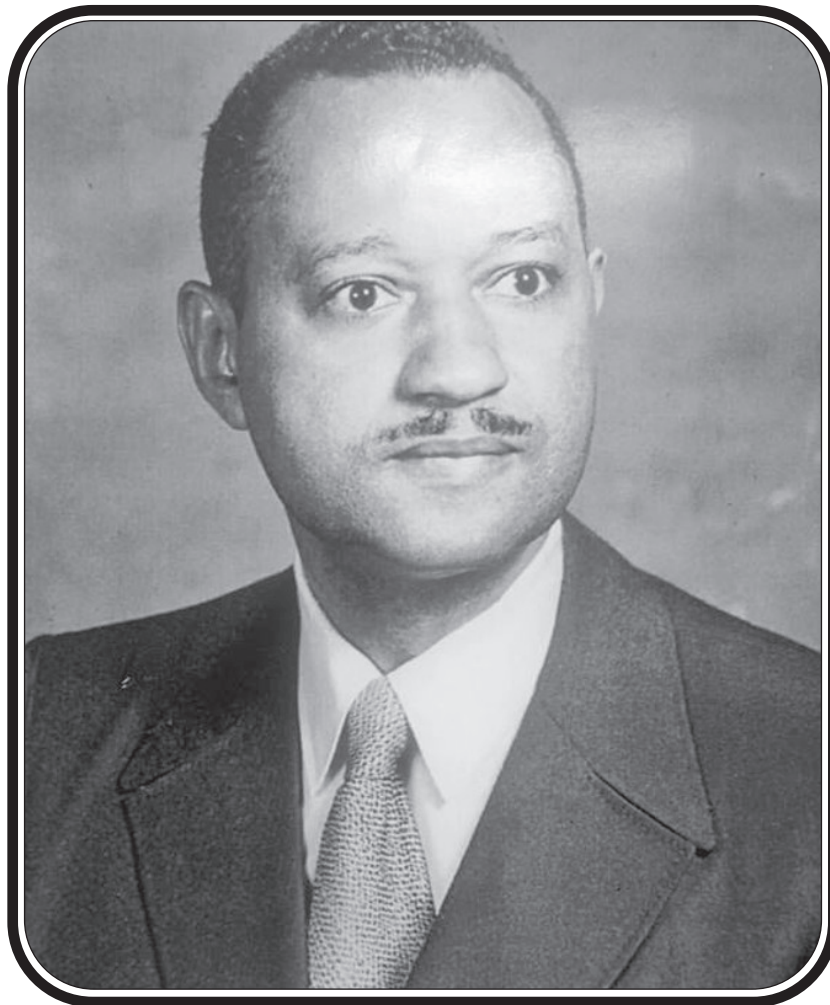


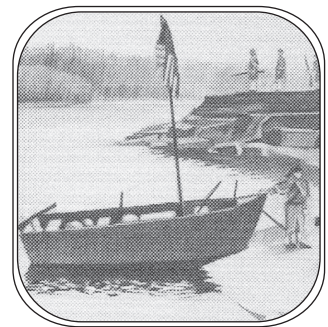


The JOURNAL



'He Knew Who He Was'

Reflecting on Dr. Harry P. McDonald



*Major Long's Skiff:
Traveling the Arkansas*



*Raiders of the Lost
Archives*



*History of nursing
education in Fort Smith*



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

QUESTIONS pertaining to the Fort Smith Historical Society or *The Journal* should be addressed via email to:

Mary Jeanne Black mblack3086@aol.com
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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.

Webmaster: Al Whitson
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

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CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2017

In Memoriam: Carole Barger	2
By Joe Wasson	
News & Opportunities.....	4
Kate's Bible: Book offers insight into Drennen family.....	6
By Tom Wing	
Major Long's Skiff: Engineer travels to confluence of Poteau and Arkansas Rivers....	8
By Billy D. Higgins	
Digging through the Stacks: Raiders of the Lost Archives.....	12
By Kevin L. Jones, Ph.D.	
Forest Park Cemetery: Poetry of the past and problem of our future.....	19
By Sue Robison	
A History of Healing: Nursing education and practice in Fort Smith.....	24
By Mary Calline Ellis	
'He Knew Who He Was': Reflections on Harry P. McDonald.....	30
By Taylor Prewitt	
Book Reviews: <i>A Century Forward</i> and <i>Anti-Catholicism in Arkansas</i>	38
Who Knew?.....	40
By Mary Jeanne Black	
1917 Newspapers.....	50
By Al Whitson	
Index	68

COVER: Main photo: Dr. Harry P. McDonald

Top right: Artist Ernest Cialone's drawing of a six-oared skiff.

Middle right: Photo of Hotel Main on Garrison Avenue.

Lower right: Miss Ella Wood, dean of nursing in early 1900s.

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In Memoriam

Carole Ann Cotton Barger

The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society must record the death of its recent editor, Carole Barger, and give this appreciation for her significant and lasting contributions to the documentation of Fort Smith history.

Through the publication of the *Journal* for which she took responsibility and her leadership in the Society's World War II Oral History Project, Carole upheld high standards and volunteered thousands of hours of work to fulfill the mission of the Fort Smith Historical Society. Also a volunteer commissioner of historic Oak Cemetery, Carole gave her energy to many other related projects that have furthered scholarship and preservation of local history, efforts too varied and numerous to name but known to the many individuals and organizations who benefited from her participation.

Carole Ann Cotton was born in the middle of the Great Depression on August 19, 1934, to Ray and Emmerine Cotton. She was named after Carole Lombard, a popular young actress in Hollywood that year, foreshadowing the beautiful, stylish woman Carole would become in high school and college.

From childhood, Carole was a doer and a joiner, a helper and a leader who naturally gathered friends. Her genuine interest in people added to her future talent as a researcher, writer, editor, and adviser. She graduated from Fort Smith High School in 1952, retaining many of her classmates as lifelong friends, especially one tall boy who would show up in her life many years later. Carole graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in psychology and natural sciences in 1956. She married and had three children. For their childhood, she lived the life of a typical 1950s mother and homemaker, though Carole was never typical.

Carole was adventurous and would try anything once. On one occasion, she and her first husband tried running a farm. Her stories about becoming a farmer were as hilarious as her brief stint of farming was disastrous, but the story was told punctuated by that beautiful laugh of hers.

But there are bumps in the road for everyone, and in 1982, Carole was a single woman again. That year she volunteered to help plan her thirtieth class reunion. At one of the planning meetings she found herself sitting beside



CAROLE ANN COTTON BARGER

that tall boy, who was by then a tall man, who had also recently experienced the pain of divorce. It was love at delayed sight! In Floyd Barger, Carole found her soulmate, and they were married later that same year.

From 1984 to 1994, Carole worked in the Community and Continuing Education Department at Westark Community College. In writing and editing, she first worked with computers in their primitive state of development. She adapted quickly and always stayed current with useful technology for research and publishing.

She became interested in genealogy, which led her to membership in and recognition for service from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Carole's skill as a historical researcher was an asset when she was asked to join the board of the Fort Smith Historical Society in the fall of 2003.

The future of the *Journal* was in peril when its founding and faithful editor, Amelia Martin, passed away in January 2004. Though she took little credit, it was Carole who volunteered to become its editor and completed the April 2004 issue from Martin's work in progress. She soon updated its printing method, resulting in cost savings to the Society. Carole continued as the guiding editorial hand of the *Journal*, soliciting and encouraging fine contributors and producing some of the most interesting and important content the *Journal* has ever published. This publication received many awards and recognition under her direction.

During that period, she and others revived the Society's collection of oral histories, which was shaped into the World War II Oral History Project. Carole interviewed, scheduled subjects, kept records, and saw to the transcription of these vitally significant videotaped recordings. Keeping herself in the background, she was a driving force in two volunteer and philanthropic gifts to the program, which resulted in the construction of a studio and later, the Griffin Theater for the oral history project. Both are at the Fort Smith Museum of History by virtue of an agreement Carole helped to craft.

On January 2, 2009, Carole's daughter, Laurie Kay Crowley Hensler, was killed in an automobile accident in Oklahoma City. Carole coped with her grief and continued the hard work of gathering articles, editing and producing the *Journal* until her husband's declining health forced her to resign editorship of the *Journal* in 2011.

Even so, she continued to advise researchers and contribute to the *Journal*. On the day Carole died, March 23, 2017, she had spent the afternoon helping Bobbie Woodard-Jones with historical materials and later that evening while proofreading the next edition of the *Journal*, she suddenly passed away.

Historical society members and friends unanimously expressed deep appreciation for Carole's mighty

contributions of time, effort, and skill to this organization. Just a few of those remarks included here point out her admirable qualities:

I would suggest she was always the teacher. She had a lot of history knowledge that she enjoyed sharing. Sometimes she gave assignments like a teacher. She was one of several who taught me the value of carefully built and documented research. That is a teacher at work.

—Rena Westbrook

Carole was my good friend and helper. I called her so many times and enjoyed working with her on projects for the Historical Society. Such a sweet lady! —Sherry Toliver

For me, she was Ms. Go To. I have questions right now that I would like to ask her. She was an unerring copy editor and saved me and the Journal from some egregious errors. Her partnership with Floyd was itself a work of art.

—Billy D. Higgins

I'd say, "I am not sure I can do that." Carole would say, "Sure you can!"

Mainly because I would not want to disappoint her, I would get it done. —Mary Jeanne Black

Carole and I were partners in the Oral History Project and for years we were in almost daily contact, which was such a pleasure. Because of her dedication and organizing skills, we captured the stories of more than 240 people, many of whom are no longer living. Through her work on the Journal and oral histories, Carole Barger should be remembered gratefully as one of the most productive members this historical society has ever had. I respected and loved Carole and Floyd as friends and for their service. —Joe Wasson

Surprise your favorite people
with membership in the
Fort Smith Historical Society
They will love *The Journal* and you.

News & Opportunities



BOARD MEMBERS of the Fort Smith Historical Society are shown at the July 2017 quarterly meeting with featured speaker Fire Chief Phil Christensen and at his side, his wife, Kim Christensen.

Fort Smith Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

September 13, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Fort Smith Public Library
Community Room, Main Branch

Clayton House 514 North Sixth Street 479-783-3000

Fourth Sunday programs at the Clayton House begin at 1 p.m. with refreshments and conversation. Presentations start 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 is asked.

Fort Smith Museum of History 320 Rogers Avenue 479-783-7841

For continual update on programs and exhibits, please follow the link for Museum Notes 2017:

<http://www.fortsmithmuseum.org/newsletters>

❖ **Downtown Stroll:** Saturday, September 30, join Judge and Mrs. Isaac Parker and a variety of re-enactors

for a "Downtown Stroll" at 11 a.m. and a "Scavenger Hunt" for children at noon. Meet historical Fort Smith characters and learn little-known facts of Fort Smith history as well as meet well-known legends from the city's rich and colorful past. The downtown stroll and scavenger hunt is included with museum admission: \$7 adults; \$5 veterans and military; \$2 children; under age six are free.

- **Celebrate the Birthday of Judge Isaac Parker:** Saturday, October 14, 1-3 p.m. Programs at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.
- **Murder and Mayhem Haunted Trolley Tour:** October 26, 27, 28 and 31. Tickets available September 15.
- **Veterans Day Parade and Reception:** Saturday, November 11.
- **Annual Open House:** Saturday, December 9, 2-5 p.m.
- **Bicentennial Celebration:** December 25, 2 p.m. Program at Belle Point. Birthday cake and hot chocolate at the Fort Smith Museum of History following the program.
- **Pardi Gras Fundraiser:** February 2018.

Drennen-Scott Historical Site

Visitor Center
221 North Third Street
Van Buren, Arkansas
479-262-2750 • drennen-scott@uafs.edu

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 77th Annual Conference

April 19-21, 2018
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Call for papers on the theme of "Frontiers and Borders." Fort Smith is well known for its border and frontier history. The AHA seeks presentation not only on physical frontiers and boundaries in the Fort Smith area, but also on all manners and varieties of interaction and exchange among

peoples, nations, and cultures within and around Arkansas. Presentations will be limited to twenty minutes. The use of audio-visual elements is encouraged.

Proposals for presentation at this annual meeting must be submitted by October 20, 2017.

Proposals can be sent by email to steve.kite@uafs.edu.

Angela Walton-Raji will conduct a pre-conference genealogy seminar from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Doubletree Hotel. The seminar is open to AHA members and anyone joining the AHA during this conference. Memberships are \$20 per year and include all events of the 77th annual meeting and four issues of *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

You may register for the conference using this link: <http://arkansashistoricalassociation.org>.



SUE ROBISON receiving the *Walter L. Brown Award for Best Biography in a statewide journal* from AHA president **Mark Christ** at the 76th annual meeting in Pocahontas.

St. John's Episcopal Church Mind Stretchers

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

- September 19, 2017, 6 p.m. Jamie Brandon, Ph.D., and Lydia Rees, Archaeology of Prehistoric Bluff Shelters of the Arkansas Ozarks.

- October 17, 2017, 6 p.m. Tim Mulvihill, River Valley Archaeology

- January 16, 2018, 6 p.m. Stewart Dippel, Ph.D., and Reverend Jeffrey Champlin, Norman Rockwell and Religious Iconography: The Religious Imagination

- February 20, 2018, 6 p.m. Stewart Dippel, Ph.D., and Reverend Jeffrey Champlin, Images of Christ: Religious Vision in Nineteenth-Century Russian Art, Iconographic Theology

- March 20, 2018, 6 p.m. Latisha Settlege, Ph.D., Perception versus Reality in Macroeconomics

- May 15, 2018, 6 p.m. Latisha Settlege, Ph.D., Perception versus Reality in Microeconomics

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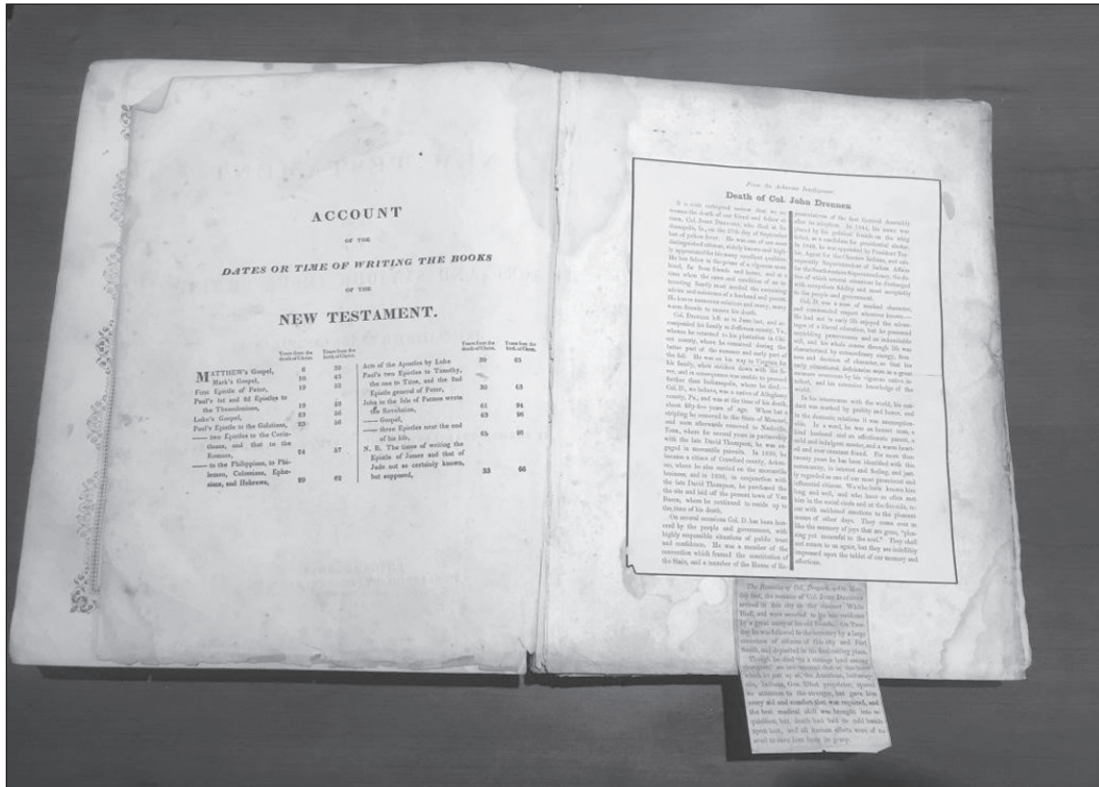
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Kate's Bible

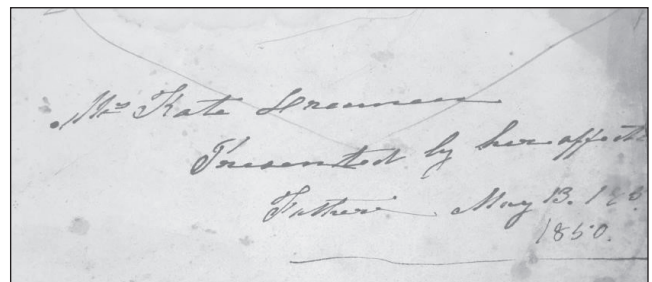
Newly discovered book gives glimpse into Drennen family



KATE DRENNEN'S FAMILY BIBLE

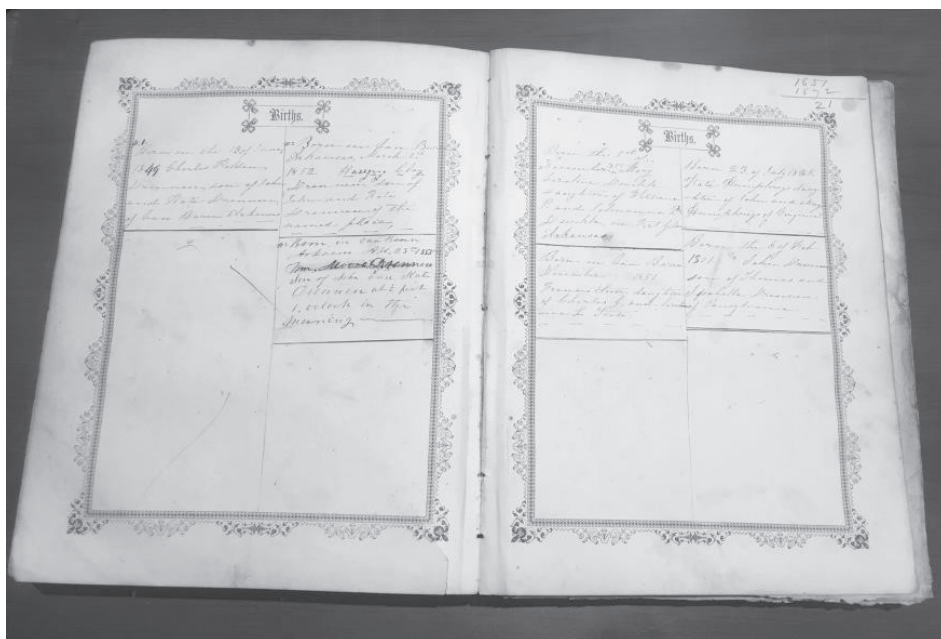
By Tom Wing

From the summer of 2005, when the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith acquired the Drennen-Scott historic property and entered into a partnership with Arkansas Department of Heritage to display and interpret the story, research has never stopped. Collections in Texas, the Library of Congress, UA-Special Collections, the Arkansas History Commission, and private sources have yielded important details about a family that played a significant role in Arkansas's history from the 1820s through the 1930s. Recently, hidden away in what was thought to be some less significant family items, the personal Bible of Kate Drennen, John Drennen's second wife, was discovered. Relegated by the family at some point to the cellar, the Bible is not in good condition, yet



reveals more details and a couple of gems upon emerging among some damaged books.

The inside cover of the Bible is inscribed: *Mrs Kate Drennen, Presented by her affectionate Father, May 13, 1860.*



KATE DRENNEN recorded only two deaths in her Bible, *Johnanna Denkla*, March 25, 1852, and *Charles Holden Drennen*, March 27, 1926. The Bible is on display at the *Drennen-Scott House* in *Van Buren*.

1850. Only the top half of the title page remains and that reads:

The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments together with the Apocrypha, translated from the original tongues, and with the former translations diligently compared and revised with Canne's marginal notes and references.

No publisher or city of publication can be determined. The first few pages of the index and the book of Genesis are damaged and the cover is loose, but the rest of the book is intact. Turning to the family record section between the Old and New Testaments, two marriages are listed, John and Kate, March 28, 1848, and Johnanna Drennen and William Denkla, January 28, 1851. Birthdays for John and Kate, in 1801 and 1825 respectfully, and their three sons—Charles Holden, 1849; Henry Clay, 1852; and William Moore, 1855—are listed. Birthdays for Caroline Denkla, daughter of Johnanna and William Denkla, and Francis Scott, daughter of Charles and Caroline Scott, are also included.

Only two deaths are recorded, Johnanna Denkla, March 25, 1852, and Charles Holden Drennen, March 27, 1926. Charles' death date is the only entry not written by Kate. Who wrote it is a mystery. The final treasure in the book was found attached to the New Testament cover sheet and was a reprint from Van Buren's *Arkansas Intelligencer* newspaper describing the life accomplishments and circumstances of John Drennen's death.

While on a trip to Virginia, Drennen contracted yellow fever and died in Indiana before he could make it home to Arkansas. His body was sent for burial in Van Buren by the steamboat *White Bluff*.

The final lines of the obituary summarized the loss felt by so many:

We who have known him long and well, and who have so often met him in the social circle and at the fire-side, recur with saddened emotions to the pleasant scenes of other days. They come over us like the memory of joys that are gone, "pleasing yet mournful to the soul." They shall not return to us again, but they are indelibly impressed upon the tablet of our memory and affections.

Kate Drennen's Bible is on display at the UAFS owned and operated Drennen-Scott Historic Site in Van Buren, Arkansas.



Professor Tom Wing is on the history faculty of UAFS and is the director of the *Drennen-Scott Historic Site*. He has written two books.

Major Long's Skiff

Engineer travels to confluence of Poteau and Arkansas Rivers

By Billy D. Higgins

Major Stephen Harriman Long commanded a craft that he referred to as a “six-oared skiff” accompanied by seven soldiers of Bradford’s Rifle Company with cargo up the Arkansas River in October 1817. His duty, as assigned by General Thomas Adams Smith, commander of the Rifle Regiment, was to locate a suitable site for a fortification well to the west of Arkansas Post, the largest settlement and traditional seat of administrative authority for this land soon to become Arkansas Territory.

How soon, no one knew for certain. Arkansas Post was established in 1686 by Henri de Tonti, a lieutenant of the La Salle expedition, and was the earliest European outpost on the Mississippi River. Passing into Spanish control in about 1766, Louisiana so named by La Salle to honor the powerful Sun King, Louis XIV, experienced nine Spanish governors who ruled the land, including the lower Arkansas magisterially until the Louisiana Purchase Treaty turned it into an American possession, who brought English common law procedures west of the Mississippi for the first time.

That meant rapidly expanding white settlement. English common law requires judges, lawyers, juries (and jury pools), newspapers, elections, courthouses, accountants, auditors, appellate procedures, virtually none of which was needed under magisterial law.¹

So, U.S. government administration came to the West. In 1817, William Clark, of Lewis and Clark fame, was serving as the governor of Missouri Territory headquartered at Saint Louis, Arkansas District being a part of that jurisdiction. Thomas Adams Smith had located his regimental headquarters at an established post, Belle Fontaine on the Missouri River a few miles north.

William Clark had been superintendent of Western Indian Affairs prior to becoming territorial governor. He had a reputation for fair treatment and abiding by treaties. Yet he had negotiated the Treaty of Fort Clark with the Osage in which they had given up a giant share of their Arkansas land claims.² With this cessation, the government offered much of this land to the western Cherokees. The Osage and Cherokee were ancient enemies, being similar in numbers, warrior culture, and imperialistic tendencies. This new proximity resulted in open warfare that worried Clark. These hostilities jeopardized Clark’s vision, which he had promoted to President James Monroe of pacifying the Indians by moving

them farther west across the Missouri River, mixing the tribes and their hunt, and letting intermarriage take its natural course. Then, western lands in Missouri and Arkansas would be entirely open to American settlement. Clark, like Jefferson before him, advocated white settlement that advanced “compactly,” that is bringing along family and familiar institutions of American civilization. He did not like whiskey traders and the squatters who went beyond the grid into Indian lands. Both did nothing but cause trouble and delay the advancement of real America, and Clark did his best to arrest that sort of white intrusion.

To carry out plans on the frontier, dealing with Indians who were, naturally, in a state of uproar, and curtailing illegal white advancement outside the pale, and for that matter dealing with the defense of the frontier against all enemies, Smith’s rifle companies were in the process of erecting a chain of frontier forts that would eventually stretch from Fort Snelling (originally Fort St. Anthony) on the Minnesota River to Fort Claiborne on the Sabine.

To map the Mississippi and report on the state of the new fortifications, Smith and Clark sought the services of Army topographical engineer Major Stephen H. Long, who had taught at West Point. Coming to St. Louis, Long was given an exploring task that would take him into the upper Mississippi. Smith assigned a detachment of seven soldiers for the expedition and Clark equipped Long with a boat for this mission.³ Clark had kept copious notes in his journals during the famed two-year Corps of Discovery campaign from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River in the far Northwest and back. In fact, his records were lengthier than those of his co-leader, Meriwether Lewis. Though Clark was a poor speller, he was an accurate celestial observer and map artist. Apparently, the experienced Clark emphasized to Long the importance of note taking and logging each day’s activities.

Long referred to the Clark boat he had received for the mission as a “six-oared skiff.” Long was a New Hampshire man, and “skiff” was a general boat term used in the northeast typically meaning a small sailboat used by the coastal and estuary fisherman. Clark had called his boat used on the Missouri with a similar description of its size and configuration a pirogue, which meant to him a large row boat with sails.⁴

Long’s military objectives for the trip were spelled out for him: to meander and sketch the course of the Upper

Mississippi, to exhibit the topography of the shores, and to designate such sites as were suitable for military purposes.

His log of the trip became a published book, *Voyage in a Six-Oared Skiff up the Mississippi to the Falls of Saint Anthony in 1817*. It is now in the public domain and can be read online through internet archives at: <https://archive.org/stream/voyageinsixoared00longrich#page/n3/mode/2up>.

While Long makes no sketches or descriptions of the boat nor of the men, several passages give a good indication of the boat's capabilities and the river savviness of the crew, his men. The observational skills of Long are included from the account in these entries:

Wednesday, July 9—"Layed in provision for sixteen days and set sail at half past eight this morning with a favorable wind. I took an additional soldier on board at the Fort (Prairie du Chien), so that my crew now consisted of seven men." After taking on a Mr. Hempstead as a French interpreter and Long wrote that "the whole number on board of my boat was now ten persons." "The wind failed us about eleven a.m., and we had occasion to row the rest of the day. Encamped on the head of an island about sunset. Distance twenty-eight and a half miles."

Thursday, July 10—"Our companions in the birch canoe encamped on the same island but about four miles below us. The weather calm this morning. Got under way at sunrise and came six miles before breakfast, during which we caught five catfish and one drum."

See a small war party of ten or twelve Indians who hoisted an American flag as a compliment and Long ordered an acknowledgement "by discharging a blunderbuss." Long slackened sail to allow the Indian canoe to overtake them. Long gave the chief some tobacco and a pint of whiskey. Wind very favorable most of the day and distance fifty miles.

Friday, July 11—Distance recorded was twenty-six and a half miles.

Sunday, July 13—Caught several fish at night. Mercury at fifty-one degrees with favorable wind, distance covered thirty-five miles.

Monday, July 14—"The wind blew violently from S.E. during the night and had a strong wind ahead. For a few hours made little progress and that by rowing and cordelling but made thirty-five and a half miles distance.

Tuesday, July 15—"Set sail a half an hour before sunrise with a favorable wind." In rapids (also he calls them cataracts) a large rock loomed and could have demolished the boat, but they avoided it.

Wednesday, July 16—Arrived at the Falls of St. Anthony at a quarter past seven. Gave a great description the forest about, "Post oak, hickory, walnut, linden, sugar tree, white birch, and the American box."

Thursday, July 17—Here Long gives a description of a bluff overlooking two rivers, "the control of which could be had with the range of a twelve pounder." (Long must have had this place in mind when later in the year he would select a site for Fort Smith which had a similar topography and forest growth). Laid in a supply of wood for the night, kindled a fire in our cabouse (he spelled it caboose in other places) and concluded to float during the night.

Friday, July 18—We had nothing left of provisions but flour. Our whiskey was expended. Two hundred miles to go for a fresh supply.

Saturday, July 19—A storm filled the boat with water. But next day found that it was not damaged.

Monday, July 21—Eating fish, hard labor, meets twelve canoes of Fox Indians on a hunting tour from the Upper Ioway River. "There were three very aged squaws with them, one of whom was entirely blind."

Tuesday, July 22—Captain Duffhey at Prairie du Chien bitten by a rattlesnake in his instep where the tooth of the snake penetrated to the bone. He returned to the fort some four miles with a swollen and black foot, but remedies applied "proved efficacious" and he recovered without losing ability to walk about.

Long made the round trip to the Falls of St. Anthony from Prairie du Chien in thirteen days.

Friday, July 25—"Spent the day in measuring and planning Fort Crawford and its buildings. The work is a square of three hundred and forty feet upon each side; and is constructed entirely of wood, as are all its buildings, except the magazine which is stone." This observation was handy for Long's layout of Fort Smith.

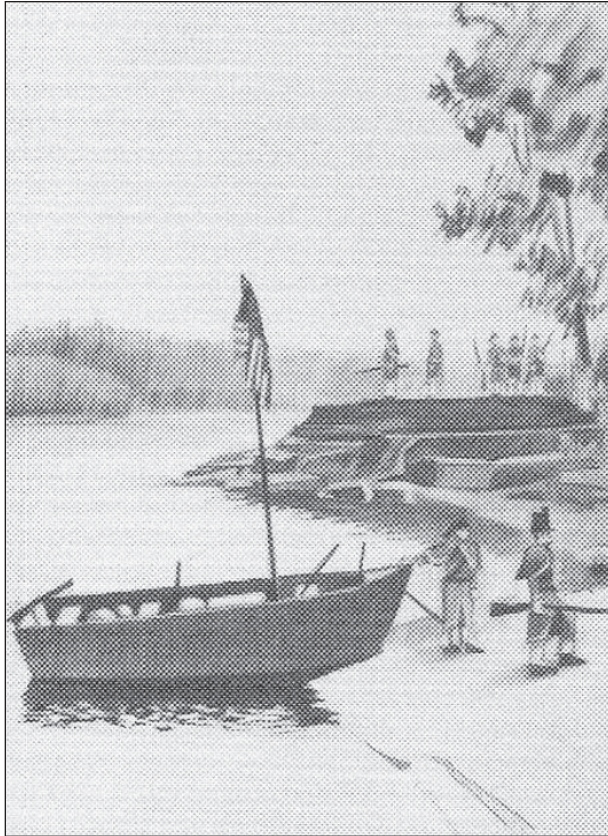
Sunday, July 27—Began the descent of the Mississippi from Prairie du Chien (prairie of the Dogs, an Indian tribe). Sutler there was Captain Owens. Long met the contractor Mr. Glen on his way to Prairie du Chien. Glen, who will be the first sutler at Fort Smith, in this case he had provisions on board for Forts Edward, Armstrong, and Crawford for nine months. Glen had left St. Louis on June 8, seven days after Long and "had been almost constantly engaged in ascending the river ever since."

Wednesday, July 30—Arrived at Fort Armstrong (Long found it to be 41° 32' 33" North).

Friday, August 1—Logs the military qualities of Fort Armstrong: "healthful situation, an effectual command of the river, timber, limestone, rich grounds for gardens, copious spring of fine water." These are the qualities, no doubt, that Long saw at Belle Point a few months later. Long took the dimensions and noted two block houses which would be the pattern of Fort Smith.

Friday, August 15—Arrived at Belle Fontaine at nine in the morning. Time occupied in the voyage was seventy-six days.

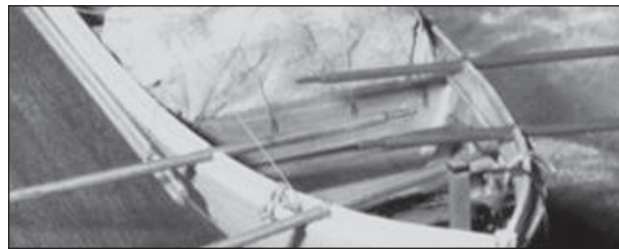
Long's SKIFF and Clark's WHITE PIROGUE: The same boat?



ARTIST ERNEST CIALONE'S drawing of the six-oared skiff landing at Belle Point in November 1817.



WHITE PIROGUE AT FORT OSAGE on the Missouri River during Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. This boat, built in 2004, is on display at the Boathouse Museum in St. Charles, Missouri.



A MODEL OF THE WHITE PIROGUE, built by Richard C. Boss in 1993, is on display at the Fort Clatsop National Memorial, Oregon

Back at Belle Fontaine, Long dined with General Smith and his wife, pleasantly exchanging stories of this upper Mississippi expedition and what was learned, especially about the Indians and the condition of the forts. Later in the month, Smith assigned Long to the Rifle Company of Maj. William Bradford to lead the company of soldiers up the Arkansas River to found a new cantonment in the mid-section of the frontier situated between Osage ground and that of the Western Cherokees and their allies.

Long joined Bradford and his company at Arkansas Post in October 1817 less than two months after he completed his voyage to St. Anthony Falls. He would be in the same skiff used to sail up the Mississippi, this time it would be up the Arkansas River.

Long used his observations of the fortifications on the Mississippi as a guide to necessary qualities for a location and had made sketches of Fort Crawford on the Wisconsin River as to shape, orientation, size, and capacities. His knowledge and these sketches informed him in locating and laying out the fort to be on the Arkansas River.

Bradford assigned veterans who had joined his company at Carlisle in 1815 to Long's advance party, Sgt. Balthazar Kramer, Cpl. Daniel Norman, and Privates Peter Caulder, Martin Turner, Thomas Cole, Perry Watkins, and Robert Sloan, seven reliable men including two African-Americans.

Long, had according to his biographer, "a compulsion for rapid travel."⁵ Only twenty days after shoving off the skiff at Arkansas Post, Long reached a landing spot near the confluence of the Poteau and Arkansas Rivers. The place was known to traders, trappers, and hunters for years but no settlement had arisen at this choice site. Long sail up river the next day, bound as intended for the confluences of the Arkansas and the Grand and Verdigris Rivers long used by the Missouri Osage. Three Rivers, as it was sometimes called, lay some ninety miles northwest of Belle Point and would become in a few years the site for Fort Gibson.

After a couple of days reconnoitering the area which lay deeper into Osage lands, Long had his men prepare for the downstream return, and with six oars and a tail wind, the skiff and crew made the trip in less than three days back to

the site he would name Belle Point.⁶ Long had looked at other locations and chose Belle Point for Bradford's fortification. Historian Elliott West in his masterful study *The Contested Plains* wrote that Plains Indians through centuries of tradition knew well the pearls of the western landscape, that is places where sweet water, both running and in the ground, quality trees that furnished the right materials for heat, building, and manufacture, ample sweet grass for livestock, fertile soil for plants, and attractive habitat for wildlife made life, especially in the winter months, easier and better. Competition for such sites developed between the Plains Indians and the U.S. Army as the westward movement unfolded. Thanks to Stephen H. Long, Fort Smith was to be located on one of these geographical pearls.

The white pirogue is reckoned by marine experts to have been a heavy craft with a crew of eight plus room for two passengers, perhaps thirty-nine feet long with an eight-foot-eight-inch beam, a cargo of eight tons, freeboard of about nineteen inches, and plenty of canvas (mainsail and spritsail).⁷

The white pirogue was constructed of cottonwood and carried a spritsail. The mast was deduced to be fourteen feet. The oars were "single banked." The boat had a mast and yard with a square sail and a blunderbuss mounted in the bow. Pirogue is a French name pronounced pee'-row and spelled many ways. Although generally the word meant and continues to mean, a dugout canoe, the white pirogue was NOT dug out. And oars are not the same as paddles. Paddlers face forward whereas rowers face aft (unless they are standing).

Efforts are being made to document that Clark's white pirogue was the same boat as Long's six-oared skiff. If this connection can be established as a fact, it would mean that the boat that helped bring about Fort Smith on the upper Arkansas River in 1817 had traveled with Long to the upper Mississippi the same year and a decade earlier had helped carry the Corps of Discovery up the Missouri River, quite a remarkable and historically significant craft.⁸



Billy D. Higgins teaches history at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith and is editor of The Journal.

End Notes

¹ Lynn Foster, "The First Years of American Justice: Courts and Lawyers on the Arkansas Frontier," Patrick Williams, S. Charles Bolton, Jeannie Wayne, *A Whole Country in Commotion: The Louisiana Purchase and the American Southwest* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2005), 121-148.

² Jay H. Buckley, *William Clark, Indian Diplomat* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008), 132. Clark negotiated twenty-five treaties with the Indians west of the Mississippi,

COMPARABLE DATA ON BOATS

White pirogue	Six-oared skiff
Clark's sketch of boat archived at Beineke	No historic drawing is known
39 feet long, 8-foot beam	No dimensions recorded
Single mast for sail	Single mast for sail
Six oar locks	Six oar locks
Capacity of ten men	Capacity of ten men
Carried eight tons of cargo	Carried cargo provisions for sixteen days
Blunderbuss mount	Blunderbuss mount
Government use after exploration duties	Military use after exploration duties
Capable of thirty miles a day upstream	Capable of thirty miles a day upstream

including one that saw the Quapaw cessation of some 30,000,000 acres of rich land below the Arkansas River.

³ Although Ed Bearrs and others have written this, I have not seen the actual document either man wrote about this extraordinary gift. Richard G. Wood of the National Archives wrote in the article "Stephen Harriman Long at Belle Point," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 13, 4 (Winter, 1954): 338-340 that "Long and Bradford set out in September 1817 with the self-same skiff which he had used on the Upper Mississippi together with keel boats laden with soldiers and supplies."

⁴ Richard C. Boss in "Charbonneau's Prayer" by Joseph Mussulman.

⁵ Roger L. Nichols and Patrick L. Halley, *Stephen Long and American Frontier Exploration* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985), 51-54.

⁶ Richard C. Boss, "Keelboat, Pirogue, and Canoe: Vessels used by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery," *Nautical Research Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (June 1993), 68-87.

⁷ Joseph Mussulman, "Charbonneau's Prayer," *Discovering Lewis & Clark*, May 6, 2005. Accessed at <http://www.lewis-clark.org/article/2671>.

⁸ The pirogue Clark had built for the trip up the Missouri River in 1805 by the Corps of Discovery had almost an exact description of it which fits perfectly with the references made by Long about the skiff in his journal. Both pirogue and skiff are general boat names used in difference sections of the states. Could the boat Clark gave to Long be the same used in the first voyage by Lewis and Clark up the Missouri River? This "white pirogue," as Clark named it, shuttled between the Mandan villages up the Missouri and the St. Louis area carrying specimens and supplies during the Corps first year of travel. Obviously, it was sturdily built and had a good luck charm to survive until 1817, but both are possibilities. Did Long simply change the designation to skiff, a common term for such craft among New Englanders?

Digging Through the Stacks

Raiders of the Lost Archives

By Kevin L. Jones, Ph.D.

Since 2015, a dedicated group of University of Arkansas — Fort Smith scholars, volunteers, and Sebastian County employees have started digitizing historical archives of the Sebastian County Circuit Court. The archive files currently being scanned, probate and criminal files dating from the 1870s to 1900, are a first phase of the long-term project. The work is a daunting task, like melting an iceberg with a hair dryer. The progress has been slow, but because of the files' significance, the work must continue. Thanks to the efforts of a small group, this important preservation and providing access to the public to local historical documents is well underway, yet more volunteers are needed.

In early 2014, Sebastian County Sheriff Bill Hollenbeck and I discussed what could be done with a massive amount of historical documents in storage. Hollenbeck's interest in these files was not only for their law-enforcement value, but also for their historic connotation, showing the effort of Sebastian County employees over the years. According to Hollenbeck and Cody Faber, ranger and volunteers-in-parks coordinator and education coordinator at the Fort Smith National Historic Site, many Deputy U.S. Marshals were cross-deputized as Sebastian County and city law enforcement.

In March, with help from Sheriff Hollenbeck, Denora Coomer, Sebastian County Circuit Clerk, and Dr. Steven Kite, associate professor of history, Jerry Wing and I began plowing through the original archives. Mr. Tom Wing, assistant professor of history and director of the Drennen-Scott House, was an integral part of the project's implementation.

Dockets, receipts, dispositions, subpoenas, and warrants of all types were reviewed to ascertain what they had and what should or could be done with the large collection before the effects of time and typical storage conditions destroyed the original documents. Goals included telling the story of the Sheriff's Department and to preserve the history for future generations. I have been involved with archives during my own research projects with, among others, the Fort Smith Museum of History, Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the Morgan Library in New York City.



UA — FORT SMITH student Jerry Wing opens a file cabinet filled with documents he is scanning and digitizing as part of an internship with the Sebastian County Circuit Clerk's Records Office.

(Photo courtesy of UAFS Marketing and Communication Office/Rachel Putman)

The possibility to work with a historic archive of documents at the ground level and to assist with protecting, promoting, and publishing anything to do with the original documents is fun and important work. We are stewards of the past, and we have to take care of these documents before they are gone.

John Post in a May 12, 2015, article, "Updating History: UAFS Student Works to Digitize Historic Documents," noted Jerry Wing's initial reaction to the project, "I came into this internship assuming we'd see names of prominent Fort Smith citizens going back to the Civil War, but I hadn't thought of seeing the receipts from specific hardware and general stores that we're encountering, Wing said. One thing I'm learning is there's multiple angles and uses for a resource like this. It tells a story of Fort Smith that hasn't been told before."

Documents in storage to be scanned and protected is enormous, as with most historical archives, but we have a unique opportunity due to this cooperation to keep moving forward to save these documents and share with the world in the right way. Thanks to experts in the historical



(ABOVE) AN 1870s VIEW of the south side of Garrison Avenue shows the store of P. Frizell, P.R. Davis Grocery, and Johnson and Cassady Stoves and Tinware. Frizell was a cotton merchant and wholesaler with connections to Springfield, Missouri.

(Fort Smith Museum of History)

(RIGHT) PARTIES TRIED before Sam. Edmondson, J.P. from Nov. 1, 1880, up to May 30, 1881. Filed in my office May 31, 1881. W. J. Fleming, Clerk, by J. C. Stalcup, D. Clerk.

(Sebastian County Archives)

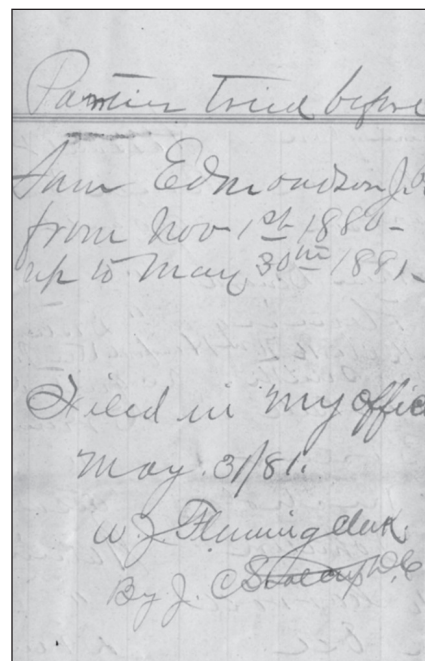
preservation area available locally and the desire of community behind the project, the archive project is a positive cooperative effort between the county and UAFS, as well as local historians and researchers.

The model for the digitization and method of offering access to these documents came from the *Research Guide to the Criminal Case Files of Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1866-1900*, as part of the National Archives at Fort Worth, which digitized Fort Smith federal court records. Knowledge of this index was helpful to those who crafted the Sebastian County/UAFS English and History Departments Archive Project. Input from Caroline Speir, exhibit designer and historian at the Fort Smith Museum of History, helped forge the procedures in place at the Sebastian County archives.

The website of the National Archives' *Fort Smith Criminal Case Files Index* "Defendant Jacket Files for the

U.S. District Court Western Division of Arkansas, Fort Smith Division, compiled 1866-1900," as well as

the Criminal Case Files Index, 1866-1900, offer not only how our county records are collected and organized, but provides a template for how our future web access for researchers would be found on either website links through the UAFS Pebley Center or the Sebastian County Circuit Clerk's website. For example, the NARA Fort Worth Archives collection includes arrest warrants, subpoenas, court papers, U.S. Marshal oaths of office, criminal case files, "jackets" of documents, as are the Sebastian County documents, and probate files. Although the current focus of





FROM LEFT, after a parade on Garrison Avenue, on horseback, are Sheriff Henry I. Falconer, Sr., along with John H. Rogers, P.R. Davis, and Benjamin F. Atkinson. The photograph was taken near the Reutzel and Atkinson stores. Falconer worked in the Western District of Arkansas and was appointed later to the Sandy Land Court, out of Muskogee, as well as serving as Sebastian County Sheriff. John H. Rogers, a Confederate war veteran, was twice wounded and received a commission for gallantry as a first lieutenant on the battlefield at age 19 in Franklin, Tennessee. Rogers became a lawyer, judge, and a US Representative. P.R. Davis was a local grocer, and Benjamin F. Atkinson served as a Confederate captain and colonel in Fort Smith. After the war, he established a hardware store at 623 Garrison Avenue and was president of the American National Bank.

(Photo courtesy of the Fort Smith Museum of History)

scanning is on criminal and probate files up to 1900, this project will continue as long as there are documents to be scanned and protected and volunteers and county officials continue to offer support.

After the acquisition of spare computers, scanners, desks, correct archival storage materials, and scheduling arrangements, the first documents were scanned for the archive in January 2015. Throughout the next five months, documents were treated with proper archival procedures. We developed guidelines for training volunteers.

English students and historical interpretation students at UAFS have a first-hand access to these documents as they have scanned, cataloged, and researched the originals to help tell the story. Our end goal to digitize the entire archive may be many years off, but we seek to make connections to existing knowledge and documentation

about people, places, and events through these documents, and finally, we hope to provide access for research and the public through a database and scanned versions of the originals. The county will maintain official control of the originals, but digital scans will be accessible through links with UAFS Pebley Center and the Sebastian County Circuit Clerk's office.

The archive digitization project has been facilitated by Sebastian County employees Denora Coomer, Willard Wentz, Senior Deputy Circuit Records Clerk, Scott Stubblefield, and County Judge David Hudson. Leslie Harris, Samuel Ortega, and Kevin Smith have lent their able assistance to the project.

Several University of Arkansas-Fort Smith students have volunteered their time or worked through internships for this project, including Joshua P. Harris, Dawn Cox,



(ABOVE) The Charles A. Birnie home, built around 1847 on Washington Street (now known as Second Street) is shown in this photograph.

(Fort Smith Museum of History)

(RIGHT) Paid receipt dated December 28, 1896, from Charles A. and H. C. Birnie, Undertakers and Embalmers, 805 Garrison Ave., regarding the funeral expenses for Judge Isaac C. Parker, who died November 17, 1896.

(Sebastian County Archives)

Joseph Riviera, James Lunsford, Carol Ann Seahorn, Ann Ritter, Victor Duenas, Tyler Nolan, and Racheal Simpson. Many of these students have a love for history, but the majority have been English majors.

Patrick Jones, a local high school student, has volunteered at the archive. Twelve volunteers have scanned, cataloged, and stored over 100 criminal case files dating from 1879 to 1890, making over 220 scans, along with over 950 probate file scans, primarily from the years 1873 to 1896.

The historical images accompanying this article are tied to stories contained in the documents already scanned and archived.

"Received Fort Smith, Arks of E.C. Brogan,
[brother to Joseph,] Adm. of the estate of Joseph
Brogan, decd. the sum of two dollars for hauling wheat

Fort Smith, Ark., Decr 28 1896
Estate J. C. Parker
(1)

BOUGHT OF CHAS. A. & H. C. BIRNIE, D^{ns}
UNDERTAKERS AND EMBALMERS,
1896 NO. 805 GARRISON AVENUE.

Nov 17	Silk Plush Casket Vault Box	300 00
	Funeral Car	15 00
	Embalming Body	65 00
	Washing & Dressing	5 00
	Flowers & Crape	10 00
	Paid Digging Grave	5 00
	Candles	85
	Lining Grave	5 00
	Undertakers Services	25 00
	Music over casket	3 25
		434 19

Paid
Chas A & H C Birnie

from _____? which was sold to his H. store.

Fort Smith July 26, 1876. James Donahoe."

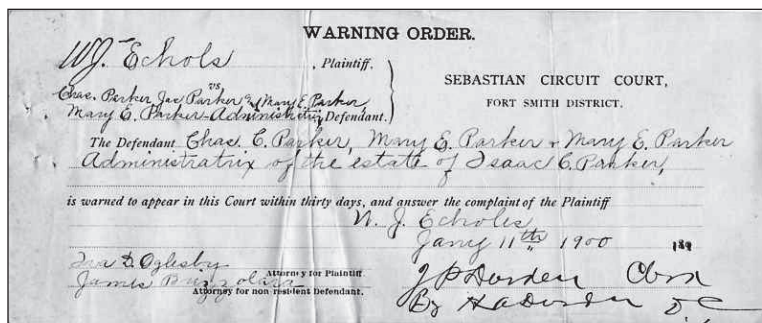
(Sebastian County Archives)

Joseph Brogan was born in Killybegs, County Donegal,



JAMES BRIZZOLARA, ATTORNEY FOR THE PARKER FAMILY regarding the estate of Judge Isaac C. Parker, is seen at the right of this photo in the Sixth Street Courthouse and Post Office in the 1890s. Brizzolara, an Italian immigrant, served during the Italian revolution and was mustered out at age 14 as a colonel. The New York Times of September 25, 1913, reported that he enjoyed duels and was badly wounded in one with George R. Phelan in Memphis in 1869. A US commissioner for 19 years and mayor of Fort Smith from 1878 to 1882, his home at Sixth and E Streets still stands today. He died in 1913.

(Fort Smith National Historic Site)



W. J. ECHOLS, PLAINTIFF, vs. Charles Parker, James Parker, and Mary E. Parker, Mary E. Parker, Administratrix of the estate of Isaac C. Parker, Defendant; warned to appear in this Court within thirty days, and answer the complaint of the Plaintiff, W. J. Echols, January 11, 1900. Attorney for the Plaintiff, Ira D. Oglesby; Attorney for the non-resident Defendant, James Brizzolara. JP Durden, Clerk; by H. A. Durden, D. Clerk.

(Sebastian County Archives)

Ireland, in 1823, died in Fort Smith on Nov. 3, 1873, and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Fort Smith. His brother, Edward C. Brogan, was born in 1833 and died in August 1910; he too is buried in Calvary Cemetery. After Joseph's death, Edward served as administrator of his probate cases, which included being seen before Circuit Judge J. H. Rogers and represented by DuVal and Cravens law firm.

Both Edward Brogan and James Donahoe were part of

an Arkansas Supreme Court case in May 1883, dating back to the purchase of land between the families of "Lina Theurer, and her two children, Mary C. and Joseph Theurer, were, in 1859, the owners of a 200 acre farm in Sebastian county, which had been conveyed to them jointly by deed from Wood and wife."

Additionally, according to the Arkansas Supreme Court Case of 1883:



ALTHOUGH THE ORIGINAL PHOTO when taken did not show the entire structure, Brogan's Liquor Store and Saloon is shown at left in this 1890s photo of Garrison Avenue, looking South, toward Sixth Street. The Sebastian County Courthouse can be seen in the background to the left of the Hotel Main and First National Bank Building.
(Fort Smith Museum of History)

George Theurer was living, but had no interest in the property. He afterward disappeared, and after an absence of five years, without being heard of, was presumed to be dead. At some time—the transcript does not advise us when—the said Lina and her children filed a complaint to recover possession of this land against Frances and James Donahoe, who, they alleged, were unlawfully keeping them out of the possession. Their deed is exhibited. It does not appear that any summons was issued against these defendants, or that they appeared.

At the February term, 1877, complainants were, on motion, allowed to add as defendants, Edward C. Brogan, as administrator of the estate of Joseph Brogan, and J. H. Davis, against whom a summons was issued on the seventeenth day of May, 1877, which was the beginning of the suit. It was dismissed as to the Donahoes. At the September term, 1877, the case was,

on motion of defendants, transferred to the equity docket. (89-90, *Theurer, et. al. v. Brogan, et. al.*)

The case lingered through appeals and motions until January 30, 1897, when the case of *Brogan v. Brogan*, Arkansas Supreme Court (Patrick Brogan v. E. C. Brogan) settled the land dispute, and the finances of Joseph Brogan, who died in 1873, were finally settled, or so it seems.

The probate files of Joseph Brogan as found in the Sebastian County Archives have kept volunteers busy, as file after file and individual documents have been scanned, providing a unique glimpse into local businesses and daily life in Fort Smith during the 1800s and early 1900s. Brogan's store was located on Garrison Avenue to the east of the Hotel Main, near Sixth Street, approximately the location of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce building and the parking lot of First National Bank today.

One of the major obstacles in this work has been the scheduling of volunteers, as all have been students or those who can only offer their time periodically. The need for volunteers is constant, and we hope you will offer your help to this long term and important endeavor. Anyone interested in volunteering for the archive project should contact Dr. Kevin Jones, Associate Professor, Department of English, Rhetoric, and Writing; College of Communication, Languages, Arts, and Social Sciences, University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Please email: kevin.jones@uafs.edu or call 479-788-7429.



Dr. Kevin Jones teaches English and writing at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. He has published two books with photographs, essays, and

captioning on the history of Fort Smith.

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Theurer, et. al. v. Brogan, et. al., May 1883 41 Ark 88 1883.

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Forest Park Cemetery

The poetry of our past and the problem of our future



FOREST PARK CEMETERY ON MIDLAND BOULEVARD

(Photo courtesy of Sue Robison)

By Sue Robison

THE LAND

Driving down Midland Boulevard at forty miles an hour, it's easy to miss what few hints remain of the once park-like setting that drew families to this far end of Fort Smith in the early twentieth-century to enjoy its gentle landscape and river views. The Fort Smith Country Club spread its golfing greens across the road now called Midland Boulevard, and Electric Park delighted visitors with the marvels of electric light. Around this playful area of town, the electric trolley carried riders toward Van Buren. There, near to the river, a cemetery formed.¹

Forest Park Cemetery is all that remains of what was once the playground for those living in the late Victorian age city houses of Fort Smith. Officially incorporated in 1910, the cemetery offered a lush and peaceful resting place at the city's edge.² The stone pillars of the entrance to the original cemetery still stand on a dirt road running parallel to North Fiftieth Street, and just a short drive from



THE ASPHALT DRIVEWAY
AT FOREST PARK CEMETERY

(Photo courtesy of Sue Robison)

the sexton's office. Inside those gates are the oldest sections of the cemetery: Hilldale and Summit.³

The view from the Summit section is not one of a flat

landscape Forest Park is made up of gentle rises and what were originally small knolls. The graves are not as closely spaced as some cemeteries, giving this section an almost private and leisurely appearance to the burials. Trees as old as the cemetery itself offer shade, and dirt roads make pathways through the graves.

A single-lane paved road runs just past the door of the sexton's office toward Van Buren. It is welcome to the modern driver, but somewhat out of place in what has become a rugged terrain. This road, pointing the way to the Arkansas River, is believed to be what remains of the original Midland Avenue.

MOVING THE DEAD

As the city of Fort Smith began to grow close to the end of the nineteenth and first part of the twentieth centuries, several small, family cemeteries were scattered throughout the town. Many of these cemeteries were relocated for development of the land, while others were simply lost to the passage of time. On one occasion, the city involved itself in the moving of graves.

Before the Civil War, the Rogers Cemetery was the largest burial ground in Fort Smith. Located on what is now Grand Avenue near the present location of Darby Junior High School, Rogers Cemetery was the final resting place of most Fort Smith citizens.⁴

On July 19, 1901, the *Fort Smith Elevator* published this account of a City Council meeting regarding Rogers Cemetery:

At the council meeting Monday night, an ordinance was passed requiring the removal of the dead buried in the old Rogers Cemetery. The ordinance provides that if the relatives of the parties buried in the cemetery do not remove the same within six months, the city shall take up the work and make internments in the city cemetery.⁵

The cemetery records at Forest Park point to the reburial of bodies from small burial grounds into the oldest sections at the current cemetery. Records noted several "removals," as many as fourteen such reburials listed on a single page. However, the names of the older cemeteries are lost. It seems the cemetery receiving a grave was not required to note from which cemetery that body came, nor was the cemetery giving up the body required to make note of its destination. Much like old photos of forgotten family members, the relatives of those being moved seemed to assume there would always be a family member to tell their story. Today's sexton reports the oldest grave he has seen at the cemetery is from a death in 1865. There is little hope in finding the grave's original site.⁶



THE CALDWELL FAMILY MONUMENT
AT FOREST PARK CEMETERY.

(Photo courtesy of Sue Robison)

An example of the difficulties met in searching for original burial sites is Stephen Wheeler, who served as commissioner for Judge Isaac C. Parker.⁷ Wheeler and his young daughter, Millicent, rest together on a small rise in the older section of the cemetery. The cemetery records have them marked as "removed." Most would assume that to mean they have been removed from Forest Park to another cemetery, but no such destination is listed. A search of death records shows both were buried at the City Cemetery, now known as the Oak Cemetery. Online records for the Oak Cemetery show Millicent's burial site location, but offer no birth or death date. Those same records do not mention Stephen at all, but there are deeds of sale showing that Stephen purchased plots at the Oak Cemetery and his wife later purchased plots at Forest Park.⁸

What happened, and where are they? This appears to, again, be a matter of recordkeeping. A view of the record books at Forest Park shows the limited space available for posting information. Perhaps their definition of "removed" meant they were removed to Forest Park and there was simply no space to record the location of their first burials. Their stones are at Forest Park and, since Mrs. Wheeler purchased two plots in 1911, there is little doubt that both Stephen Wheeler and his daughter rest there in peace.

There are several of these "removed" graves in Forest Park. Without the name recognition of Stephen Wheeler, most receive little attention as to their original resting place. They do, however, speak of a city growing into what was once private burial spaces. They speak of a new cemetery named Forest Park that convinced families to move their dead into its peaceful, beautiful grounds.

THE MONUMENTS

Almost all city or church burial grounds of any age are depositories of beautiful stonework and ornate headstones. Forest Park Cemetery is no exception. Its grounds are



FORMER FOREST PARK CEMETERY owner Cleve Cotner designed his own black granite grave marker.
(Photos courtesy of Sue Robison)

dotted with the handiwork of masons and carvers who created ornate decorations on simple headstones, as well as mausoleums standing in quite grandeur beneath the shade of massive trees.

An impressive monument marking the burial of the Seaman family decorates the older section of the cemetery. Giving the feeling of a Greek portico, it features a carved railing that closes with columns and urns.

Along with depictions of angels, the famous *Thinker* statue, Celtic crosses, and delicate floral patterns on markers adorning the graves in both old and new sections, a walk through Forest Park is impressive for its artwork. It is easy to imagine early twentieth-century visitors strolling the grounds to admire the craftsmanship of the stoneworkers.

Perhaps the most recognizable monument in the cemetery is quite simple in its presentation. Visible from Midland Boulevard, it is known as Confederate Circle and flies the flag of the Confederacy in memory of Civil War veterans buried in Forest Park Cemetery. The graves, arranged in a circle around the flag pole, gaze upon the moment at the circle's center meant to recall that terrible period in America's history.

The monument itself resembles an oversized grave

marker and reads "Confederate soldiers rest in this circle." The Daughters of the Confederacy dedicated the marker in 1961, and have found through their research that seventy Confederate veterans are buried at the monument or elsewhere in the cemetery.⁹

Newer sections of the cemetery display modern markers to memorialize the dead. The gravestone of former owner of Forest Park Cemetery, Cleve Cotner, is constructed of black granite. Mr. Cotner designed his own tombstone and displayed his plan to employees at Cotner Monument. The darker the granite, the deeper it was dug from the ground and more expensive it is for the consumer. Cleve Cotner's unique, black tombstone is easily visible from Midland Boulevard.¹⁰

NAMES OF NOTE

According to information at the Fort Smith Public Library, more than 13,000 souls rest in Forest Park Cemetery.¹¹ A record of burials from 1910 to 1988 is available at the Fort Smith Public Library, and no doubt one could spend hours reading each name and finding many with links to the history of Fort Smith. A simple walk across the cemetery grounds yields several names recognizable for their involvement in our city's development.

The colorful King of the Gypsies, Yanko Urich, rests at Forest Park. A brief study of his life recalls the days when Gypsies were numerous in Fort Smith and gives tales of a special postmistress handling mail from around the world, as well as a story of a young Gypsy royalty saved from drowning and other exciting stories.¹² Urich's funeral in 1923 was reported to be the first in Fort Smith to use a motorized hearse.¹³ The king rests atop a small knoll, but his wife did not join him there until 1950, when she passed away at the age of ninety years.¹⁴

The gentleman at the center of a famous Fort Smith scandal sleeps in Forest Park. Fagan Bourland's extra-marital affair that began in the 1890s and ended when his wife murdered his girlfriend often overshadows the man's success as mayor of Fort Smith.

Fagan's tombstone is large and imposing, much as you would assume his personality to have been.¹⁵ At the foot of his stone lie smaller markers for Fagan, his wife, Julia, and their two sons.

Sadly, Judge Isaac C. Parker's youngest son, James Joseph, rests beneath a large tree in Forest Park Cemetery, having passed from this life far too young.¹⁶ James was the Parker son who chose to remain in Fort Smith, take up the practice of law in the city and raise his children here. He and his wife, Kate Bailey, were well known and respected members of the community.

While barely into his forties, James contracted an infection that could not be cured by the medicine available at that time. He suffered greatly, resigned himself from his law firm and public associations. James eventually took his own life, ending what he surely considered an insufferable condition. Kate rests at James' side, and one of their daughters, Lillian, is buried at the feet of her father.

THE FUTURE

While sections of Forest Park retain the same dignified appearance that they have held for more than a century, other sections are suffering. The cemetery does not want for lack of care, or dedication of its employees, but from the simple lack of funds that plagues so many old burial grounds. The expense of upkeep has far outgrown the income available from burials.

An interview with the current sexton revealed that the cemetery should average between seventy and eighty burials each year. In 2016, there were fifty-one new internments.¹⁷

Many conditions contribute to the decrease in burials. A leading influence is the modern turn toward cremation, as opposed to burial. It is not unusual to see newer cemeteries designing sections for families opting for cremation, but Forest Park has no such designated areas.

Another factor is the simple movement away from the



YANKO URICH, known as the King of Gypsies, died in 1923. His funeral is believed to have been the first in Fort Smith to use a motorized hearse.



JAMES J. PARKER, youngest son of Judge Isaac C. Parker, is buried at Forest Park.

(Photos courtesy of Sue Robison)

north side of Fort Smith. As the city continues to grow, families are moving south and east, no longer visiting the area that once boasted of Electric Park. As families move, they tend to choose locations closer to home when selecting a cemetery for their loved ones.

Forest Park is a perpetual trust cemetery, meaning it has funds held in reserve. However, under the regulations of



MODERN ANGEL MONUMENT at Forest Park Cemetery.
(Photo courtesy of Sue Robison)

the trust, those funds may not be touched until the cemetery has no gravesites left to sell. There are still sites available in cleared areas of the cemetery, and acres of land waiting to be cleared for burial. If the rate of burials continues at its current pace, it is almost impossible to estimate when the cemetery will be full. Meantime, the Forest Park continues to operate on funds raised decades ago when gravesites sold for as little as forty dollars each.

A combination of these problems shows on the face of Forest Park Cemetery. The dirt roads through the cemetery need constant grading. Paving would be solution, but the expense makes it an impossibility. Hiring more crew members to handle upkeep would help, but there is little money for salaries.¹⁸

The owners of Forest Park have, within the last year, made overtures to the city of Fort Smith for assistance, asking the city to consider taking Forest Park under its wing much as they have Oak Cemetery. No motion has been put before the Fort Smith Board of Directors regarding maintenance or the future of Forest Park.

The question, then, seems not only what happens to Forest Park, but what happens to all cemeteries opened at

the turn of the twentieth century? Who cares for the graves when there are no surviving family members? What happens when money raised in 1910 is not enough to pay twenty-first-century expenses? Are we responsible for the souls in Forest Park Cemetery? If not, who will be responsible for us a century from today?

For their help with material for this article, the author would like to especially thank the Fort Smith Public Library Genealogy department; Ann Jones and the Daughters of the Confederacy; Stephen Christian; Forest Park Cemetery staff; Floyd Robison; Tom Wing.



Sue Robison's article, "Mary E. O'Toole Parker, the Judge's Wife," which appeared in the Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society 40, 1 (April 2016): 30-35, received the Arkansas Historical Association's Walter L. Brown Best Biography Award in April 2017.

End Notes

- ¹ Fort Smith Trolley Museum website/ History
- ² Forest Park Cemetery Records, Forest Park Cemetery Office.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Sue Clark, ed., Oak Cemetery, 1994.
- ⁵ *Fort Smith Elevator*, July 19, 1901, page 5, column 1.
- ⁶ Author interview with Forest Park Sexton, July 2017.
- ⁷ University of Central Arkansas Archives, Stephen Wheeler Collection.
- ⁸ City of Fort Smith Public Records, Death/Deeds to cemetery lot.
- ⁹ Ruth A. Ward, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Varina Jefferson Davis 252.
- ¹⁰ Author interview with Floyd Robison, July 24, 2017.
- ¹¹ Robyn Fowler and Wanda Karrant, eds., Index to Interments in Forest Park Cemetery 1910-1988.
- ¹² Sarah Fitzgerald, "Red Lantern Welcome to Fort Smith: For the People Nobody Liked," *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* 7, 1, (April 1983): 2-9.
- ¹³ Edwin P. Hicks, "She Handled Mail for Gypsies All Over the World," *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, 7, 1 (April 1983): 9-11.
- ¹⁴ Fowler and Karrant.
- ¹⁵ Angela Martin, "James Fagan Bourland: Mayor of Fort Smith Four Times," *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, 14, 1 (April 1990): 21-23.
- ¹⁶ City of Fort Smith Public Records, Death/Birth/Marriage.
- ¹⁷ Forest Park Cemetery Records
- ¹⁸ Conversations with City Clerk's office and the Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department.

A History of Healing

Nursing education and practice in Fort Smith

By Mary Calline Ellis, RN, Ed.D.

Prior to the late 1800s, proper young women did not become nurses in the United States. It was not a respectable thing to do. Today nursing is a highly respected profession, and much of the credit goes to Florence Nightingale, who was from an upper-class, affluent, English family. She took thirty-eight untrained “nurses” to Crimea in 1854 and lowered the death rate of English soldiers by 75 percent. She returned to London a heroine. In 1859, she wrote *Notes on Nursing* and established the Nightingale School and Home for Nurses at St. Thomas’ Hospital in London. The standards for admission were high, and there were 200 applicants for twelve places. Soon after the Nightingale School opened, schools of nursing opened in the United States, but it would be another thirty-five years before Fort Smith had a school of nursing.

Caring for sick or injured family members was the responsibility of the wives and mothers. Those without family did not fare well if ill or injured. Nursing practice and nursing education are closely tied to the opening of hospitals, and Fort Smith did not have a hospital for seventy years after a Cantonment Smith was established in 1817 to keep peace among the Indians in Oklahoma Territory.

Arkansas became a territory in 1819 and a state in 1836. In 1840, the town of Fort Smith was organized and was incorporated in 1842. The Sisters of Mercy arrived from Ireland in 1851 and established schools. Their mission was education of children, not care of the sick. During the United States Civil War (1861-1865) the Sisters of Mercy converted their schools to hospitals to care for the injured and then reopened them as schools after the war. During these happenings, Fort Smith did not have a hospital.

In 1887 Father George Degan, the new rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church, heard of a man named Gerhardt, who had crushed his foot at the railroad and had been taken to a boarding house and left. Father Degan went to see what he could do. He and his wife tended him for a couple of weeks. When the man’s foot became infected, Father Degan



PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR
THE SPARKS SCHOOL OF NURSING
(Courtesy of the author)



(LEFT) *Sparks School of Nursing students pose in front of the building.*

(BELOW) *Nurses dormitory.*

(Photos courtesy of the author)

called Dr. William W. Bailey, who said the leg had to be amputated. They both agreed that Fort Smith had to have a hospital. Father Degan collected \$500 from the merchants on Garrison Avenue, secured a three-room house, the Nerdy Building, at Fourth and G streets, rented it and moved the man with the crushed foot there. The women of St. John's Episcopal Church provided furniture and linens and tended the man after the amputation. The women of the church formed a guild to help with nursing duties, which included cooking and cleaning. Later that year, Mrs. Florence Wilton of New York, "one of the best trained nurses in the U.S.," was engaged as general manager. All the doctors were bringing patients to the hospital so they needed more room and more nurses. A larger three-room house, the Atkinson House at 302 North Second Street, was bought and a portable building was added so there were twelve beds. To have more nurses, a training school was needed. By fall 1888, a nurse's training school was opened to provide staff for the hospital. No records were found on names or numbers admitted or graduated but the assumption is the numbers were small and the training was short and on the job. There was no licensure or certification. Nurses were trained to work in the hospital that provided the training. Training meant they were taught what to do but not the principles on which the action was based.

From 1887 to 1896, St. John's Hospital operated under a



board of trustees headed by Judge Isaac Parker, and the hospital staff was controlled by the Sebastian County Medical Society. In 1896, an "irregular" group, the Progressive Medical Society, pressed for rights to admit their patients. The Board of Trustees divided the capacity of the hospital so that one-third of the beds were controlled by the Progressive Medical Society and two-thirds of the beds were controlled by the Sebastian County Medical Society. That was unacceptable to the Sebastian County Medical Society, so they withdrew and opened the City Charity Hospital on North Fourth Street, complete with a training school for nurses to staff the hospital.

Note the pattern: hospitals open training school for nurses to staff the hospital. Training was by apprenticeship with no classroom work included. There was no admission

date, but students were taken in as they arrived. There were no regulations to follow nor licensures of graduates. After an undetermined period, probably less than a year, the trainee was called "nurse."

In 1894, the Sebastian County Medical Society proposed the following lectures be offered by members of the society to the nurses in training at St. John's Hospital:

- ❖ Genesis of Disease, Duties and Conduct of Nurses.
- ❖ Nursing in Disease of the Chest.
- ❖ Nursing of Children.
- ❖ Surgical Asepsis and Antisepsis.
- ❖ Laparotomies.
- ❖ Nursing in Capital Operations.
- ❖ Medicines and their Administration.
- ❖ Symptomatology in Disease 9. Physiology of Female

Pelvic Organs.

- ❖ Surgical Bandages, Dressings, etc.
- ❖ Fractures and Dislocations.
- ❖ Special and General Gynecological Nursing.
- ❖ Duties of Nurses before, during and after Labor.
- ❖ Bedsores, Burns, and Wounds.
- ❖ Nurses Duty in Private Work.
- ❖ Stomach Pump, Hypodermic Syringe, and Catheter.
- ❖ Nursing the Nervous and Insane.
- ❖ Tracheostomy and Intubation.

❖ Nursing in Diseases of Eye, Ear, and Throat, and care of the Ear in Health.

This lecture series was never given to the St. John's nurses in training but after the foundation of City Charity Hospital, the lectures began immediately for the new City Charity Training School.

Minutes of the Sebastian County Medical Society show that in July 1897, this training program at City Charity Hospital had its first graduate. Miss Lula Beasley of Little Rock was awarded a diploma after being examined by a committee of three physicians from the society, making her the first nurse graduating from a school of nursing in Arkansas, although the history of St. John's Hospital School of Nursing shows the first class graduating in 1898, with three members: Irene Howard, Dolly Sieber and Mary Ella Wood. These three were reported to be the first nurses graduating from a school in Arkansas. No records were found of those nurses who trained at St. John's Hospital from 1888 to 1898.

In these early days and even until the 1970s, student nurses were trained to work in the hospital that provided the training ... at no cost to the student. The goal was not to provide an education but to provide adequate nursing service. Priorities were service first, education second. The supervisor of nurses was also the director of the school. Students were taught by the physicians and graduate nurses and worked regular twelve-hour shifts as the graduate



MISS ELLA WOOD

Dean of Nursing and a founding/charter member of the Arkansas State Graduate Nursing Association

nurses did. A nurse's duties ran the gamut. She cared for the sick, and that meant everything from bedside care to laundry. A story is told in the Sparks Regional Medical Center *100 Years of Service* book about a five-year-old girl patient who watched the nurses in their long white dresses. Every morning they walked up a hill over to what must have been a little farm and returned shortly carrying pails filled with fresh milk for the patients.

In 1899, St. John's Hospital and the City Charity Hospital merged and moved to a new address of Tenth and B Streets. They changed

the name to Belle Point Hospital and opened a training school for nurses. After graduation, the nurses were expected to work as private duty nurses. A few graduates were hired by the hospital as supervisors or head nurses.

In 1903 Miss Mary Barr graduated from Belle Point Hospital School of Nursing and advertised her services: "General Nursing, \$3/day; \$20/week; Contagious Diseases, \$4/day; Major Operation \$6/day; Minor Operation \$4/day; Hourly Nursing, .50 cents-\$1/visit. Traveling expenses extra if called out of the city. Nurses need at least 5-6 hours off duty to sleep each day."

In 1905, the Sisters of Mercy converted their convent into an infirmary and named it St. Edward's Mercy Infirmary. They opened a training school for nurses in 1906.

In 1908, George Sparks gave \$25,000 to Belle Point Hospital, and the name was changed to Sparks Hospital in memory of his wife. Belle Point Training School for Nurses became Sparks Training School for Nurses.

In 1912 there were beginning efforts to regulate the practice of nursing in Arkansas. Miss Ella Wood was a founding/charter member of the Arkansas State Graduate Nurses Association, and in 1913 the Nurse Practice Act was passed in Arkansas. Mary Breckinridge Thompson, formerly from Fort Smith (Joe and Lynn Wasson live in the Breckinridge home), and the founder of frontier nursing, and her husband, Richard, worked hard to get it passed. The

purpose of the Nurse Practice Act was, and is, to protect the public. Mary Breckinridge made the first survey visits in Arkansas and found many training schools failed to meet the standards. Only two women graduated from Sparks Training School for Nurses in 1913 (one was Clara Sahm), and they were the last in Fort Smith to have only two years of training and no state examination for licensure.

The first Arkansas state licensure exam for the practice of nursing was in 1914, and three years of schooling were required to sit for the licensure exam. Hospitals provided the three years of training in their diploma programs. Students continued to be trained and used to staff the hospital that provided the free training. Fort Smith had two diploma schools of nursing: St. Edward's Mercy Infirmary School of Nursing and Sparks Training School for Nurses.

During the Great Depression, there was no demand for nurses. Sparks School of Nursing closed in 1932 for two years. On December 11, 1934, the Sebastian County Medical Society endorsed an eight-hour day for nurses.

Wars have always influenced every aspect of our lives. Nursing education and nursing practice were certainly affected by World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953), and the Vietnam War (1960- 1975). I want to focus on the influence of World War II on nursing practice and nursing education in Fort Smith, Arkansas: first, by sharing the nursing experiences of Ellene Rebsamen Polk, my own life experience in nursing and the phenomenal influence of Mildred Montag on nursing education in the United States.

Ellene Rebsamen Polk (1924-2012) graduated from high school in Heavener, Oklahoma, and her father worked for the Kansas City Southern Railroad. The Southern Belle train came through Heavener and had hostesses, much like the hostesses on our airlines. Ellene wanted to be a hostess on the Southern Belle and asked her dad to find out how she could do that. He found out that being a nurse was one of the criteria for applicants so she decided to go to nurse's school. She chose St. Edward's because Dr. Arthur Hoge, Sr. was the railroad doctor and St. Edward's was the hospital he used for railroad employees. Ellene graduated from high school in the spring of 1942 and entered St. Edward's Nursing School that fall. Her dad was so proud of her. Training was for three years, and students lived in the nurse's dorm behind the hospital on A Street.

Ellene had a lot of good memories of her nursing student days. There was no cost to the students or their families. The hospital furnished uniforms, room, and board. Students were trained to work in their hospital, and most stayed after graduation to work. Sisters from St. Anne's taught some of their courses, and doctors taught the classes on obstetrics, surgical nursing, etc. Dr. Hoge taught some of the classes. Because it was war time, the hospital

was always short on staff, and taking care of the patients took priority over classes, so students might miss out on classes or classes would be cancelled.

There were about forty who started that fall of 1942. Some were expelled, and some quit so about thirty graduated. Ellene thought she would be expelled when she got some diet trays mixed up. "I was determined to get off the floor on time so I served the diet trays early." The trays came up on the dumb waiter, and the maternity patients were very happy because they got hamburgers and French fries. Then more trays came up, and it turned out that the hamburgers and French fries were intended for the sisters, not the patients! The sisters had to eat the patient's food that night. Ellene went to the sister in charge on her floor, with fear and trembling, and apologized. Sister consoled her and told her if that was the worst mistake she ever made, she would make a fine nurse.

Ellene said some students just quit. "There was one girl from my hometown that kept her suitcase packed and would call her mother and cry to come home." Ellene said they didn't get to go home very often because they were needed to work weekends. When she did go home, she rode a bus to Sallisaw and then caught the Kansas City Southern train to Heavener. She got to ride the train free because her dad worked for KCS.

On November 29, 1944, Ellene and her classmates were inducted into the U.S. Cadet Nurses Corps of the United States Public Health Service. The induction papers stated: "I pledge to my country, my service in essential nursing for the duration of the war...." They were given uniforms and fifteen dollars per month. Upon graduation, they would serve in the armed forces. They wore their uniforms when they went to the movies and received the discounted rate of the soldiers. They were very pleased with the monthly stipend and spent a lot of it on movies and hamburgers from the White Spot on Rogers Avenue!

"Essential" nursing meant essential to the war effort. Ellene was classified as I-A and available for military service. The war was officially over May 7, 1945, and graduation was May 15, 1945, so the military obligation ended.

During all three years of training, Ellene was engaged to her high school sweetheart, who joined the army after high school. He had his sister buy an engagement ring and send it to Ellene so she would wait for him. She waited but the other nursing students dated the soldiers at Camp Chaffee and spent time at the USO, which was located about where City National Bank is now located.

Students could be expelled for marrying.

As students, their day started at 7 a.m. They met the Sister in charge in the basement, and she made sure they were dressed properly, including hairnets, and had their bandage scissors and then they went to their assigned

floors. In addition to caring for the patients, they cleaned the rooms, emptied the trash, and washed bed pans. In the newborn nursery, they washed the diapers, took them to the boiler room, hung them to dry, collected them, folded them, and had a fresh supply ready for the next shift. Ellene was working in the newborn nursery the day St. Edward's got the first window air-conditioner unit. The newborn nursery got the first one, and Ellene felt lucky to be assigned there.

The student nurse's home had a sleeping porch that was claimed by the senior nursing students because of the breeze they might catch during the sweltering summer nights. They had a house mother who enforced the rules. There was a dress code when they were off duty, also. They had to wear hose, and the sisters checked when they left and when they returned at date call. When it was hot, they would get out of sight, sit on the stone wall, and take the hose off and put them in a pocket. Before going back in, they sat on the stone wall, and put their hose back on. Ellene's class graduated in May 1945.

For the graduates to take the licensure exam, St. Edward's chartered a bus to Little Rock. It was a two-day exam, and Ellene thinks they had to wait only a week to know if they passed. She passed and didn't remember it being very hard.

Early in her career, Ellene worked for Dr. Harvey in his clinic at Heavener with the girl who always kept her suitcase packed and begged to come home while they were in training. Ellene had a lengthy career in nursing, including working for Drs. Arthur and Marlin Hoge at their office in the First National Bank building and helping them move to the new office above Laws Drug Store. She stayed with them until she was recruited to be the health nurse for Dixie Cup on Midland Boulevard. She later worked relief as health nurse at Whirlpool and Harding Glass and set up the health station at Westark Community College in 1970. She said she had no regrets about choosing nursing as a career, even though she never got to be a hostess on the Southern Belle.

In 1955, when I graduated from high school, there were still two schools of nursing in Fort Smith: Sparks and St. Edward's. Both were diploma schools and admitted students once a year. Students were trained for three years and received free room and board, free uniforms, and free education. When I started at Sparks School of Nursing in 1955, I took my personal clothes, white nurse's shoes, white hose, and cotton underwear (required in the operating room so not to cause a spark from nylon underwear that could cause a fire). We had a house mother who came around at 10 p.m. with a flashlight to make sure we had washed our shoelaces, polished our shoes and were in bed. Hospitals still trained students to work in their hospital. Students met the needs of the hospital, and that took priority over education. Head nurses were in charge of



**FORT SMITH NURSE TRAINEES BEFORE
BOARDING A BUS TO LITTLE ROCK FOR THE
STATE EXAMS**

the nursing students during clinicals. Physicians taught classes, and students were pulled to units when staff didn't show up. If a student got married, she had to drop out of school. Guys need not apply. Juniors and seniors worked evenings, nights and weekends. Doctors could call the house mother and request a nursing student to babysit his children. Students and nurses stood when a doctor entered the nurses station and offered him their chair. Student's uniforms consisted of an unstarched dress with a heavily starched bib and apron, that could stand in the corner of the room. We flipped the tails of the apron before sitting so not to wrinkle the backside. The nurses cap was heavily starched, and we earned our stripes as a student and then traded the three stripes on the corner for one black grosgrain stripe all the way around one inch from the top.

I was learning a lot but not having a lot of fun. We worked during the day and took classes during the evening. When off on the weekend, we walked in a group to the USO and danced with the soldiers and then walked in a group back to the student nurse's home, which was on Thirteenth Street across from Sparks Hospital and behind the fire station on Towson Avenue. When my friend came home at Christmas from Fayetteville and talked about all the fun she was having, I wanted to go there also, but didn't think my folks could afford it. When I found out tuition was fifty dollars a semester for full-time studies, my mother said she thought we could do that. I have always said that God intended for me to be a nurse because they had just started a nursing program at the University of Arkansas, and I would be in the second graduating class. This was the first bachelor of science in nursing program in Arkansas. We had two years of general education in Fayetteville and two years of nursing courses and clinical practice at the UA Medical Center in Little Rock. I married after my junior year and went with my MD husband to San Diego, California. San Diego State College had just started a bachelor of science in nursing program so that is where I

earned my degree in nursing in 1960 (its third graduating class) and took my two-day exam for a license to practice nursing in California. We had to wait six weeks to know if we passed. Schools grant the degree but the license to practice nursing is from the state.

I never practiced in California but received a license by reciprocity to practice nursing in Arkansas in 1964 and started working for Sparks Hospital in pediatrics. They didn't have a head nurse, so when it was time to schedule off-duty for the next month, I asked the director of nursing who would do it. She asked if I could do it, and I said I could, so I became head nurse!

In 1965 Sparks and St. Edward's still had diploma schools of nursing. Carolyn Moore was director of Sparks School of Nursing. Nursing students went to St. Louis for pediatrics and to Little Rock for psychiatric nursing. When Carolyn found out I had a bachelor's degree in nursing, she recruited me to develop and teach the course for nursing of children in 1965. I agreed. In 1967, for the first time, we allowed a student who had been forced to drop out of school after getting married to return and finish her senior year. We admitted the first male student in 1967. During this time, associate degree nursing programs were being established in community colleges all over the United States. Mildred Montag was responsible for this shift from training nurses to educating nurses.

Our country had suffered a severe shortage of registered nurses during World War II because so many nurses had joined the armed services. One-year programs for practical nurses were started to provide nurses during the war, and the practical nurse programs were to close when the registered nurses came home. Of course, they did not close and are still in place today.

During World War II, Mildred Montag of Adelphi College in New York was asked to determine if local hospitals would cooperate in establishing a school of nursing at Adelphi College. They did and the two-year program was very successful. In 1948, Ms. Montag left Adelphi to complete her doctoral studies at Columbia University Teachers College. Her doctoral dissertation proposed educating a technical nurse for two years to assist the professional nurse, whom she envisioned as having a baccalaureate degree. In 1958, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded the implementation of the project at seven pilot sites in four states (Haase, 1990). The number of Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs increased from seven in 1958 to 868 in 1994 (National League for Nursing 1996).

The idea of educating nurses rather than training nurses



CALLINE
PRINCE

was sweeping the country. Our population was much more mobile, and hospitals could no longer count on their diploma graduates to work in their hospital. The time for this to happen in Fort Smith was in the late 1960s. St. Edward's and Sparks agreed to close their schools in sync with Westark starting nursing education so the community would not suffer a shortage of nurses.

In 1968 Carolyn Moore had a planning year to start an associate degree program for nurses at Westark Junior College. Two faculty members were hired—I started in July 1969—and Susan Chaney came from Little Rock in August 1969. The first class was admitted in September 1969. St. Edward's closed its school in 1970 and transferred their students to Sparks. In 1971 Sparks graduated its last class of diploma nurses, and Westark graduated the first class of ADNs.

I think it is significant that both St. Edward's, after sixty-four years, and Sparks, after eighty-four years, looked at the big picture with the two hospitals and with Westark and decided it was in the best interest of Fort Smith to close their schools and allow Westark to educate nurses for this area, knowing that not all of the graduates would stay in this area. Westark also took over the LPN program.

Westark became the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS) in 2002. UAFS still has the LPN program but graduated the last class of ADNs in 2014. They admitted the first class of BSNs in 2008 and graduated the first BSN class in 2010. Once they started the BSN program, they had 700 who wanted the BSN and only thirty who wanted the ADN, so the ADN program was phased out. There are plans for an MSN program but no firm date.

We have many nurses with advanced degrees in Fort Smith. There are nurse anesthetists, clinical specialist, advanced practice nurses, all of which require a master's degree. Nurse educators need a doctorate degree to meet state board and National League of Nursing accreditation requirements.

Times continue to change. We have an aging population, the Affordable Health Care Act, physicians who are employees rather than entrepreneurs, and nurses with advanced degrees. It is our human nature to resist change but change is inevitable. These changes will impact nursing education, credentialing, and practice, and nursing will meet the challenge. We will do whatever needs to be done to meet the health care needs of our society.



Mary Calline Ellis, RN and Ed.D, is a former nurse and was head of the Department of Nursing at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith until her retirement in 2011.

‘He Knew Who He Was’

Reflections on the Life and Mission of Harry P. McDonald

By Taylor Prewitt

It was a quiet morning at the Boston Store on Garrison Avenue. This was 1963; sit-ins had begun in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960, and Little Rock had experienced its season of sit-ins in November 1962. Dr. Harry McDonald and a group of other members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) walked into the Boston Store and on to the Tea Room, where they told the hostess they had come to integrate the Tea Room.

“Oh, Dr. McDonald. Wait just a minute, and I’ll go get Mr. Ney.”

McDonald and Jerome Ney, owner of the Boston Store, had sat in on several meetings to plan for integration of business places in Fort Smith, and the group waited. But when Mr. Ney appeared, it was the younger Mr. Ney.

“Dr. McDonald, this is my first day at work, and my father is out today. Could you come back and integrate the Tea Room on another day when my father is here?”

The group departed. And the Tea Room was integrated—but not that day.¹ Harry McDonald and Jerome Ney had both been among those appointed by Mayor Robert Brooksher to the Mayor’s Committee on Race Relations to address the issue of desegregation of lunch counters.²

This was Harry McDonald’s style. According to his son Palmer McDonald, “He worked behind the scenes, but he was persistent.” He was president of the Fort Smith NAACP from 1960 to 1970. During this time, there were so many members that they had to meet in the Ninth Street Baptist Church, and major changes occurred during this decade.³ Perhaps the most memorable of these was the integration of Northside High School, accomplished after the NAACP sued the Fort Smith School Board in the Sebastian County Circuit Court in 1963. The NAACP lost in the Circuit Court and appealed to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and lost again. The United States Supreme Court overturned the two lower court rulings in December 1965 and ordered the Fort Smith School District to desegregate its senior high schools.

The court issued its ruling without hearing oral arguments, on a 5-4 vote, saying, “Petitioners are entitled to immediate relief. We have emphasized that delays in desegregating public school systems are no longer



DR. HARRY McDONALD began his practice of medicine in Fort Smith in 1949.

(Photo courtesy of Pebley Center, UAfS)

tolerable.” At this time Fort Smith had desegregated the first nine grades, following a stair-step plan begun in 1957 with first grade. Lincoln High School, the school for African Americans, had a faculty that included well-educated, well-trained teachers; but Lincoln offered only thirty-four courses, compared to sixty-four at Northside. As a result of the ruling, the first two African-American students graduated from Northside in 1966.⁴

Dr. McDonald began his practice of medicine in Fort Smith in 1949 and retired in 1990. He was born in 1923 in Sumter, South Carolina, a city begun as a plantation settlement near the geographic center of South Carolina. His father worked for the railway postal system, taught at Claflin College, and was president of the Sumter NAACP. His mother taught music. His paternal grandfather, Robert John Palmer Sr., served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1876 to 1878 during the last years of Reconstruction after the Civil War.

Harry found race relations in Fort Smith different from any in his previous experience, according to his son Palmer...Fort Smith, on the other hand, had a minority black population of about ten percent, separate but far from equal.

Status, family, and role in life played a significant part in African-American society in the South, especially in cities such as Atlanta, but also in smaller communities. Whatever this distinction was called—aristocracy, meritocracy, or classes such as upper middle class—it was a reality; and in Sumter, a city of 40,000 where half the population was black, education was a key factor in defining class status. Here Robert Palmer's descendants excelled. One of his sons, Edmund Perry Palmer, graduated from Claflin College and was the first of four generations in the funeral profession, owning and operating Palmer Chapel in Sumter.

Edmund's son Bob, second in the family to operate the funeral home, was Harry's cousin and best friend.

Bob's brother Jim Palmer was an internist in Atlanta and personal physician to Martin Luther King Jr.⁵ Another second cousin, Mary McCleod Bethune, was founder of Bethune Cookman College. Harry and two of his brothers became physicians; his third brother was a dentist. Harry, in turn, would not let any of his four children take out a loan for college education; he paid for it himself, and all four obtained advanced degrees. Harry did not retire until Maria, his youngest, had graduated from college.⁶

Harry was valedictorian of his high school class, graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta with honors (a few years before Martin Luther King Jr. received his degree there), and then obtained his M. D. degree at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He did his internship at Harlem Hospital in New York and went on to Kansas City General Hospital for an internal medicine residency. He was planning to join his older brother Bruce in practice in Kansas City when Theodore Rutledge of Fort Smith came to Kansas City with the widow of Dr. Ernest Adolphus Dennard and persuaded him to come to Fort Smith in 1949. Dr. Dennard's death in 1948 had left Fort Smith without a black physician, and they were eager to have a physician who could potentially become a leader in



YOUNG HARRY McDONALD was probably a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, when this portrait was taken.

(Photo courtesy of Pebley Center, UAFS)

the NAACP. Theodore Rutledge was especially persistent in recruiting Dr. McDonald, and Harry lived with Seth Rutledge, Theodore's uncle and president of NAACP in Fort Smith, for five years.

Harry found race relations in Fort Smith different from any in his previous experience, according to his son Palmer. There was a large black population in Sumter, segregation was an accepted way of life, and no one questioned it when Harry was growing up. Morehouse and Meharry were African-American schools, and Harlem Hospital was in the African-American section of New York. Kansas City had a significant middle-class black population in which Harry and his brother Bruce were comfortable. Fort Smith, on the other hand, had a minority black population of about ten percent, separate but far from equal. "Civil rights were behind in Fort Smith. Both blacks and whites were lethargic," Euba Winton, a Fort Smith matriarch, recalled.⁷

After beginning his solo general practice in 1949, Harry

was drafted into the Air Force in 1954.

While driving his Buick from Fort Smith to San Francisco to begin his duty, he detoured to Williams, Arizona, to see the Grand Canyon. The motel manager there told him that there was no place for a black man to spend the night in Williams, but that he could find a place in Flagstaff. So, he drove back, arriving in Flagstaff two hours later at midnight, where he called the local sheriff and told him he was Captain Harry McDonald on his way to San Francisco and needed a place to stay for the night. The sheriff went to a motel and persuaded the owner to change his policy and allow Captain McDonald to stay for the night.⁸

Japan, where he was stationed from 1954 to 1956, was an eye-opening experience for Captain McDonald. There was no segregation. The housing was integrated and his roommate was white. And then after his discharge he came back to a segregated community, where his position in society was so different from what he had experienced in Japan that he resolved to pitch into the struggle for equal rights.⁹

After they had known each other only six months, Harry and Margaret Bowling, a college professor from Columbia, South Carolina, were married in 1956. According to their son Palmer, it was an arranged marriage. Margaret is described as a brilliant woman. Unfortunately, however, it was a mismatch. They stayed together for thirteen years and had four gifted children—Jan, Anita, Palmer, and Maria—before separating and divorcing in 1970 when Palmer was nine and Maria was three years old. During the 1960s, however, they were a formidable team. Margaret was a “fireball,” according to their daughter Maria. “She had passion, drive, and ambition, and she could not tolerate any hint of racism.” His mother was more confrontational, Palmer says; his father was more reserved. “He was humble and fit himself in,” Euba Winton recalls. “He came as an outsider but he became an insider.”

Harry married Ruby Bultman, a schoolteacher in Sumter, South Carolina, in 1976. This, too, was an arranged marriage, according to Maria. They were remote cousins, and Ruby’s father owned a significant amount of property. Her personality was of the quieter sort, and their marriage was a source of stability to the family. The children initially lived with their mother after the divorce in 1970, but they began to return to live with their father, who gained custody five years after the divorce. One year later he married Ruby.

Harry was president of the Progressive Men’s Club, composed mostly of African-American men and active in civil rights. He worked with Whirlpool, Gerber, and Dixie Cup to encourage employment and advancement of African Americans so that they could advance to



MARGARET BOWLING McDONALD (1928-2005) *was married to Harry McDonald from 1957 to 1970. She held a master’s degree in biology from Indiana University and taught at South Carolina State University and at Westark Junior College in Fort Smith. She was a strong advocate for civil rights; she and Harry were instrumental in the integration of the public school system in Fort Smith.*
(Photo courtesy of author)

supervision and middle management positions. He ran for the school board in the early 1960s. Election to the board was determined by a majority vote of citizens attending a town meeting at Northside High School. In an interview with the *Arkansas Democrat* in 1990, Dr. McDonald recalled that he had some 500 supporters there, ready to vote for him.¹⁰ But minutes before the meeting was to begin, the superintendent of schools, Chris Corbin, postponed the start for half an hour. During that time, McDonald recalled, someone contacted the Knights of Columbus who were having a rally and bussed them to the meeting at Northside. “They emptied the bowling alley. Some of those people had bowling shoes and shirts on,” he said.¹¹

Though McDonald never served on the Fort Smith School Board, Governor David Pryor named him to the Arkansas Board of Education in 1978, and he served for twelve years. Governor Bill Clinton appointed him to the Criminal Detention Facilities Review Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District in 1984. Advocacy for equality was never easy. “Life is full of conflict—it takes guts, patience, time, money, determination, and a certain degree of independence” to effect change, he said in an interview

published in the *Southwest Times Record* at the time of his retirement.¹² For a quiet person, he could speak quite frankly.

He personally involved himself in integrating parks, movie theaters, skating rinks, and civic clubs.

Although his encounter at the Boston Store was peaceful, the proprietor of a restaurant near St. Edward

Hospital pulled a gun on him. The proprietor's wife persuaded her husband to put the gun away, but McDonald left. He went to the police, and two days later he returned to the same restaurant and was served.¹³ When he took his daughter to the swimming pool at Creekmore Park, a city policeman pulled his pistol and turned him away.¹⁴ "I always tried to be a good citizen of Fort Smith," he said later. "Even when I had to do battle, it was for the good of Fort Smith."¹⁵

Integration of movie theaters provided its own special circumstances. McDonald described sitting next to a white person in a theater, and there would be no notice in the dark theater until the light changed, and then the white person would move away. "People have come to realize that sitting next to a black person in a movie theater isn't going to do a white person any harm," he said.¹⁶

What motivated this quiet, pleasant man to push into segregated white society and pave the way for integration of the community? He himself said that it was because of the example of his father, who was very active in civil rights issues until his death in 1956. One wonders if it was less difficult to shake things up as one who had come to Fort Smith as if it were a foreign mission field, where he was free of the baggage of having grown up in the city.

The Fort Smith city board of directors was to name Elm Grove Park on North Greenwood after Dr. McDonald in 1969, but he declined. This was a year after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and the youth chapter of the Fort Smith NAACP petitioned the city to name a street or park after King. The board first voted 3-2 for this proposal, with one abstention and one absentee; but four affirmative votes were required for passage. Then one of the directors, Reverend G. Edward West, moved that the park be named for Dr. McDonald. The motion was seconded, but McDonald requested that his name be withdrawn, saying that if the directors would not rename the park for as great a national figure as Dr. King, he would not want it to bear his (McDonald's) name. After some discussion, one of the directors, Bill Vines, said, "Your feelings against naming the park for a local man are apparently stronger than my feelings against naming it for Dr. King." Vines then moved that another vote be taken, and this time Vines joined another director, Harlin Daniels, in voting affirmatively, and the resolution renaming the park was approved.¹⁷ And so with the naming of the park



RUBY BULTMAN McDONALD (1931-2012) married Harry McDonald in 1976. She held a Master of Science degree from South Carolina State University, and she taught first and third grades in Sumter, S. C., and in Fort Smith. She died three months after Harry, also in Richland, Washington.

(Photo courtesy of Pebley Center, UAfS)

for the national champion of civil rights, the opportunity for the city to honor its own prophet passed by.

With all his civic involvement, McDonald's day (and night) job was practicing medicine as the only African-American physician in town. It was in this capacity that I knew him, and we sometimes found ourselves writing progress notes in a nursing station at St. Edward around 9 to 10 p.m., when the logical mind set for a fatigued physician is to finish rounds as quickly as possible and go home. Paradoxically, however, lengthy conversations sometimes occur at about this time in a quiet and private setting, and Harry and I enjoyed talking shop, mostly. (I told his daughter Maria that his South Carolina speech background led him to call me "Tay-a-lah." "Oh, I can just hear him talking when you say that," Maria said.)

There were three hospitals in Fort Smith in 1949 when Dr. McDonald arrived: Sparks, St. Edward, and Twin City Hospital. (Twin City Hospital opened on 1717 Midland Boulevard in 1941 and provided health care to black citizens of Fort Smith; it was converted to a nursing home in 1964.) Twin City had no X-ray machines and no laboratory facilities. There was only one registered nurse, so patients were not permitted to stay overnight.¹⁸ McDonald credited Father Deloney, of the St. John Catholic school for blacks on 1802 North Ninth Street, with helping him to gain privileges to practice at Crawford County

Hospital when it was built by the county in 1951 and managed by the Sisters of St. Benedict. With a change in administration at St. Edward Hospital in Fort Smith, Dr. McDonald received admitting privileges there.

African-American patients at St. Edward were on Ward 3B, where four rooms with four beds each were separated from the rest of the floor by a half door. Dr. McDonald became the first black physician on the Sparks staff five years later, in 1961; at that time black patients were admitted and were not placed in segregated areas.

Dr. McDonald became the first black member of the Sebastian County Medical Society and of the Arkansas Medical Society in the early 1960s. This was not so easy. He recalled that when he first attended a meeting of the Sebastian County Medical Society, Dr. Everett Moulton was the only physician who would come sit by him and talk to him. The others would not. In later years, McDonald was elected president of the Sebastian County Medical Society.¹⁹

Dr. McDonald made house calls and delivered babies, and babies often come at night. He practiced alone and took his own calls, except on Wednesdays, when he took the afternoon off. Dr. Tommy Foltz was one of the few doctors who would see his patients for him; among the others who helped were Drs. Kemal Kutait and Ken Lilly. Dr. Foltz covered his calls when he was off and when he was on vacation.²⁰ That was two weeks a year, and his son Palmer says that his dad was so disciplined that he always took off the same two weeks in the summer. During the first week, he took the whole family to the annual meeting of the National Medical Association (founded in 1895 as an alternative to the whites-only American Medical Association). Palmer says that this was the only time he saw any other black middle-class kids. During the second week Harry went alone to a hotel in the Bahamas—always the same hotel, and they knew him well there. “He went to the Caribbean because it was OK being a black there,” Palmer explains. This was his vacation plan for thirty-five years—from the time he married until he retired.

Charolette Tidwell, now a retired nurse who is founder and director of Antioch for Youth and Family food pantry, recalls that she was three years old in 1949 when Dr. McDonald came to Fort Smith. “My brother Nathaniel was eleven months older than I was, but he was always frail and sickly. My mother took him to Kansas City three times when she was pregnant with me, but they never made a diagnosis. Dr. McDonald made a diagnosis of leukemia. There was no cure, and he lived eleven more months, but at least we didn’t have to keep making the trips to Kansas City.”

“He was my idol, and because of him I was determined to be a nurse. He was the first black physician on the staff of St. Edward, and he persuaded the hospital nurse training

“He was my idol, and because of him I was determined to be a nurse. He was the first black physician on the staff of St. Edward, and he persuaded the hospital nurse training program to accept black students.”

— Charolette Tidwell

program to accept black students.”²¹

The first of these was Brenda Johnson, who gained admittance to the St. Edward Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in the fall of 1963 and graduated as the “Best All Around Student.” She then moved to California, where she earned her Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at the University of California, Berkeley with a subsequent career at Aetna Health as a Team Captain for Western States.²²

“Dr. McDonald taught me to get as much education as I could get,” Charolette Tidwell says. She was in the second class of African-Americans at St. Edward, but she had to drop out when she married Lawrence Tidwell. She worked as a nurse’s aide for three years, and by then Dr. McDonald had gained admission to the staff at Sparks Regional Hospital, and Sparks became the first nurses training program to accept married students. She was also the first black student there, but that was incidental, Tidwell says. She went on to receive several degrees and to become the director of medical-surgical nursing at Sparks.

Palmer and Maria both remember riding with their father to make night calls at the hospital and waiting in the car when he said he “would just be a minute.” (Maria wondered if he was shooting the bull with patients while she was waiting in the car.) Like many of the best-liked physicians, Dr. McDonald was often behind schedule because he took so much time with each patient. Some excellent cooks were among his patients, and Maria says she has learned to make the same Coca-Cola cake that Tabitha Hughes brought to their house at Christmas.

McDonald loved life and for that reason he hated death, Palmer says. Palmer recalls finding him in tears after one of his favorite patients died. Palmer says he never saw his father angry, but Euba Winton says that he had an even temper but could become very angry. Two of his great disappointments came when he attempted to buy a house in a white neighborhood and was blocked by action of the neighbors—once in a “doctors’ circle” on the south side of town, once in Eastwood just northeast of what is now the

University of Arkansas-Fort Smith campus. (When my family and I moved into Eastwood in 1969, we were told that Dr. McDonald had tried to buy a house on Fifty-eighth Street, but the neighbors had bought the house to prevent integration of the neighborhood.) George McGill says that Dr. McDonald bought a six-lot property on 1823 North Thirtieth Street and built a house on half of it. There are three houses on the rest of the property.²³

Euba Winton recalls that Mallalieu Methodist Church was a beehive of activity at that time, and that officers and soldiers from Fort Chaffee followed the McDonalds to Mallalieu, where McDonald was a lay leader and a trustee.

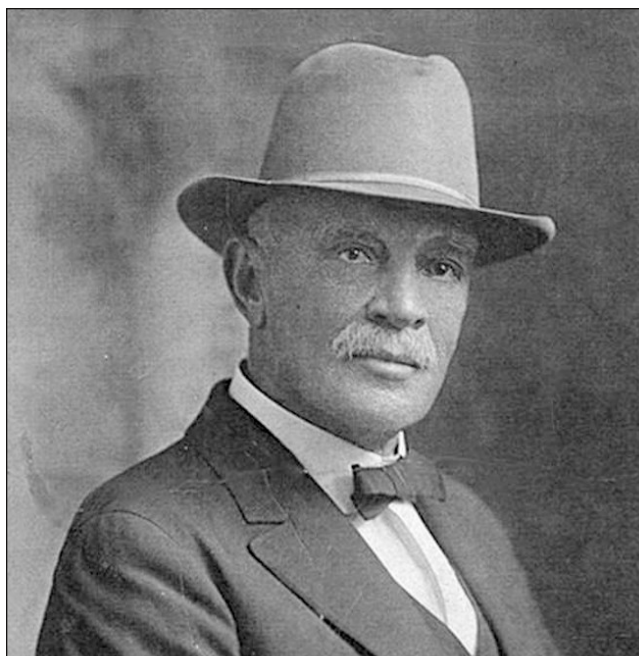
Governor Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker at the retirement dinner for McDonald in 1990, organized by Charolette Tidwell. This was his farewell to Fort Smith. After a year in his hometown of Sumter, South Carolina, he moved to Fort Worth, Texas, to be near his daughter Anita.

Why did he leave? He told his son Palmer that he could never really retire and get away from the responsibilities and expectations that would overwhelm him unless he left town. After more than forty years on the front lines, he was exhausted. And although he could close his office, he could not have retired from the demands of being a prophet. A halo can be as heavy as a crown. Fort Smith had been his mission field. He loved the people, but like the cowboy in the western movies, sometimes the hero has to ride off into the sunset.

There were other things he wanted to do. He wanted to play golf; the local courses had been inaccessible to blacks when he came to Fort Smith. Golf courses became integrated in due course, but this was one battle that McDonald left for someone else. He became a collector of art, especially the works of Sedrick Huckaby of Fort Worth. "His walls used to be covered by plaques," Palmer recalls. "Then they became covered by paintings."

I last saw Harry in 1995, when my family was vacationing at Hilton Head, South Carolina, where our custom was to attend services at St. Andrew-by-the-Sea Methodist Church. My son-in-law asked if a golf shirt would be all right for church on Sunday, and I told him not to worry, because we were sure not to see a soul we knew. During the service, I spotted Harry McDonald. He was resplendent on this beautiful May morning, wearing the same white linen suit he had worn at his retirement dinner, and he had the same broad grin on his face. He introduced me to his cousin Bob, who lived in Sumter and had a condominium on Hilton Head. (Bob was Harry's lifelong best friend and died only a month later.) Harry said I was the first Fort Smith doctor he had seen since moving away, except Kemal Kutait, whom he had seen in Central Mall.

Harry said he had been doing some missionary work in Haiti, and he spent a month a year in Mexico. He was



(ABOVE) **ROBERT JOHN PALMER** (1849-1928), Harry's maternal grandfather, served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1876 to 1878, during Reconstruction. He was a merchant tailor in Sumter, South Carolina, and owned property in Washington, D. C., and Columbia, South Carolina.



(LEFT) **HARRIET ELIZABETH DESCHAMPS McDONALD** (1845-1931), Harry's paternal grandmother, was the daughter of William Francis Deschamps (1818-1889) and a slave woman Durant. Maria McDonald McNamar has traced the Deschamps line back to Francis John DesChamps, I, born 1680 in Paris, died 1753.

(Photos courtesy of author)

working on the genealogy of his family and had gone to Paris to track down the Deschamps family. His grandmother's father was a Deschamps, and he added that the Deschamps family had been surprisingly helpful, in view of the connection being from the offspring of their ancestor and one of his slaves. He had a cousin who also had some white ancestry, he said, and they weren't quite so helpful.

So, I realized that Harry and I had a bit more in common than I had thought: he and I both grew up in the segregated

“He was a complicated person. He loved life more than anybody I ever knew, and he loved people. But there was about twenty percent of him that was private. He didn’t say everything he thought.”

— son Palmer McDonald

rural South; we both moved to Fort Smith to practice medicine; and we were both descended from white southern slave owners.

“He knew who he was,” Euba Winton told me. He certainly did, but I think that his interest in his family history was an extension of his lifelong concern to know more about who he was.

“He was a complicated person,” Palmer recalls. “He loved life more than anybody I ever knew, and he loved people. But there was about twenty percent of him that was private. He didn’t say everything he thought.” The demands of practice didn’t leave much time for developing private interests—medicine, after all, is a jealous mistress—and in retirement he could take time for golf. “Maria likes to play golf, and he and Maria really bonded over golf,” Palmer said. And then there was also art, music, and genealogy.

Harry’s parents had good health into their mid-nineties, and Harry expected to do so, too. He was disciplined about his personal health. “His brother in Kansas City was a hard charger,” Palmer continued. “He chain-smoked and drank coffee all the time, thirty cups a day. He worked twelve hours a day, had a busier practice and had more patients than Dad did. He had a bigger life, but Dad didn’t envy him. He was happy being himself. But when Bruce got lung cancer in 1968, my dad stopped smoking and drinking—except for an occasional glass of wine with a meal. He said it was because his brother died.”

Ill health came as a surprise to Harry, Palmer said, and his last years were melancholy ones as he dealt with multiple myeloma and cancer of the prostate. He had always had music in every room in the house, to keep his mood up—Earth Wind and Fire, Motown. He had everything on CDs. But from age eighty to eighty-eight he never listened to music.

Two events provided hope and affirmation amid his health problems. Harry and Ruby had moved to Richland, Washington, to be near Maria, his youngest child. During



HARRY MOVED TO SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, for a year after he retired. There his wife, Ruby, taught third grade. This photograph shows him with a pensive expression as he sits on the front steps of his boyhood home.

(Photo courtesy of Pebley Center, UAfS)

the presidential campaign in 2008, Barack Obama made a campaign stop an hour from Richland. Maria had missed Hillary Clinton’s campaign stop, but she took her father and Ruby to Obama’s appearance in an auditorium. Harry and Ruby were seated in the handicapped section, and they were the only black people there. When Obama spotted Harry, he came over and shook his hand. When Obama was elected, Harry thought that was a signal that the civil rights campaign had finally been victorious.²⁴

Maria knew that her father wanted to talk to his old friend Bill Clinton before he died, and she contacted Charolette Tidwell, who initiated the chain of contacts that resulted in a telephone conversation on March 28, 2012, three weeks before Harry died on April 15, 2012. Clinton said that he was still grateful for all the help Harry had given him. “I was just a nobody from nowhere with no money for nothing,” he said, “and you enrolled me in the

NAACP at Mallalieu Methodist Church in 1974. So, when I ran for president, I was able to say that I had been a member of NAACP for eighteen years.”

Harry’s voice was weak as he responded to the former president. But in that telephone call, he was once again in touch with the world. And it allowed him to go out on a positive note. In the words of Euba Winton, he always knew who he was. He was an agent of change and a force for good. He was on a mission.

And his mission field was Fort Smith.

Author’s Note: Although standard practice is to refer to people by their surname after first identification gives both given name and surname, I have sometimes referred to Harry McDonald as “Dr. McDonald” and sometimes by his first name only, sometimes to avoid confusion with other family members, and sometimes because of the context.

The Pebley Center in the Boreham Library at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith is the repository of most of the materials used for reference in preparing this paper and has greatly facilitated the research process.

Maria McDonald McNamar, Palmer McDonald, Euba Winton, George McGill, and Charolette Tidwell have been most helpful and patient in sharing with me their recollections of Dr. McDonald. Dr. McDonald’s own recollections have been used extensively. Major attributions are cited, but to avoid an even more lengthy list of references, some minor attributions have been omitted. Unless otherwise noted, information for this paper has come from one of these five people, from newspaper sources, or from Dr. McDonald’s own quotations.

A personal addendum: It was a surprise to find my own name mentioned by Dr. McDonald in the transcript of a 2001 interview, in which he listed me among three physicians in Fort Smith who were “willing to see his patients, take his calls, and work with him.” I certainly did, and it was always an honor for me to see any of Dr. McDonald’s patients.



Taylor Prewitt is an author and a cardiologist. He grew up in McGehee, Arkansas.

End Notes

- ¹ Interview by author with George McGill.
- ² John A. Kirk, “‘Please Help Us:’ The Congress of Racial Equality Chapter, 1962-1965,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 73 (Autumn 2014): 293-317.
- ³ Interview by author with Euba Winton.
- ⁴ Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster-Meadows, ed. *Lincoln*



THIS IS THE PICTURE to remember Dr. McDonald by: He is wearing his white linen suit and flashing his characteristic smile as he greets old friends at his retirement banquet. Four hundred people attended the event; the keynote speaker was his friend Governor Bill Clinton.

(Courtesy photo)

High School History (2014).

- ⁵ Coretta King letter to Harry McDonald dated May 29, 1960. McDonald Collection, Pebley Center, Boreham Library, UA-Fort Smith.
- ⁶ Interview by author with Palmer McDonald.
- ⁷ Author interview with Euba Winton.
- ⁸ Interview by author with Palmer McDonald.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ C. Howell, “Fort Smith’s Only Black Doctor Leaving His Mark,” *Arkansas Democrat*, July 2, 1990.
- ¹¹ Harry McDonald telephone interview of May 4, 2001. McDonald Collection, Pebley Center, Boreham Library, UA-Fort Smith.
- ¹² J. Shields, “Outspoken Activist Retiring,” *Southwest Times Record*, August 17, 1990.
- ¹³ Interview by author with George McGill.
- ¹⁴ Interview by author with Palmer McDonald.
- ¹⁵ C. Howell, “Fort Smith’s Only Black Doctor Leaving His Mark,” *Arkansas Democrat*, July 2, 1990.
- ¹⁶ A. Sturgill, “Sumter Native Has Led a Full Life of Healing, Helping, and Changing,” *The Sumter (South Carolina) Item*, November 30, 1990.
- ¹⁷ “City Renames Local Park after Martin Luther King, Jr.” *Fort Smith Times Record*, April 22, 1969.
- ¹⁸ McDonald telephone interview.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Interview by author with Charolette Tidwell.
- ²² Toliver and Webster, *Lincoln High School History*.
- ²³ Interview by author with Palmer McDonald.
- ²⁴ Interview by author with Maria McDonald.

Book Reviews

***A Century Forward: The Centennial History of Arkansas Tech University.* By Thomas DeBlack. (Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2016. Pp. 336, Bibliography, photographs, epilogue, index. \$40).**

Future students of Arkansas Tech University, along with alumni, faculty, staff, citizens of Russellville, Pope County, and even the state of Arkansas will be long be reaping future benefits of Professor Tom DeBlack's comprehensive centennial examination of his institution.

In the preface, DeBlack quotes William Faulkner, and boldly proclaims that the institution has not merely survived for the past century but "it (has) prevailed." Arkansas Tech, in DeBlack's interpretation, has more than prevailed, but flourished, as witnessed from this noted historian's writing and his choice of title, *A Century Forward*.

DeBlack's words, in this book, are comfortable as a well-worn easy chair. His wit, often measured, but sharp, and his probing insight, in contextual analysis, warmly envelop the reader. He holds a masterful command of the facts and maintains an always "even keeled presence" in his story-telling of Arkansas Tech's early days.

Founded as one of Arkansas' four regional Agricultural High Schools, the institution has evolved into a four-year college and its enrollment hovers around 12,000 students each semester.

The book offers, for all to see, an accurate assessment of the many perils and controversies that oft times enveloped the college, seemingly driving it to the brink of financial and political collapse.

The challenge to write Arkansas Tech's history was issued to DeBlack, who was armed with the knowledge of an exhaustively detailed tome, (*History of Arkansas Tech University, 1909-1990*) written by a history department colleague, the late John Walker. At first, DeBlack admits, he felt completing the last sixteen years might be easy. But it proved to be more challenging than that, indeed turning into a careful re-examination of the institution's history with DeBlack adding much needed context and expansion of detail to the only-the-facts-driven previous volume by Walker.

DeBlack does not steer away from campus political, social and even racial controversy, reporting in a detailed,

yet humanistic manner. Nor does DeBlack, as critics had complained of in the previous history attempt, just "pay lip service" to athletics. As a teaching professor, he focuses upon student athletes. He writes of athletic highs AND lows, allowing not just wins and losses to define the college's teams and their coaches, but instead showing the human side to display the impact of Tech's programs upon its students and the institution.

DeBlack tackles complex and changing campus controversies over the years, rightly showing that some administrations "found favor," while other administrations "went bare-knuckle" with both students and faculty at various political and social junctures.

The Green and Gold of Arkansas Tech as well as people throughout the state will be proud of DeBlack's contribution, as it is a highly readable and sound history of a fine institution.

Reviewed by Maylon T. Rice. Mr. Rice lives in Fayetteville. He is an avid historian and a member of the Arkansas Historical Association Board of Trustees.

***Anti-Catholicism in Arkansas: How Politicians, the Press, the Klan, and Religious Leaders Imagined an Enemy, 1910-1960.* By Kenneth Barnes. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2016. Pp. 270. Acknowledgements, notes, bibliography, index, \$34.95).**

Anti-Catholic sentiment ran deep across Arkansas in the early and mid-twentieth century. With newspapers published in the state comparing the denomination to the Whore of Babylon and numerous instances of anti-Catholic bigotry recorded in the state, Arkansas became known as a bastion of hatred against Catholics.

Kenneth Barnes ably covers the influence of anti-Catholic propaganda in Arkansas and how it impacted politics and everyday life for thousands of citizens from before the First World War to the election of the first Catholic president of the United States, John F. Kennedy. The state government became involved in some of the efforts to harass Catholics, most notably in 1915 when the Convent Inspection Act was passed. Designed to allow local law enforcement officers the opportunity to disrupt

the activities at convents in the state, the law was created in response to several accusations of priests keeping girls and women as sex slaves in Catholic facilities. Other rumors accused Catholics in convents and other facilities of murdering babies. Few inspections were ever taken by law enforcement officers and the law was eventually repealed.

Anti-Catholic messages were spread through both national and local newspapers. *The Liberator*, a weekly newspaper published in Magnolia, was distributed statewide in an effort to push rumors accusing Catholics of myriad crimes, both real and imagined. Anti-Catholic sentiment increased in the state during World War I as many immigrants from Germany to Arkansas were Catholic. Alcohol use by Catholics incurred the wrath of many within the state and during the push for prohibition, the issue was used against the denomination.

After the war, the Ku Klux Klan incorporated an anti-Catholic sentiment into their push against anyone who was not an Anglo-Saxon protestant. When Senator Joe T. Robinson was selected as the vice-presidential running

mate on the Democratic ticket with Catholic Al Smith, the Klan and others in the state tried to interject religion into the election. A small resurgence of anti-Catholic sentiment passed through the state during the 1960 election. Due to changing attitudes, few examples of the anti-Catholic movement continued to be seen in Arkansas. The most notable exception were the followers of Tony Alamo who began spreading their message in Arkansas against Catholics in the 1970s.

The winner of the 2017 J.G. Ragsdale Book Award from the Arkansas Historical Association, this title is a well detailed examination of the experience of many Catholics in the state. The only problem is the consistent misspelling of the Book of Revelation. Barnes' newest work would be the perfect title for anyone interested in Arkansas history or discrimination in the United States.

*Reviewed by David Sesser, Henderson State University.
Mr. Sesser is a librarian and serves on the Arkansas
Historical Association Board of Trustees.*

Surprise your favorite people
with membership in the

Fort Smith Historical Society

They will love *The Journal* and you.

Who Knew?

Who knew we'd be winding our way around Sebastian County, Arkansas, one question at a time? We placed a grain tower, found a lost little nine-year-old, traveled to Potato Hill during the Civil War, then again in 1941 when it moved into Camp Chaffee and lost some of its face. While in Camp Chaffee we visited a couple of cemeteries, then headed, west to Fort Smith.

DB: Good Day, I was wondering if you had any information on the Western Grain Co. I have a relative that worked there in 1918.

Is it still standing? Where exactly is/was it? I have a paperweight with the Western Grain Company on it. Can I Google earth the location? Thank you for any assistance
—Darla



MJ: Darla, there are several volunteers who have agreed to do research lookups.

To Query Volunteers: Does anyone have information?

495, Registered July 5, 1921. Application filed September 20, 1919. Serial No. 122,956. STATEMENT. To all whom it may concern: Be it known that the **WESTERN GRAIN COMPANY, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas, and**

located in the city of Ft. Smith, county of Sebastian, in said State, and doing business at corner South Tenth street and Carnall Avenue, in the City of Ft. Smith, State of Arkansas, has heretofore adopted and use the trade-mark shown in the accompanying drawing, for cornmeal, in Class No. 46, Foods and ingredients of foods. The trade-mark has been continuously used in its business since Oct. 1, 1917. The trade-mark is applied or affixed to the goods by printing the trade-mark upon the sacks in which the goods are sold. WESTERN GRAIN COMPANY, By EDWARD HUNT, Vice-President. Eamon: DECLARATION. State of Arkansas county of Sebastian vs: EDWARD HUNT, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is vice-president of the WESTERN GRAIN COMPANY, the applicant named in the foregoing statement; that he believes the foregoing statement is true; that he believes said corporation is the owner of the trade-mark sought to be registered; that no other person, firm, corporation or association, to the best of his knowledge and belief, has the right to use said trade-mark, either in the identical form or in any such near resemblance thereto as might be calculated to deceive; that the said trade-mark is used by said corporation in commerce among the several States of the United States; that the drawing presented truly represents the trade-mark sought to be registered, and that the specimens show the trade-mark as actually used upon the goods. EDWARD HUNT. Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 31 day of July 1, 1919. [LS] R. C. FRAMBERS, Notary Public.

Arkansas Catholic Newspaper, August, 10, 1912, page 20 Advertisement, Western Grain Co., Fort Smith, Ark., Albatross Flour, Specialty- Mixed Cars, Feed Quick Shipments.

Western Grain Journal, Vol. IV Kansas City, Missouri, May 20, 1920. No. 11, pg. 35. "In some copies of the issue of May 20 of the Western Grain Journal a Fort Smith, Arkansas, item appeared under a Kansas City heading, giving the false impression that the Western Grain Co. of this city had changed hands, nothing could be further from the truth. It was not the Western Grain Co., of Kansas City which is so successful handling its business under the direction of C. E. Woodward, but the Western Grain Co., of Fort Smith, Arkansas, which sold out. "A case of too

many Western Grain Companies," said Mr. Woodward.
Sincerely, MB

JW: I also own a paperweight like this one. I can't remember buildings like the ones pictured still standing on South 10th and Carnall Avenue. Western Grain Company was gone by 1925, either out of business or changed hands and was renamed. So, I'm guessing our paperweights date from between 1919 & 1924 at the latest. Joe

MB: DB, could you please tell me the name of your relative that worked for Western Grain of Fort Smith? I found two Western Grain employees in the Fort Smith City Directory who worked there. (A general worker and a bookkeeper.) I have not yet found a street number for the company, only on the Corner of South 10 and Carnell Avenue. MB

DB: Charles Doerr. Lived in Fort Smith from about 1911 to 1918-19 then again about 1921 until at least 1930. By 1935 the family was in Los Angeles. Thank you, DB

MB: Thank you for sending your relative's name. Information we have found so far:

Doerr Deaths

- Doerr, Joseph H. — Born 1882, died 1884. Cemetery: Calvary.
- Doerr, Richard C. — Born February 24, 1942. Died July 9, 1981. Internment August 7, 1981. Cemetery: National.

Doerr Marriages

- Year: 1951. City/County: Fort Smith. District Book pg.: 00052 587. Bride name: BEARD, Gladys Viola. Age: 52. Groom name: DOERR, J. B. Age: 53. Marriage date: 1951 03 24. Officiant: Otis Ward.
- Year: 1944. City/County: Fort Smith. District Book pg.: 00031 353. Bride name: GUZIK, Helen Ann. Age: 28. Groom name: DOERR, John, Jr. Age: 29. Marriage date: 1944 12 21. Officiant: Paul M. McLaughlin.
- Year: 1951. City/County: Fort Smith. District Book pg.: 00055 45. Bride name: KLASSE, Bonnie Elizabeth. Age: 26. Groom name: DOERR, Joseph C. Age: 24. Marriage date: 1951 11 17. Officiant: Fred G. Roebuck

Fort Smith City Births

Baby Last Name: Doerr. Baby First Name: None. Year Born: 1882.

Death Records

Last name: Doerr. First name: Ray. Year of death: 1922.

MB: DB, I also found this information:

1930 Census Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas,
April 4, 1930, Ward 3 (part of), Upper Township
922 South 18th Street, Dwelling #49, Family #50

Charles Doerr, male; white; 45; not on farm; head of household; no radio; married; first marriage 23 years of age; living 922 South 18th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas; rented his home @ \$15.00 per month; attended school or college at any time since Sept. 1, 1929, no; reads and writes, yes; Birthplace Texas; Father born Germany; Mother born United States; speaks English; laborer; at a Mill; payed a wage; worked last regular work day, yes.

Other household members:

Jessie Doerr, Wife; female; white; 40; married; first marriage 20 years old; born in Arkansas; attended school since Sept. 1, 1929, no; parents born in United States; reads and writes, speaks English.

Faye Doerr, Daughter; female; white; 19; single; attended school since Sept. 1, 1929, yes; reads and writes; speaks English; born Arkansas; Father- Texas; Mother- Arkansas; housekeeper; private home; worked last regular work day, yes.

Phillip Doerr, Son; male; white; 16; single; attended school since Sept 1, 1929, yes; reads and writes; speaks English; born Arkansas; Father- Texas; Mother- Arkansas.

Charles Doerr, Son, male, white; 12, single; attended school since Sept 1, 1929, yes; reads and writes; speaks English; born Arkansas; Father- Texas; Mother- Arkansas.

Fort Smith City Directory, 1911

Charles Doerr, (Jessie W) laborer, Eagle Box Company, residence 922 So 18th Street.

Claude P. Doerr, r 922 South 18th Street.

Faye C. Doerr, r 922 South 18th Street.

Fort Smith City Directory, 1925

Charles Doerr, (Jessie), r 223 So 12th Street, laborer, Arkoma Milling Corporation.

(Charles Doerr was the only Doerr listed in this City Directory)

Fort Smith City Directory, 1928

Charles Doerr, (Jessie) mech. residence 300 So 16th Street.

Faye Doerr, student, residence 300 So 16h Street.
(Claude P Doerr not listed this City Directory.)

Fort Smith City Directory, 1930

Charles Doerr, (Jessie W) laborer, Arkoma Grain Corporation, residence 922 So 18th Street.

Faye C Doerr, r 922 So 18th Street.

Arkoma Milling Corporation, 506 South E Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas

South Sebastian County, Arkansas, Marriages
Marriage License, State of Arkansas, County of
Sebastian, Greenwood District.

Charles Doerr of Witcherville, in the County of
Sebastian, State of Arkansas, aged 24 years, and **Miss
Jessie Winford Speagle**, (should be Speegle), of
Witcherville in the County of Sebastian, State of Arkansas,
aged 20 years, according to law, and do you officially sign
and return the License to the parties herein named, Witness
my hand and official seal this 26 day of November, 1909.
Ezra Hester,

County Clerk, by R. O. McConnell, Deputy Clerk

Thank you again for yours and everyone else's time and
efforts. DB

DB: Thank you for all that information. I have most of
it already. I have been waiting since Jan for a Death record
for Ray Doerr. Relatives say he died in a wagon accident.
They were playing Jump the Wagon, which I guess, you
jump on the wheel where it connects to the wagon then
onto the wagon. His foot slipped and went in between the
spokes and tore his leg off or something to that effect.

Jessie Speegle Doerr's father and grandfather, George
Washington Speegle and Lorenzo Jackson Speegle, owned
land in Fort Smith which later became Fort Chaffee, near
Potato Hill. We plan to make a trip and would like to visit a
lot of the places, addresses, companies and cemeteries that
are associated with the Doerr/Speegle family. I was hoping
some of the places are still standing.

Jessie Speegle wrote a "book" about her early life in
Arkansas but ended just after the family moved to
Witcherville c.1908 and just before she met and married
Charles Doerr. In this she lists neighboring families, rivers,
tornados, deaths, visiting relatives, starting school, the town
building schools, churches and much more. She was very
accurate in her locations and mileage to and from places.

Thank you again for yours and everyone else's time and
efforts. DB

MB: Darla, You said, "Jessie Speegle Doerr's father and
grandfather, George Washington Speegle and Lorenzo
Jackson Speegle owned land in Fort Smith which later
became Fort Chaffee." I did not notice this

misunderstanding until later. Potato Hill has never been in
Fort Smith. It is in the same county as Fort
Smith—Sebastian County.

MB: DB, what a treasure you have in your Jessie
Speegle book. Depending on how big it is, you should
publish it. Does it tell about everyday life? Is it in the form
of a journal? It would be such a shame to have her words
and story and never have it in the form to pass down to
family. I am not sure about copyright it seems you can say
all rights reserved, research this.

"The express purpose of Fort Smith Historical Society
organization is to locate, identify, collect and preserve
historical data; record oral history; and to publish source
materials and historical articles of the Fort Smith area, so
that the lives of our families, our friends and our neighbors
may be made richer by knowing our historic past." If you
are not interested in publishing Jessie's story yourself,
submit it to Fort Smith Historical Society, *The Journal*. On
our website you can see our journals have from the past. Of
course, we are all volunteers, and this is a nonprofit
organization. Our editor would then determine if Jessie's
story and our publication are a match. Of course, Jesse
Speegle would get full credit for her story. You for
submitting and owning the rights. If none of those work for
you we have a section in the *Journal* titled, "Who Knew?"
Only an avenue you might take. At least type it out make
extra copies and put the original in a lock box or safe place.
It likely holds a treasure trove of information, helping other
researchers.

DB: Would you happen to know if there is any way
besides Find a Grave, to know if someone is buried at
Center Valley Cemetery or at Speegle Cemetery? This is
where we think Ray Doerr may be interred. Hoping he is
marked.

Center is where his grandparents are and Speegle is
where his great grandparents are. I cannot find a physical
address or phone number for either. I realize they are
probably not still in use but someone should have
information, correct? Ray S Doerr 1912 Ft Smith, AR - 13
Jan 1922 For Smith, AR. Thank you again for all your time
and efforts. Darla

MJ: DB, There is also a good book, *Ancestors inside the
Gates*, by Wanda McGehee, it lists the private cemeteries

SPEEGLE CEMETERY

(Also known as Marietta Cemetery)

Submitted by Judith McGee Located on Fort Chaffee, Information gathered from Fort Chaffee Roads and Grounds records 1992.

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	NOTES
Gothard, Carl	Jun. 13, 1907	Oct. 2, 1983	
Gothard, Grace	Sep. 23, 1908	Left Blank	
Jackson, Lorene	Jan. 23, 1907	Sep. 2, 1923	
Unknown			
Jackson, Laura E.	Jul. 23, 1881	Apr. 30, 1958	
Jackson, Wallace	Sep. 16, 1878	Nov. 30, 1918	
Jackson, Sarah A.	Apr. 29, 1853	Dec. 23, 1934	
Jackson, Solomon	Jun. 2, 1842	Sep. 6, 1887	
- - -, - - izabeth	Nov. 22, 1872	Jan. 21, 1887	Part of tombstone missing. Foot marker has the initials E.W.
Epley, Samuel H.	Apr. 28, 1885	Nov. 1, 1888	Son of S.J. and P.
Unknown			
Campbell, Susannah	Nov. 10, 1839	Dec. 17, 1911	Wife of Y. J. M.M.
Speegle, L. J.**	Feb. 18, 1815	Jun. 21, 1899	
Speegle, Elenora**	Jan. 20, 1817	Apr. 19, 1889	She has another tombstone next to this one which gives her name as Eleanor
Clement, Bernice	Nov. 26, 1924	Nov. 26, 1924	
Chapman, A. G.	Dec. 9, 1881	Sep. 28, 1916	
Neuhart, Maude M.	Sep. 12, 1895	Jan. 26, 1941	
Webb, Ida B.	Mar. 6, 1886	Nov. 6, 1906	Wife of J. A.
Kidd, John B.	Aug. 17, 1877	Jul. 29, 1933	
Kidd, Jaunita L.	Feb. 26, 1921	May 16, 1924	Spelled "Jaunita" on McGee summit
Kidd, Castle I.	Jun. 5, 1906	Aug. 10, 1935	
Lochridge, Elizabeth Jane	May 22, 1847	Feb. 28, 1904	
Lochridge, Merica Olevia	May 13, 1870	Feb. 11, 1886	
Unknown			
Miller			
Miller			
Altstatt, Wilma C.	1906	1932	
Kidd, W. W.	Feb. 5, 1876	Sep. 30, 1899	Son of N.J. & E.I.
Kidd, Nathan J.	May 18, 1838	Oct. 8, 1903	
Unknown			
Been, Ellwood Wayne	Aug. 2, 1905	Jun. 10, 1905	
Been, Ada Sue Kidd	Nov. 22, 1883	Mar. 21, 1955	
Corbell, Lloyd L.	Oct. 6, 1901	Jan. 31, 1905	Son of W.D. & N.E.
Corbell, J. M.	Sep. 28, 1858	Jan. 31, 1905	
Corbell, Margaret E.	Mar. 18, 1893		Wife of J.M., aged 35y, 2m
Unknown			
Davis, Dr. I.V.	May 23, 1839	Jun. 25, 1916	
Davis, Sarah M.	Jan. 22, 1858	Jan. 23, 1899	Wife of I.V.
Davis, Babe	Oct. 14, 1890		Son of I.V. & S.M.
Carpenter, Franklin W	Feb. 9, 1859	Aug. 4, 1895	
Carpenter, Edgar P	Jun. 27, 1852	Dec. 1, 1889	
Carpenter, Daniel Jr.	Dec. 27, 1869		(only date)

in Fort Chaffee, originally called Camp Chaffee.

I looked also in Center Valley Cemetery and did not find him there. I found George Washington Speegle there.

The original Fort was 76,075 acres. It was developed in 1941 for a training camp for WW2. So, Speegle Cemetery is 18.8 miles and because of the roads, a twenty-nine minute trip.

DB: Thank you for your time.

MB: If your relative does not come through on the death certificate of Ray Doerr, I will try to find out something. There are funeral home records and City Death records in the genealogy department. I can also look through old newspapers near the death date.

DB: Here is an email from Mike, his great-grandparents are the ones that we are looking for information on. Hoping you may be able to help. I know we have talked about this already but he thinks you may be able to help us some more. Thank you, DB

MW: Hi my name is Mike Winter, I just retired as a policeman in California and one of my retirement activities is family history. My great-grandmother was Jessie Speegle, daughter of George Washington Speegle. Her early years were on a farm of sorts in I believe Sebastian County. When she was a teenager they moved to Witcherville and then Fort Smith proper. She married a Charles Doerr in Witcherville in 1909. Their four children were: Charles, Jr.; Claude; Faye; Ray.

Ok, here is my question and I thank you for taking the time to read my email. One of their children, a boy, I believe named Ray or Raymond Doerr was killed in 1922 and the family story goes he was jumping into a wagon and it was a game my grandfather would tell me called "Jump the Wagon." A wagon would pass by and the kids would run up to one of the turning wheels and attempt to jump onto the wagon and then the driver would promptly shoo them away (probably with a whip). Anyways my grandfather's brother Raymond somehow slipped and his leg was caught in the spokes of the wheel and it was badly damaged and he bled to death. Grisly to say the least but that's the story. I have tried to get burial information on this young man, in fact I have thought of him often because sometime after this their whole family came out to California and his grave has been unattended all these years. Anyways in your research have you ever seen the name Raymond Doerr and if so could you send me any information you have please? I know this is a long shot but

I figured it's worth a try. Also does the name Charles Doerr, Sr. come up in any information, one of their sons was a Jr.? I have almost no information on Charles, Sr.

Anyways, we have hit a dead end on this information. We requested Raymond's death certificate through official channels and have yet to receive anything other than "it will take more time."

(As a side note, Jessie's homestead when she was younger was somewhere near Potato Hill and the property was bought up by the War Department at the outset of World War 2 and incorporated into Fort Chaffee. It might be worth knowing that payment given to the property owners when Camp Chaffee was being formed was based on land purchased. If you owned a lake, grocery store, property that had been in your family for years—same price, you had no choice. The structures were of no interest to the Federal Government and the land owners could haul off their structures. By that time the family had moved. The name Potato Hill does come up in Fort Chaffee history. As a kid we were told it was used as target practice. I thought I was being teased. I was told lately the Potato Hill area was on the restricted list for a time. MB)

MB: I have your answer to follow. Found it Wednesday I am typing it up now. Mary Jeanne

Arkansas Department of Health,
Division of Vital Records Certificates of Death
Name of deceased: Doerr, Ray. County: SEBASTIAN.
Date of Death: 01 13 22. Volume: 006.
Certificate: 01007.

Oak Cemetery Book

Burial in Section 31 (This section was catalogued in rows starting at the Northeast Corner-North to South) At north end, Row 4, 16th internment listed in this row.

Ray Doerr, January 13, 1922, age 9 years (NT)

*NT denotes No Tombstone

I will list Section 31, Row 4. If you happen to Oak Cemetery it might make it easier to locate Ray Doerr's final resting place.

Begin Section 31, At the North End, Row 4
Rebecca Cooper (NT); Clarence J. Holloway (NT); Betty Gean Bodine (NT); Earle Sutton (NT); Sarah Gray (NT); Myrtle Sidler (NT); William Emmett Gower (NT); Bradle Crowder—this is the spelling from the Oak Cemetery Book (NT); **Geneva Harrison (NT); Sherwell Lucile Roberts (NT); Lenora Ethel Reese (NT); Leroy William Hagan** July 6, 1925-Oct. 3, 1989; **Mary I. Fields** July 17, 1919-Oct 20, 1921, daughter of W.O. and L.

Fields; *Gone But Not Forgotten* (Irene); *Father Albert O. Hagan* 1882-1954 (Nov. 3); *Sydney Russell Ayre* (NT); *Ray Doerr* Jan 13, 1922 age 9 yrs (NT); In Memory of *Clayton Rudolph Pollan* 1874-Aug 12, 1980; Mom *Kate Searle Pollan* Nov 3, 1874-Aug 12, 1956; Dad *Norman R. Pollan* Dec 5, 1866-Aug 1850; Daughter *Emily Martha Harris* 1921-1922 (July 14); *Infant of Thos. Burdwick* (NT); *Anne Anderson* (NT); *Freer L. Oxford* (NT); *Geneva Oxford* (NT); *Katie Nickles* (NT); *Charles Wayne Gilham* (NT); *Ama Ruth Trammel* (NT); *Infant of Travis Jones* (NT); *Wadley Harold Patterson* (NT); *Ned Burnett Clancy* (NT); *Paul James Nalf Jr.* (NT); *Lillian Goodnight* 1922-1924 *Gone to Rest* (July 21); *Lille Searle* June 10 1923 (NT). End of Row 4

The Southwest American

Fort Smith, Sunday, January 15, 1922, Obituary
Doer—Funeral service for Ray Doer, whose death occurred in a local hospital Friday morning following injuries sustained in an accident Thursday, were conducted Saturday morning at 10:00 from the family residence 1000 Spring Street. Rev. Freeland, Pastor of the Sulphur Springs Presbyterian Church officiating. Interment was made in Oak Cemetery.

The Pall Bearers were Cecil Norton, Floyd Robinson, Wayne Stewart, Edward Williams, Fred Williams, Buster Tuey, all schoolmates of deceased who was a student at Belle Point School.

I copied the whole page of this obituary, too large to place and a pdf file.

MB: I would bet that Ray's schoolmates remembered him fondly all of their lives. Mary

Fentress book, covering the time of Ray's death, is a small book, each page has a form to fill in, information on each page was written in pencil for each death, and additional information was written on the back of the form. On the form was: Ray Doerr, born Arkansas, age 9, date of death, January 13, 1922. Father, Charles Doerr

Born, Texas

Mother, Jessie Speegle

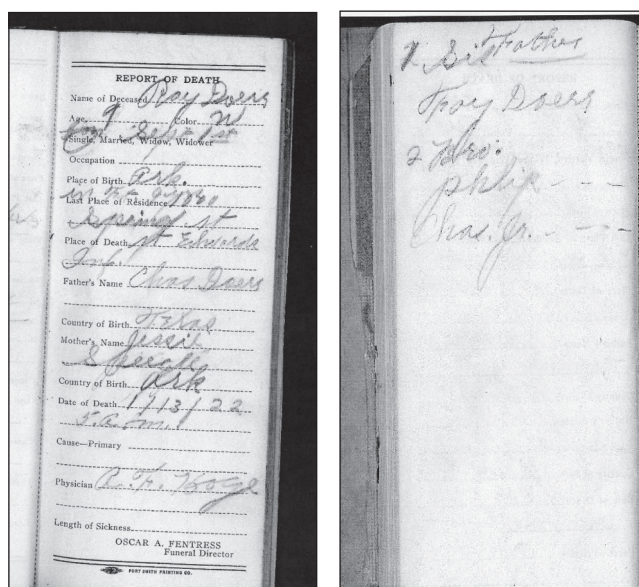
Born Arkansas

At the bottom of the form: Physician, R. F. Hoge signature.

On the back it lists survivors—(Odd, but it did not have Jessie's name on back of form. Jessie was alive then.)

Father, Charles Doerr

Sister, Fay (did not have an "e" on Faye) Brothers, Phillip and Charles, Jr.



RAY DOERR entry, front of page left and back of page on right, in the older Fentress Mortuary book. The books are stored in the Genealogy Department, Fort Smith Public Library, Fort Smith, Arkansas)

Information from:

City of Fort Smith Death Records (City Death

Records are now housed in Genealogy Department, Main Library, CITY OF Fort Smith Library, the book is too large to copy.)

Ray Doerr's accident occurred Jan. 12, 1922, he was taken to St. Edward's Infirmary, he died the next day, Jan. 13, 1922, at 5:00 am. Cause of Accident: died from shock, Signed by Dr. Arthur Hoge. (Shock may have been from blood loss.) Arrangements were made through Fentress Ambulance and Funeral Home. Fentress Funeral Home is still in business, on the corner of North Eighteenth Street and A Streets in Fort Smith. It was not at all unusual at that time to have the ambulance/funeral home as the same business.

DB: Can you send all of the research I have sent to you to Mike Winter also? The pdf file with the newspaper page is attached. If you have any problems, please let me know or if this leads to another question, I will answer if I can. This is quite a bit of info. Hope it makes sense. Mary Jeanne

DB: Oh my goodness. This is what we have been looking for. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. Jessie does mention climbing Potato Hill with friends and siblings. She also mentions that her mother watched the Civil War soldiers on the hill.

Four miles south of Charleston, AR. Grandfather came to this country when land was cheap and decided

to make a home here. There was a mountain close called Potato Hill. Grandfather owned all the land around it.

When we come for a visit I would love to meet you and thank you in person. You have really helped fill in the gaps Darla

DB: Mary, Would you happen to know how I would go about getting Ray Doerr marked? I have sent emails to a couple of different people and have not heard anything as of yet.

I sent one to the funeral home. Also asked if they still had records and if they had a birth date. To the first person on the list for Oak Cemetery Commission and I think to someone at the City Clerk's office. Thank you, Darla

Correction James Purl 1769 was the father or great grandfather. James Purl 1814-1865 was the son or grandfather. George Washington Speegle and Sarah Purl parents of Jessie Speegle Doerr

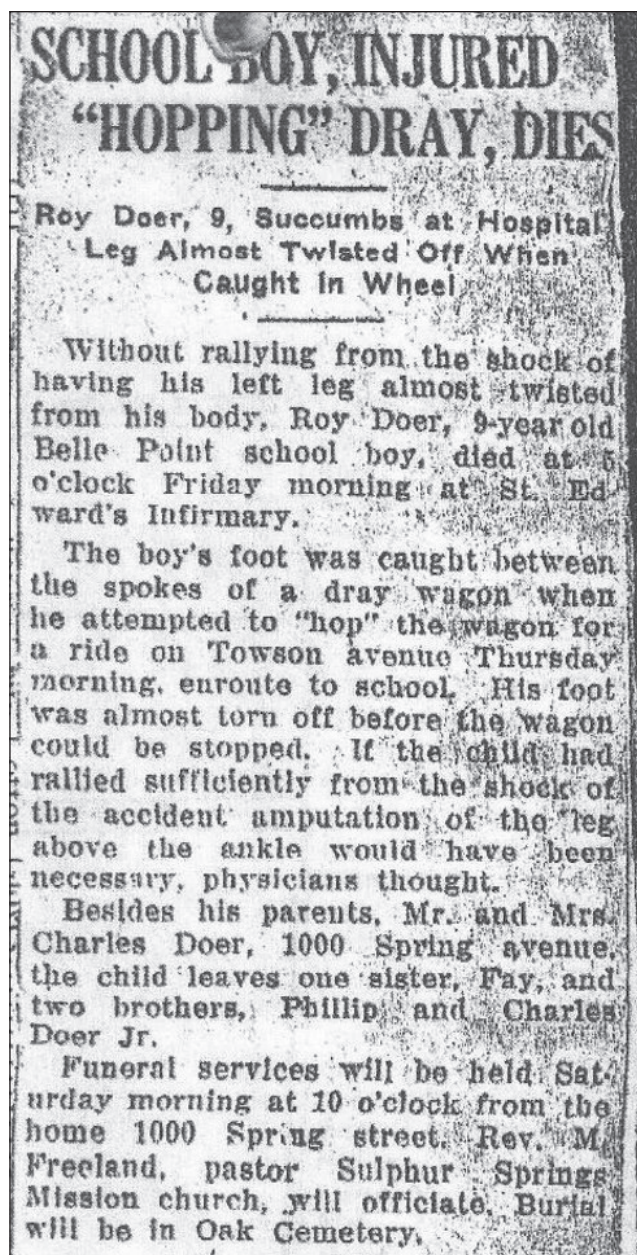
MJ: DB, let me do some further inquiries regarding a marker. If it would be agreeable to you and your family, we have a regular article in the Fort Smith Historical Society *Journal*. It follows a query, gives places to find documents, tips on researching, shows researchers have to keep digging until they find what they are looking for. Of course there are always those brick walls. I have met them for sure. We show those too. Mary

DB: Thank you sounds good.

MB: I did some investigating and found some answers regarding the marker for your great-uncle. I called the Oak Cemetery office, (479) 784-2375. I have always found these gentlemen to be most helpful. I asked the manager for the names of a few monument companies. He gave me several. The Oak Cemetery manager explained that after the marker is completed, it is delivered to the cemetery via the monument company, Oak Cemetery employees then "set the stone" at no cost to you. (Oak is a City Cemetery and the office that you talked to before was probably the City of Fort Smith, City Parks Department, Oak Cemetery falls under that Department since it is owned by the city.

I called two of the monument companies mentioned. I told them both what you were looking for, an inexpensive way to mark the grave of a gr., gr. uncle. I told them that I was with Fort Smith Historical Society and I was getting the information for you. I thought these two companies might be a good comparison. (This is good information for me to know if I am ever asked again.)

A monument company in Fort Smith suggested a 6"x



12" marker, \$135, this includes tax and delivery to cemetery. The gentleman said there is enough room for two lines of information, possibly three.

A monument company in Van Buren, Arkansas, suggested a 2" x 6" marker, \$58.00 plus tax. Enough room for name and two dates.

I have not found the date for Ray's birth. I thought that maybe I did earlier and looked back; there was no birth date in any of my notes for Ray. There was no birth date in the Fort Smith city records. The only Doerr found in Fort Smith city birth records, a baby in 1882.

Do you know anyone who might have a family Bible with a date of birth for this young man? I did think it strange the funeral home records did not have a date of birth, only his age at death. It could have been that the

family was in such grief and shock when Ray died that the father went down to make arrangements, he could not remember the birth date and the mother could have been so distraught the father did not want to disturb her. I do believe I have exhausted the birth records in Sebastian County. Will continue to look in other counties. Mary

(DB ordered a Death Certificate from a third party. Asking them to check the possible names: Ray S., Roy, Rhea, Raymond Doerr, Doera (Parents Charles Doerr, Jessie W (Speegle) Doerr.)

I will call the state office, along with presenting the proof that the death was recorded with the state their list of deaths and death dates online which lists **Ray Doerr Death- Doerr, Ray Seba 01 13 1922 006 01126**, I am sure you gave the state this record too. The above in bold are the states exact records on the death certificate. There is no way they can say that they do not have one. Mary Jeanne Black

These are DB attempts to get a death certificate the last correspondence was

DB: I was just wondering if any information has been found on this person. Ordered 1/23/2017

Death record Sebastian Co., Arkansas, 1913-1812 Jan 1922, Possible names Ray S, Roy, Rhea, Raymond Doerr, Doera, Parents Charles Doerr, Jessie W (Speegle) Doerr.

Thank you

DB: Hi, we should have more info by next week. It generally takes Arkansas six weeks to complete.

DB: Still waiting. Any word?

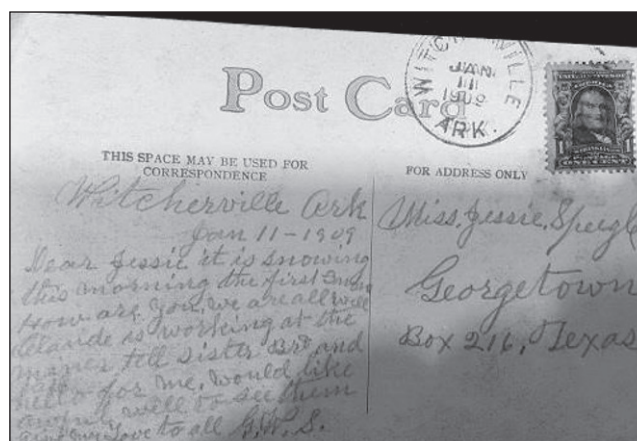
DB: I received an email stating that it was being resubmitted. Hi, we had to resubmit a new request to the State because they did not get the first one. Probably about four more weeks or sooner. We have included tracking this time so it does not get lost.

DB: Hi, we did resubmit a new search, however, the next day a letter came in from the original order from Arkansas stating that the record was not recorded there. This was sent to DB on July 21st.

MB: Darla, Good Grief!

I have not had this problem when ordering a death certificate, of course I have not ordered one in a while. I thought if the State of Arkansas has the record of death on their list with death Certificate number, they could give you a copy of your relative's death.

Just a copy of Ray's death certificate number, along with all the other proofs you have should be enough. I went back to the library and got copies of the records, except the City Death Records which, as I said before, those books are



too large and cumbersome. Mary Jeanne

I hope you won't lose the \$10 you sent to the secondary party for Ray Doerr's death certificate. There are no refunds if the state does a search and they no longer have the certificate for the number on their list. Difficult to swallow the ten dollar bill when the state list is the proof of the Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas death.

Death Records "Arkansas Vital Records has death records dating from February 1, 1914, through the present. There are a limited number of death records available for deaths occurring between 1881 and 1914 in Little Rock and Fort Smith. The Arkansas History Commission keeps an alphabetical listing of deaths in Arkansas dating from 1914 through 1949, but they do not have the actual death records. You may search and order Arkansas death certificates from 1935 to 1961 via the online death certificate Search and Order Service."

Birth Records "Arkansas Vital Records has birth records dating from February 1, 1914, through the present. There are a limited number of birth records available prior to 1914. Those records were filed with Arkansas Vital Records after 1914. We also have original copies of some Little Rock and Fort Smith births dating from 1881."

MB: I went to Oak Cemetery to make sure we were all on the same page for the placement of Ray Doerr's stone. There was concern since because of a discrepancy between the numbering system used by the City of Fort Smith and the Oak Cemetery Book when it came to the numbering of the graves. The gentleman showed me that one has the system that the graves are broken down into smaller sections counting the other was using the larger blocks. They both get you there. I am confident in the systems meshing.

MB: Darla, I will return the pages written by Jessie. Thank you for sharing. It was too much of an expense making those copies. You may have need for the copies in the future. I will return them when I have read all of the

Marriage License.

STATE OF ARKANSAS,
COUNTY OF SEBASTIAN,
GREENWOOD DISTRICT.

To Any Person Authorized by Law to Solemnize Marriage—Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to solemnize the rite and publish the banns of Matrimony between Mr. Chas Doerr
of Witcherville, in the County of Sebastian, State of Ark,
aged 24 years, and M^{rs} Jessie Winford Speagle of Witcherville in the County of
Sebastian, State of Ark, aged 20 years, according to law, and do
you officially sign and return this License to the parties herein named.

Witness my hand and official seal this 26 day of November 1909

Ozra Hester County Clerk.
By R O McComell Deputy Clerk.

writings. Thank you.

If there was anyone in his class who remembers the accident; they would be around 104 years old now. Then, the chances of them remembering is pretty slim. I will make further inquiries and see if anyone remembers hearing about, "Jump the Wagon."

I was looking for more on Charles Doerr, Sr. since your cousin, Mike W, said, "Also, does the name Charles Doerr, Sr. come up in any information? (One of their sons was a Jr.) I have almost no information on Charles, Sr.

Did you get Jessie and Charles Doerr living in the same household as George W. Speegle and Sarah B. Speegle with their son Claude? In the 1910 Census, Charles and Jessie were married two months. Speegle is spelled Speagle Doerr is spelled Docer.

DB: MB, please keep the book until you can read it. I am no hurry for it. I INSIST.

We are having a problem finding much on Charles Sr., granted I don't think he used the Sr. Yes we have them living with her parents in 1910. They had been married for four months when the census was done. Faye is the oldest born in 1911. Claude would be Jessie's brother. We did come across Charles in Bell, TX in 1900 as a hired hand with A H Ray and Annie Ray. Though it lists the last name as Darr. This turns out to be Sarah's sister Mary Ann who married Augustus Hamilton Ray. Also listed is their nephew Thomas (Though he shows up in his own family's census.)

I have Charles' death record that lists his father as Phillip from Germany but nothing for mother. In 1944, He actually died on his birthday. The death record also

lists that he was born in Belton, Bell, TX. I was having a problem finding a marriage record but finally found it listed as Chas Doerr and Jessie Speagle of Witcherville, Nov 1909. I was hoping to find an address or something for Charles in Witcherville sometime before the marriage to put him in the same place at the same time. Or find Jessie visiting her aunt and uncle while he was working for them.

We found a postcard that George Washington Speegle sent Jessie on January 11, 1909. She was visiting family in Georgetown, TX, (either Annie or Henry). This could have been when and where they met and married by years end. I love this stuff. Darla

Postcard from her Father to Jessie

Miss Jessie Speegle, Witcherville, January 11,
1909 (Postmark January 11, 1909, Witcherville, Ark.)
Miss Jessie Speegle, Georgetown, Box 216, Texas

JESSIE SPEEGLE DOERR'S WRITINGS

Potato Hill

Covers forty acres of land at the bottom and one quarter mile high. About fifty feet square across the top and is covered with all kinds of trees, rocks, and moss which makes it beautiful to look at. People come from miles to climb to the top. You can see for miles and miles across the country....Grandfather built his home house just a little way from the foot of Potato Hill.

My grandmother was born on this plantation April fourth, "1856," they named her "Sarah Belle Purl." She was

raised there, attended school at Charleston, Arkansas.

My Grandfather Speegle came to this country also and bought land two miles west of Potato Hill. There was a branch of water running through his land, so he selected a nice little place close and built his house. My father was born January third "1849," they named him, "George Washington Speegle." Grandfather Speegle had a blacksmith shop. He made guns and swords to fight in the civil war. Daddy studied medicine, he wanted to be a doctor but he never got to finish as the "Dr." he was studying under died in the fall before Daddy was to finish in the spring. So, he farmed and helped his father in the blacksmith shop.

Potato Hill was used by the soldiers for a lookout station during the Civil War. My mother was a little girl at this time. She would stand the windows and watch the soldiers ride on top and around it. She was watched all the time.

Witcherville ... I came to my senses. I hadn't yet thought about getting scared but all of a sudden I did get scared and began to cry and wanted to go right back home. I didn't want to go to Witcherville. Daddy said, "See that mountain in front of us. Well you just wait until we get on top of it and then look. You won't be homesick then." So, when we got to the mountain, I got out and walked up to the top.

I was pretty stiff riding so long. I was glad to walk the, "stiffing out of me." Well I did like the country on the other side of the mountain. It seemed more like home to me. We had to go over two more small hills before we got there. The last one was called the Blann Hill.

When we got on it, Daddy said, "Well, Jessie there is our new home. Take a good look while we are up here then you can tell me what you think of Witcherville ... Well, we drove on when we got closer and I wasn't missing nothing.

Finely, Daddy pointed out our house just a little way in front of us. There were several houses scattered around at first. I looked at them all. Then I asked which one daddy? He said that one pointing at a two-story building with a big tree in the front yard. Well, I looked and looked. The more I looked I liked the place better. Daddy said, "Well, what do you think? Does it look good enough?" I did not answer right away. I cast my eyes around, saw the Church house, then Buckner College, then I asked where does Mr. Espley live? Daddy pointed out right there. We were passing their house right then.

Everything looked nice enough but what a lot of paint it would take to dress up that town and it looked like all the houses in that town needed painting. I knew it had been years since anyone had painted anything.

We had not seen anyone stirring around. I thought, what a dull place we had to live in. Then I said, "Wait Daddy, I will tell you what I think when I see the house on the inside. It don't look very good to me now." Well we drove in the lane and Claude opened the big gate that went in the barn yard and we drove on in and we all piled out. Oh, it was good to get out of that wagon. We had traveled over a hard rocky road and our liver almost jolted out of us. It seems that we had ...



Who Knew? Is a regular feature of the Journal. Inquiries from readers and other parties are answered with research and emailed exchanges by Mary Jeanne Black, Inquiry Coordinator of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

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

1917 Newspapers

By Al Whitson

War fever continued to run high through the second half of 1917, while the city remained technically dry. The headlines were dominated by details of the war across the ocean. Lists of the local men eligible to fight, along with their lottery numbers were regularly published, as were the names of those who were asking for deferments.

The city's new mayor made his presence felt and one of his acts was the shuttering of the red light district—an act which would prove controversial. The biggest local news of the year was the celebration of the city's centennial, which entertained crowds of citizens and guests by the thousands and brought a welcome relief from the constant drumbeat of war.

The women's movement continued to grow and gain momentum throughout emboldening sixty-five telephone operators with the local Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to strike for better wages. A strike which lasted for months and gained notoriety across the state and the nation, ending with a city-wide trade union strike that crippled the city but brought the women strikers the respect they sought. It was quite a year, indeed!

Tuesday, July 3, 1917

SECURES ANOTHER LARGE ORDER FOR FORT SMITH TENTS

"We have two orders from the International Y. M. C. A. at New York for \$54,000 worth of tents for the army that is being recruited and sent to France." Was the statement of H. Temple Tucker of the Tucker Duck and Rubber company to the *Southwest American* Monday.

Mr. Tucker recently accepted an order for \$10,000 worth to be consigned to the same organization and with the additional order will be compelled to increase his plant to double its present capacity. The tents will bear the circle and pyramid stamp, the brand of the government, thus guaranteeing prompt shipment by the railroads.

The order for \$44,000 additional tents was closed Monday. The local company will also supply cots for the United States troops. Y. M. C. A. tents were ready for



occupancy by the United States troops when they recently landed in France in less than an hour after their arrival.

Mr. Tucker stated that tent materials are so much in demand that it is almost impossible to get immediate shipments. The government has conscripted about one-half of the output of the mills throughout the country.

Wednesday, July 4, 1917

FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT WILL BE ENTIRELY MOTORIZED

The romance of the fire horse in Fort Smith has reached the final chapter. His days are numbered.

The entire Fort Smith fire department is to be motorized. A resolution to this effect was unanimously adopted by the city commission at its adjourned session Tuesday.

Three combination hose and ladder wagons are to be put on automobile chassis, and one of the city fire engines, the other engine being arranged as a trailer in an emergency requiring both engines. In addition the resolution provides for the purchase of a second motor power pumper similar to that now owned by the city, except that it will be of 500-gallon capacity and is less convenient and serviceable in average fires than the smaller pumper. It is the purpose of the department to install the new pumper at Station No. 2 and transfer No. 1 pumper to Station No. 1.

The bids will be acted upon July 14 by the commission. After the motorizing of the department it is the plan of the department to dispose of the thirteen fire horses and all horse equipment of the department; also the running gears of the three fire wagons. For several weeks Mayor J. H.

Wright and Commissioner T. A. Bayley have been gathering data as to cost of motorizing and comparative cost of upkeep, together with comparative service of the two methods and their statistics prove that the difference in favor of the motor service will more than pay for the change within three years.

Thursday, July 5, 1917

INSPECTION BOARD FOR ARMY CAMP SITE TAKES LOOK HERE

"I am pleased with Fort Smith and what I have seen of it since my arrival in this city this morning. I have seen everything that it has to offer, its lovely roads, its matchless mountain drives, its forest reserves and the town itself," said Col. G. P. Howell of the United States army engineers, as he sat at dinner Wednesday evening after a ride that would have worn the nerves of an ordinary man. Yet Colonel Howell sat with Fort Smith's brief before him, reading it with real interest, as he waited for his dinner.

Colonel Howell and Captain W. T. Merry, U. S. infantry, arrived early Wednesday for an inspection of prospective military sites adjacent to this city. They are members of an official inspection board of the department of the southeast, Major General Leonard S. Wood commanding. Capt. Jerry Clayton, who made an inspection here some two weeks ago, did not accompany the board this time.

"However, I wish it understood," said Colonel Howell, "that General Wood is to have the final say about locating the camps. The matter is up to him entirely.

After an early breakfast Colonel Howell and Captain Merry began their inspection.

With Colonel Howell and Captain Merry were W. J. Echols, B. D. Crane and Mayor J. H. Wright, Harry E. Kelley and Ralph Mecham. The party visited the Buell, Ayers and Kelley tracts, the Cliff drive and its environments, the city waterworks and its pumping stations and everything available connected to the camp site. They returned to the city in time for Captain Merry to take the noon train to Little Rock.

In the afternoon, the party took Colonel Howell through the forest reserve on Poteau mountain, near Mansfield, and returned. This party was composed of Tom Dailey, J. Mayne Bailey, W. J. Echols, Ralph Mecham and Frank Handlin. The party showed Colonel Howell sites for artillery practice and the extent of the artillery ranges, which Colonel Howell examined closely, making notes from time to time upon their extent and their accessibility.

After consulting with the committee, looking over the town to see what sort of a place it was by night as well as

by day, Colonel Howell took the 10:20 o'clock train for Little Rock Wednesday night.

Saturday, July 21, 1917

GLASS PRODUCTS FIRM CHARTERED

The Fort Smith Glass Products Co., with a paid up capital of \$46,000, filed articles of incorporation Friday. The company is promoted by Chicago capitalists and will manufacture high grade glass products. The company will shortly award contracts for the construction of its plant, which will be located west of the Harding Glass Co. factory, now in the course of construction in Midland Heights.

The directors, officers and stockholders of the company are Charles Becker, president; George L. K. Hammons, vice-president; C. A. Frederich, secretary-treasurer; Herman Schuchnecht, Robert Malcolm, and A. M. Price, D. H. Hanson, Jr., and E. D. Holmes. All interested in the company are residents of Chicago except Mr. Frederich, who now lives here. He will also be general manager of the plant.

Delay in obtaining the building plans greatly interfered with operations of the company.

Sunday, July 22, 1917

TEACHERS' ASSIGNMENTS IN FORT SMITH SCHOOLS

The following assignments have been made of teachers in the Fort Smith schools for the coming year, subject to some slight change due to adjustment of conditions when school opens next September.

HIGH SCHOOL

Principal—H. C. Morrison

Physical Director and Coach—F. B. Bridges.

Science and Mathematics—Stella J. Weimer

English—Chiles Harris, Zanie Edwards, Susan Tidball,

Mae D. Park Domestic Art—Salene Marks.

Study Hall—Willie Mitchell

Assistant to Principal—Mary K. Settles.

Clerk—Alice Johnson.

Commercial—Mary L. Dean.

Mathematics—R. N. Turner, Leora Blair, Ora Dansby.

History—Earl Swindler, Edith Ayers.

German and French—Fannie Baker.

German—Olive Keller.

Spanish and Latin—May Keirns.

Science—Otto V. Martin, Mildred Wickes.

Commercial—B. L. McDaniel, Mary L. Dean.

Normal Training—Mrs. J. K. Kimmons.

Manual Training—G. C. Kerschner, G. D. Wynne.

Domestic Art—Blanche Fisher, Salene Marks.

Domestic Science—Beatrice Benson.

Expression—Faye Kerlin.

Art—Rena E. Seyfer

Belle Grove

Principal, Ralph Butcher; substitute, Faye Page; first grade, Annie Cunningham and Minnie Pahotski; second, Florence Pahotski; first and second, Julia Aerr and Julia Irwin; third, Minnie Hubbard, Rolla Southard, Maxie Covington; fourth, Nettie Morris, Mai Rives; fifth, Rosalind Buell; fifth and sixth, Luella Jackson; sixth, Bessie Cobb; seventh, Cleo Blythe; eighth, Mrs. Mary Caldwell.

Belle Point

Principal, A. H. Carter; substitute, Ruth Bedwell; first, Ruby Washington, Lou Yates, Madge Shellenbarger; second, Cora Riggs and Fern Taylor; third, Louise Whedon, Ora Wilburn; third and fourth, Harriette Zerr; fourth, Ida White, Frankie Norfleet; fifth, Florie Eskew, Lela Adams, Marian Prahter; sixth, Ida Huff; sixth and seventh, Dorothy Wildman; seventh, Anna Trostle.

Trusty

Substitute, Lillian Hendricks; first Bonnie Bess Brown; first and second, Mabel Brooks; second, Katherine Nulph; third, Elizabeth Hays; fourth, Nannie Kelley; fourth and fifth, Marie Krone; fifth, Ruth Hill; sixth, not filled; seventh, Eunice Broome; eighth, C. E. Beard.

Junior High

Grace Bobbitt, Jennie Mayfield, Lorena Brown, Mollie Williams.

Rocky Ridge

Principal, T. F. Blaylock, fourth to sixth grades; Ola Peck, first to third.

Mill Creek

Principal, R. O. Durden; primary Emma Brockman

South Fort Smith

Principal, J. A. Holt; primary, Mrs. M. L. Crooms

Duval School

First grade, Eunice Shipley, Emily Shibley; second, Blanche Goltry; second and third, Lucia Powell; third, Mae Johnson, Marguerite Hubbard; fourth, Irene Goddard, Newell Word; sixth, Marian Baker; sixth and seventh, Allison Beard.

Peabody School

Principal, F. R. Angwin; first, Mary D. Watrous, Gertrude Champion, Bess Burrow; second, Marguerite Weizel, Mattie Sue Hine; third, Cotie Pray, Hallie Beil; fourth, Ethel Deadman, Ruth Wilder; fourth and fifth, Vera Heard; fifth, Fru Ella Southard, Lillian Hardin, Louise McDonald; sixth, Ethel Hill, Mrs. E. A. Dove; seventh, Marie Harrington, Phyllis Carbaugh; eighth, Nan Roberts; substitute, Bess Williams.

Colored High School—Lincoln

Principal, E. O. Trent, seniors and juniors; freshman and eighth, F. D. Johnson; manual training, E. E. Robinson; domestic art and science, Claudia Price; sixth, Lela Hensley; seventh, Mary Davis; substitute, Ethel Lee.

Howard (Colored)

Principal and fifth, W. W. Jones; fifth, Mary J. Lewis; fourth, E. V. Conwell; third, Lucretia Wyatt; second, Minnie Beasley, Willia Butler, Collier Robinson, Jimanna Quillan; first and second, Jeannette Parker; first, Lucile Bailey, Nancy J. Webb; substitute, Helen Jones.

Washington School—Colored

Principal, L. W. Wyatt, third to sixth grades; Irene Jones, first and second.

Thursday, July 26, 1917

WINGO WIRES BOARD WILSON WILL APPROVE

Construction of the Garrison avenue concrete bridge across the Arkansas river, will be under way very soon. Telegrams were received Wednesday by J. M. Sparks, president, and Roy M. Johnson, secretary, of the bridge district from Congressman Otis T. Wingo.

Hedrick and Hedrick have completed rver(sic) surveys and soundings and will soon present to the board alternative plans with the specifications upon which construction bids may be advertised for. The board will this month make final choice of plan and advertise for bids.

Sunday, July 29, 1917

EXPLOSION INJURES TWO EARLY TODAY

A mysterious explosion of an unknown substance in a metal container buried at the side of the road a quarter of a mile south of the Fort Smith Wagon factory at 2:45 o'clock this (Sunday) morning painfully and perhaps seriously injured two picnickers, tore up the soft earth and awakened numerous people in the southern portion of the city. The injured men, Merlin Patterson age 20, and Dewey Ray 19, were cut about the face and body by flying pieces of the metal container which was smashed by the explosion.

The blast was caused directly by a fire started at the edge of the road by the picnickers to heat some water. As seven of the nine boys in the party sat twelve feet away, eating lunch. Patterson and Ray were standing almost over the fire, when with a blinding flash and a deafening roar the blast threw them backward a distance of many feet and knocked the entire party into half-consciousness. When they revived they were scattered about the place in various positions, but aside from shock and cuts sustained by the worst injured men no one was seriously hurt.

Opinions differ as to the explosive substance in the

buried container. Ground near the road is being cleared and it was suggested it might have been a can of powder used by workmen in blasting stumps, which had been buried in the soft earth as a measure of precaution. Another theory was that it might have been a can of contraband alcohol, which would explode under these circumstances. A high explosive, designed for use against some industrial plant, is another guess. The pieces of the metal container which were found were apparently of heavy tin.

The boys had been having a supper party in celebration of the approaching departure of two of their number who are members of the local national guards. The party included Arthur Journey, Joe Atkinson, Sancho Finley, Oscar Campbell, Carl Beaver of Tulsa, Guardsmen Rois Reed and Leo Steincke, and the injured boys.

Wednesday, August 8, 1917

GOVERNMENT SUES MOONSHINERS OF FORT SMITH FOR \$466,000

The old Rush distillery moonshine case, which has for three years been a cause célèbre in this city and several southern states, came up in a new guise in this city Tuesday when the taking of depositions was commenced in a suit in which the United States sues four of the chief defendants in the moonshine cases for the recovery of \$466,000 of unpaid revenue tax in the years when moonshine whisky was made and shipped out of this city by the hundreds of thousands of gallons all over the South.

The depositions are being taken before Special Commissioner James K. Perkins court reporter for the western district of Arkansas. The defendants named by the government in the tax suit are John I. Casper, Guy Hartman, Thomas C. McCoy and J. F. Smithdeal. The suit is brought in the western district of North Carolina. In taking the depositions here, Col. W. S. Thompson, special assistant to the attorney general, represents the government and Judge A. E. Holden of Asheville, N. C., the defendants. Counsel in the case arrived in this city Tuesday morning from North Carolina, and Judge Youmans named the commissioner before whom the depositions are being taken.

A considerable number of witnesses who figured in the various criminal trials in this city growing out of the illicit operations of the Rush and Brewbaker distillery will give depositions, as will also members of local houses that supplied materials to the distillery. Not until the government had far developed the evidence of the operations of the Rush distillery, did the government unearth evidence upon which Smithdeal is charged by the government with having been a silent partner with the CasperHartman-McCoy combination for beating the

government out of the tax on distilled spirits.

Thursday, August 9, 1917

GEORGE RYE ON TRIP

George Rye will leave today to attend the grand lodge of the Eagles at Buffalo on August 14-16 and a national convention of florists in New York City on Aug 21-23. Immediately on his return, Mrs. Rye will leave for Chicago to take a course of training in floral decoration.

Wednesday, October 31, 1917

IT'S JUST A VERY ORDINARY STREET TODAY

The tenderloin is no more.

At 12 o'clock last night the remaining five houses on First street closed their doors, and the inmates and landladies began to leave town on early trains. By noon today every one of them will be gone, under the edict of the city administration.

Shortly after midnight the police carefully searched all houses in the district, but failed to find a single violation of the order under which the district is wiped out. Close watch was kept the remainder of the night to prevent stragglers visiting the prohibited zone.

Saturday, August 11, 1917

REPORT CHARGES RESTAURANTS ARE SELLING WATERED MILK AND SOME OF IT IS "DIRTY"

Two restaurants in Fort Smith are selling "dirty and watered milk," one dairy is selling an unclean product, two other restaurants are selling "skimmed or watered" milk, and seven other establishments are selling product that falls below the standard set by the city milk ordinances, according to reports made Friday to Commissioner of Health Bayley by Prof. Otto V. Martin, city bacteriologist. Solids of at least 12½ per cent are required under the city ordinance, and a gravity ranging from 26 to 32 is necessary. Only two specimens fell below the gravity standard.

The specimen examined at Wide-Awake Café was "extremely dirty and watered" according to the report. It tested only 7.90 per cent solid, of which two percent was butter fat. Mike Liberto's milk tested only slightly better, a total of 8.42 per cent solids.

Nick's place, the Hays lunch room, Jim's place (the Welcome Café) and the Monte Christo café were the other restaurants whose milk fell below the standard.

Milk from dairies of G. S. Cantwell, J. M. Little, Gerard Bros. and Lide Cantwell also was below the standard and

that from the Tankersley milk company was described as "extremely dirty."

The Savoy café specimen contained "considerable dirt," and the People's restaurant milk "some dirt," the report states.

Several reports on ice cream and on cream tested for butter fat only were also made.

Commissioner Bayley is considering what action he can take to remedy the situation. The reports reached him late Friday.

Following is a tabulation of the reports:

	Percentage		
	Fats	Solids	Grav.
Sweet Milk			
Wide Awake Café	2.0	7.90	22
Mike Liberto	1.6	8.42	26
Nick's Place	1.3	8.91	27
Welcome Café	3.0	9.60	24
Hayes lunch room	1.0	10.20	36
G. S. Cantwell	3.5	11.21	28
Gerard Bros.	4.0	11.81	28
J. M. Little	3.6	11.83	28
Lide Cantwell	3.9	11.94	29
Monte Christo Café	3.6	12.08	31
Ecker's Café	4.0	12.56	31
Tankersley Milk Co.	4.0	12.60	31
Caldarera	5.2	12.75	36
Sanitary Milk Co.	4.5	12.78	39
J. M. Williams	4.0	12.81	32
Guler's bakery	4.5	12.91	30
Savoy Café	4.5	13.16	31
People's Restaurant	3.8	13.08	34
J. W. Williams	4.5	13.16	31
J. M. Spence	5.0	13.76	30
Louie's Restaurant	5.5	14.37	30

	Percentage		
	Fats	Solids	Ash
Ice Cream			
Narisi Bros	8.0	29.55	.73
Ward	8.0	31.10	1.04
Watson & Aven	7.0	35.82	1.04

Cream Tested for Fat Only

Lide Cantwell	25
Sanitary Milk Co.	30
Tankersley Milk Co.	40

Wednesday, August 15, 1917

POLICE CLOSE LYRIC THEATER

Acting on instructions from Mayor J. H. Wright, the management of the Lyric theatre was ordered to close



LEW COAST AND THE SEASIDE BEAUTIES AT THE LYRIC THEATER

during the second performance last night by the police on the grounds that a warning had previously been given that jokes or lines with double meaning should be deleted.

The mayor's order was promptly complied with and the audience left the theatre with the performance about half over. The management gave out tickets for the next night's performance.

Mayor Wright attended the show and took exceptions to the "rough stuff" as he termed it, and to the *Southwest American* he said last night the theatre would remain closed until he was given sufficient assurance that the performances would be conducted on a higher plane.

Friday, August 17, 1917

NEAD FENTRESS IS INJURED IN COLLISION WITH BUGGY

Nead Fentress was painfully injured early Thursday morning when a buggy collided with an automobile he was driving at South Thirteenth and L streets. Flying pieces of broken windshield cut a deep gash in his right wrist, and it is feared the leader was severed. One of the buggy shafts struck him in the left side, inflicting a painful wound, and possibly causing serious internal injuries. The accident happened just after midnight.

Fentress was driving a taxicab for the Crabtree taxi line and was going south on Thirteenth street. Two buggies were moving west on "L" street. Fentress saw them just at the crossing and ran upon the curb to avoid a collision, but the horse plunged into the side of the car near the front

seat, the horse's head striking Fentress on the face. No one else was injured. The names of the men driving the buggies were not secured.

Friday, August 17, 1917

IMPROVEMENTS AT HOTEL MAIN

Improvements costing approximately \$10,000 are being made at the Hotel Main by I. H. Nakdimen, owner of the building. Every room in the house is being renovated, the woodwork is being re-painted, new plumbing is being installed and it is planned to paint the front of the hotel white.

Every room in the house is being fitted with hot and cold running water and a fan. New bed springs and mattresses and new carpets have been purchased. The stairways and halls are being repainted.

The lavatory is being moved from the basement to the rear of the pool room on the first floor, and will be fitted in glass and marble.

Sunday, August 19, 1917

ADD-A-TREAD REPORTS HAVING GOOD BUSINESS

Messrs. Wolf and Robb, proprietors of the Add-a-Tread Tire Co., are surely enthused over the volume of business handled at their plant in the last 60 days. The shop has been operating at full capacity and more new machinery had to be installed.

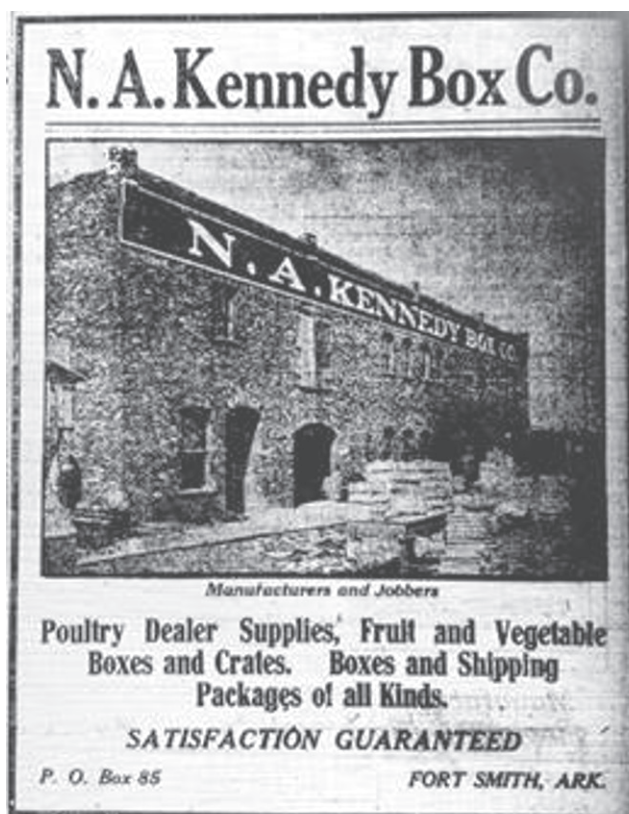
The plant is now equipped with practically every style of machinery used in the large tire factories of the country, and the last machine installed is the power wrapping machine, used for wrapping tires for the re-tread work. The Add-a-Tread Tire co. has been established a little over a year and a half in Fort Smith and are located at 105 North Tenth street.

Wednesday, August 29, 1917

LOCAL BOY WON WATCH AND MEDAL AND BOXED WITH CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Clint Keys has returned to Fort Smith after spending a year on the Pacific coast during which he attained considerable success in the boxing game, won a gold watch and a gold medal, boxed with famous Charlie Chaplin and was an instructor in Eddie Robinson's private gymnasium in Los Angeles.

Eddie Robinson was formerly a boxing promoter in Fort Smith and was the manager of Young Togo and Eddie Lennon. He staged the well-remembered bout here of Togo and Battling Nelson in the old Grand Opera house at Fifth



and Garrison. Robinson passed away last November, death being due to fatty degeneration of the heart.

Keys won the watch in a bout at 125 pounds and it is a handsome timepiece, engraved with his name and the date and name of the club before which the bout was staged. The gold medal was won in the 130-pound class. Keys is a member of the Los Angeles Athletic club and the A. A. U., a nation organization.

While in Los Angeles he sparred many times with Charlie Chaplin, famous in the movies and he says Chaplin is as funny and full of pranks out of pictures as he is in them. He just naturally can't help being funny. Chaplin keeps himself in condition by boxing and doing work in the gymnasium.

When boxing was in its heyday in Fort Smith some years ago Keys was a scrawny youngster who looked to be anything but a boxer, but he liked the game and worked in preliminary matches whenever he was given a chance. He developed physically and now is a tough well muscled youth of 22 with a punch and plenty of grit. He has never touched liquor nor tobacco and keeps himself in excellent condition, but has not boxed for several months owing to an injury to the ligament in his left leg which necessitated an operation. When he recovers fully from that he is going back into the game to fight his way to the top or quit it for good if he finds

he is unable to attain success in the game.

Sunday, September 2, 1917

BRIDGE CONTRACT AWARDED

At its meeting Saturday night the commission of the Garrison avenue bridge district formally accepted the contract of H. C. Gass, Houston, Texas, bridge contractor for construction of the half million dollar concrete bridge across the Arkansas river.

Acceptance of his bid was wired to Contractor Gass following the meeting of the board. His bid for construction of the bridge and furnishing of all materials was \$434,500.

The bid was one of four which were filed with the district board by contractors from various parts of the country, each for a lump sum. Construction is expected to begin at an early date.

Wednesday, September 5, 1917

COMPLICATION ARISES IN BRIDGE CONTRACT

A complication has arisen in the letting of the contract for construction of the Garrison avenue bridge which the bridge commission is seeking to solve. The complication has arisen through the certified check for \$25,000 which Contractor H. C. Gass, of Houston, Texas, deposited as security. The matter of the check has raised questions which led a member of the board Tuesday night to express the conviction that the Contractor Gass will not construct the bridge.

At the time bids were filed with the board, Engineer Hedrick cast up the figures given by each bidder for the construction covering 19 different items of such construction. These figures did not affect the lump sum bid but were intended as a basis upon which to settle any increase or decrease in the work from the original specifications. At that time Engineer Hedrick discovered that these prices as given by Contractor Gass amounted to between \$12,000 and \$20,000 more than the lump sum he had bid to construct the bridge.

The board has made no statement as to the exact details of the check transaction; but it appears that the check under existing circumstances is not considered by the board the security it was intended to be.

H. C. Gass was the lowest bidder for the bridge contract, bidding \$434,500, and his certified check for \$25,000 was deposited with the board as a guaranty for completion of the contract. At the close of the session two certified checks of highest bidders were returned to them and the two lowest bids taken under consideration for ten days. Last Saturday the board at a called meeting formally

accepted the bid of Contractor Gass, by wire and notified him of its acceptance with request that he wire acceptance and hasten the closing of the formal contract. Up to Tuesday night the board had heard nothing whatever from him.

Thursday, September 6, 1917

FORT SMITH IS SELECTED AS MOBILIZATION POINT FOR HORSES AND MULES

Fort Smith has been selected by the government as the mobilization point for horses and mules to be used at the various national army cantonments and training quarters in the South.

A large remount station, covering several acres, is being built near the Fort Smith & Western "Y." All the animals bought for the government in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri and part of Texas will be shipped here and housed at the centralization point.

Government inspectors will be sent here to examine the animals, and those found fit for government service will be shipped to the various training camps. Animals unfit for use by the government will be disposed of locally.

The animals will be bought in the states constituting this district by individuals, and shipped here to be sold to the government.

The location here of the centralization point for horses and mules doubtless will boost the business of local feed dealers. It is expected that from 500 to 1,500 animals will be housed continually at the remount station. A large army of men will be required to care for the stock, giving employment to perhaps 100 or more men. Several veterinarians also will be employed at the station.

Animals are expected to begin arriving Saturday, and shortly thereafter, shipments of about 150 a day will be made.

Saturday, September 8, 1917

GRAND PAGEANT WILL FEATURE FORT SMITH'S BIG CENTENNIAL

The program committee of the Fort Smith Centennial, to be celebrated here October 8 to 13, inclusive, has practically completed the program for the six days of the exposition, with the exception of minor details, it was said last night by Superintendent George Reid, the chairman.

The celebration will open with a magnificent pageant, representing Fort Smith of today in contrast with the city 100 years ago. Gradually the founding of the city or the climax, will be reached probably Thursday or Friday. This will follow the arrival and the crowning of the king and queen, who are to be selected by popular vote.

On two nights of the centennial gigantic electrical parades will be staged. Several street cars transformed into floats with hundreds of vari-colored incandescent lights will be featured. Automobiles, decorated elaborately, also will be in [unreadable], according to tentative plans of the committee.

Another feature of the centennial will be [unreadable] day, probably on the third or fourth day of the fair. Hundreds of former Fort Smithians are expected to visit the centennial on that day.

Fraternal day, agricultural and industrial day, negroes' day, old soldiers' day and children's day are other features that are being planned by the committee.

On the night of the arrival and crowning of the king and queen, it is planned to give a big dance, possibly on Sixth street between Garrison and Rogers avenues. Governor Brough will probably be invited to introduce the central figures.

Sunday, September 9, 1917

BIG CENTENNIAL WILL START WITH BLASTS MANY WHISTLES

With prolonged blasts from every factory and locomotive whistle in the vicinity of Fort Smith, the celebration of the great centennial to be observed here October 8 to 13, inclusive, will be heralded at 7 o'clock on the morning of opening day.

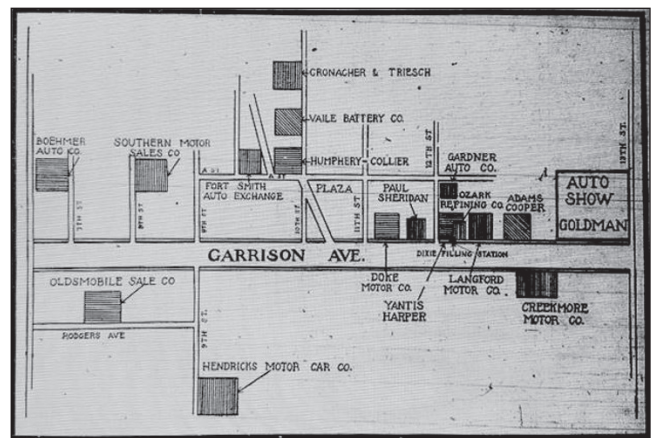
The engineers will be asked to remain at their posts and pull their whistle cords until they become weary.

This decision was reached by the program committee yesterday, which is composed of the Rev. J. H. Kirkpatrick and Superintendent George W. Reid. It is believed that by means of the great noise made by the many whistles everybody within a radius of several miles will be reminded that the celebration of Fort Smith's one hundredth anniversary is in full blast.

From the time the first whistle is sounded until 12 o'clock Saturday, everybody is expected to join in the jollification. There will be something different in progress throughout the week—every day's program will be different.

A program that hardly could be improved upon has been planned by the committee. Although the details have not been completed, the general program, as announced, follows.

- Monday—Opening parade in which floats of the various retail and wholesale merchants will be conspicuous, depicting Fort Smith of today in contrast with military post of 100 years ago.
- Tuesday—Industrial and agricultural day, and parade by manufacturers and farmers.



AUTO SHOW MAP

- Tuesday night—Electrical parade—street cars, decorated elaborately, with artistically bedecked automobiles following, will be featured.

- Wednesday—Historical day, featured by a mammoth pageant composed of historical floats showing Fort Smith in its development.

- Wednesday night—The attack by Indians upon Fort Smith in miniature (at the stadium).

- Thursday—Centennial and homecoming day. The program for this day will be prepared by a committee of pioneer citizens, and is expected to be one of the biggest days of the celebration. The king and queen will arrive on this day.

- Thursday night—Celebration of the King's and Queen's arrival. Governor Charles H. Brough of Arkansas and Governor Robert L. Williams of Oklahoma will attend the arrival, taking active parts in the celebration.

- Friday—Fraternal day. Each fraternal organization in the city is preparing a program for this day.

Each will be represented by a float in the parade to be staged.

- Friday night—Electrical parade.

- Saturday—Closing parade, with floats participating in the parade of the week in line as the grand finale.

The executive committee anticipates the biggest celebration in the 100 years of Fort Smith's history. The complete co-operation of every citizen is asked by the board.

Wednesday, September 12, 1917

NEW FEATURES ADDED TO THE FAIR PROGRAM

After assuming the management of the Fort Smith Centennial, to be held here the week beginning October 8, the Rev. J. H. Kirkpatrick yesterday started planning the celebration with a view to making it a decided success in

every particular. Working with the program committee, Manager Kirkpatrick already has added three events—a fashion show, a historical pageant featuring the old federal court and an automobile show.

The fashion show will be staged by the merchants of Fort Smith. The feature will be a parade, in which fashion's latest and most pronounced styles for women—and men as well—will be displayed.

The automobile show will consist of both indoor and outdoor exhibitions of motor cars of nearly every model on the market. The local auto dealers have pledged their assistance to the manager in arranging the program, which probably will be announced tomorrow.

Plans already are under way for the depiction of the old federal court of Fort Smith when the whole southwest was governed by its rulings. Sam Lawrence, president of the ex-United States Marshals Association, will be in charge of the program.

Manager Kirkpatrick is planning a big advertising campaign for the centennial. Cards, posters, billboard advertising and numerous other methods for acquainting the people within the radius of many miles of Fort Smith are being prepared. The county fairs throughout Arkansas and Oklahoma will be visited by advertising men, who will distribute literature for the local celebration.

"I would suggest that the people of Fort Smith, in writing letters to their friends, mention the fact that the centennial will be celebrated here the week beginning October 8, and urge them to attend, Manager Kirkpatrick said last night. "If they have friends who contemplate a visit to this city in the near future, they should ask that the visit be planned for centennial week.

"We want everybody who possibly can to visit us when we celebrate our one hundredth birthday anniversary. We don't want their money—we want their presence. It is not a money getting proposition, it is only a celebration."

Sunday, September 16, 1917

HORSES AND MULES FOR ARMY SERVICE ARE BOUGHT HERE (incomplete)

Horses and mules of the best grades—sound animals, of medium age, and fit for hard service in the army—are being purchased in large numbers here by representatives of the United States army, and in the week which closed yesterday it is estimated something more than 1,500 head of such live stock had been purchased and shipped to some one or more of the various army encampments and remount stations.

Temporary corrals were erected early the past week, in Wheeler avenue, south of G street, and since Tuesday government live stock inspectors and buyers—men who

can tell almost at a glance whether an animal is sound or defective—have been examining several hundred head daily, rejecting many and purchasing many more.

From all this section of Arkansas and Oklahoma there have come to the corrals horses and mules that have seen service on farms, in city delivery wagons, on public works and at other such ordinary pursuits.

Most of the stock received so far has come from nearby points. Before many days, however, horses and mules will be arriving by railroad from more distant sections of Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma and Louisiana. Fort Smith having been designated as the central purchasing station for live stock from those states, by the army department.

There is amazing rapidity of action and quickness of decision noted at the corrals. For instance, yesterday there were probably 300 head in the corrals, early in the afternoon.

By night these had been either purchased or rejected, while many more which arrived during the afternoon likewise were disposed of. Those that had been purchased were loaded into cars, bedded down, supplied with feed and shipped away, in charge of hostlers to care for them. And the shoes had been removed from every animal before it was loaded into the cars, this being an army custom. Finally arrived at its destination, the horse or mule will be shod again by army blacksmiths.

Wednesday, September 19, 1917

JUDGE PARKER'S COURT OF '71 WILL BE REPRODUCED ON FLOAT AS PART OF CENTENNIAL PARADE

The days when the federal authorities, through the United States judge and the United States marshal and deputy marshals, had headquarters in Fort Smith whence they ruled with a hand of "iron and blood" the wild country, especially the old Indian territory, will be pictured in most graphic style by men who partook of the excitement and the thrills of those days and doings, as an important part of the celebration of the Fort Smith centennial, October 8 to 13, as the result of a conference yesterday at the headquarters of the centennial committee, between Manager J. H. Kirkpatrick of the centennial and Mike Wallace and Sam Lawrence, two of the men who were active in the old days in the enforcement of the law.

Two-handed gunmen were common in the seventies, and the territory was not exactly a pleasant place for a quiet, peaceful citizen to establish his home. It was not unusual for the marshals to ride out of Fort Smith into the wild country to be gone perhaps ten days, two weeks, or

longer, then to return—if they returned, which most them did most of the time—with a squad of prisoners, any one of whom would no more hesitate to take human life than he would to steal a horse or rob a peaceful emigrant.

Stern justice was meted out to the wrongdoers in those days, and the executions of a legal nature almost kept pace with the illegal killings. Judge Parker was stern, strict, impartial, in the enforcement of the law, and was a terror to the evildoers. Few guilty men escaped the marshals, and fewer escaped punishment at the hands of the court and the juries.

The former marshals, who will participate in large numbers in the old marshals' parade during the centennial, will have a float on which they will reproduce with lifelike fidelity, a session of Judge Parker's court, with the judge on the bench, the lawyers at the bar, the prisoner in the dock, the jury in the box, and the marshal, the clerk, and the court crier all in their places.

Back of this float will come another, depicting the timbered country as it existed in 1871 and 1872, showing the tents of the old marshals' camps, at so many of which members of posses were slain in desperate fights with bands of bandits and outlaws.

These floats, and the old marshals themselves, will more than likely be almost the most interesting features of the entire parade, and hundreds, if not thousands of residents of all this section of the country, will see again, in their mind's eye as they watch the parade, the lively days of years gone by.

Perfect Many Details

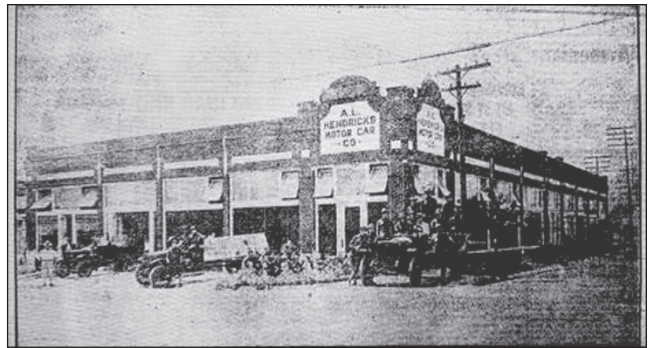
Many other matters connected with the details of the centennial celebration were perfected yesterday by Mr. Kirkpatrick. Some matters not yet completed were materially advanced toward that condition and at the end of the day Mr. Kirkpatrick expressed himself as thoroughly satisfied with the conditions existing and stated that he is confident the celebration will be the biggest and best thing ever staged in Fort Smith.

The big automobile show, to be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the centennial week, is expected to be one of the biggest auto shows ever staged in this section of the country.

The Fort Smith football season will open during the centennial, and the high school squad will make its first appearance on the gridiron on the Saturday of centennial week.

So far, it has not been decided what eleven will be selected to go against the local high school squad, organization of football squads having just started.

A ball and entertainment will be given Tuesday night by the Baby's Relief club at the automobile salesroom of A. L. Hendricks for the benefit of the baby relief fund.



MACHINE GUN COMPANY of the Second Arkansas Infantry, leaving the "Home of the Overland" in Republic Trucks for drill and gun practice

Thursday, September 20, 1917

STRIKING GIRLS ARE RESTRAINED BY U. S. COURT

A temporary restraining order was issued about 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon out of the United States district court by Judge Frank A. Youmans, restraining the striking telephone operators of the Southwestern Bell Telephone company and strike sympathizers from "illegally" interfering with, damaging or injuring the telephone company's property, employees or business in this city.

A lot of groceries, said to be valued at something like \$400 ordered by the telephone company from a local grocery house was spilled and scattered over sidewalk and street back of the telephone plant about noon, when strikers and strike sympathizers prevented the delivery of foodstuffs to the telephone exchange.

At 4 o'clock the city water supply was cut off by persons unknown.

A petition was presented to the local officers of the telephone company Thursday afternoon by Mayor Wright, at the request of the strikers committee. The petition was signed by about 100 business men, and read as follows:

MERCHANTS PETITION

To the Southwestern Bell Telephone company:

We, the following subscribers, petition the management to reinstate the two discharged operators, as demanded by the operators' union.

There were four sheets to the petition as it was presented to the company, and it was announced by strike leaders that there were about 100 signatures attached to it. This was not denied by the company's officials.

At the mass meeting last night, reference was made to the petition and one of the speakers mentioned the name of a half dozen or more local retail institutions which had not

signed the petition, the mention of these names being greeted by the big crowd with jeers and hoots.

WATER SUPPLY CUT OFF

It was given out last night by Manager Vedder that the water supply of the building had been cut off, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and that about 7 o'clock the electric light and power wires were cut or otherwise put out of business.

Manager Vedder stated also that he knows nothing of operators being brought to the city—"not yet," was his reply to a question as to whether he expects any out of town operators to come here to fill the places of the strikers.

Long distance telephone business is being taken care of, Manager Vedder said, but local business is not being handled "except in one position," a technical term meaning that only so much of a switchboard is being used as the operator can handle from her position, and necessarily, with a reduced force of operators, this indicates much of the switchboard is idle.

OPERATORS ARE OUT

Manager Vedder evaded response to the direct question, "How many operators have you at work now?"

The executive committee of the operators' union announced that 59 operators are participating in the strike. They issued the following statement:

"The executive committee of the Telephone Operator's Union wishes to make the following statement:

"Fifty-nine operators walked out, and the following five remained on duty:

"Fairy McAtee, Billie Oates, Lucile Gass, Beulah Wellshear, Lee Gilmore.

"They are assisted by the following office force: Etta Combs, Julia Westfall, Sue Allison, Beulah McCrady, Mrs Ramsey.

STELLA POTTS,
BERTHA MOORE,
ELIZABETH MAURACHER,
MAMIE WHITE,
MARGARET CALDWELL,
Executive Committee

PICKETING CONTINUES

Picketing by members of the operators' union continues steadily and without ceasing. It is asserted by leaders of the strikers that the picketing has been conducted with entire absence of any indication of the use of force or threats, but that they have urged and pleaded their cause with all persons they believed were about to enter the telephone exchange building.



**SOUTHWESTERN BELL STRIKERS
IN FORT SMITH IN 1917**

The work of watching the railroad stations was officially abandoned yesterday, the leaders declaring such action was not necessary because of the close guard being maintained around the building to prevent "strikebreakers" entering without having first to run the gauntlet of the striking girls on picket duty there. However the strikers and sympathizers kept rather close tab on incoming trains.

Despite many reports current on the streets, in no case could it be definitely and positively learned yesterday that any of the pickets had encountered any person about to enter the building to take the place of any striker.

STRIKERS CLAIM GAINS

The strikers made claims last night of accessions to their ranks from among the girls who did not leave the building until yesterday. It was charged by one of the speakers at the mass meeting last night that these had desired to leave the building earlier, in response to the pleas of their former fellow workers but had been prevented from leaving by the officials of the company. Nothing could be obtained from the company last night as to this charge.

It was announced Wednesday night by the company that 24 operators had walked out. No further statement as to operators quitting has been made by the company, to offset the claim of the strikers that 59 girls in all are on strike. The company announced at Van Buren that four of the nine operators there had joined the strike.

Tuesday, October 2, 1917

DECORATING CITY FOR CENTENNIAL IS UNDER WAY

The work of decorating Fort Smith for the big centennial celebration was started yesterday, and is to be continued until the entire decorative scheme has been carried out.

The decorators started in Garrison avenue, placing the nation colors on the posts between the street car tracks and already the street has taken on somewhat of a gala appearance, and when the decorators finish their job, everybody will know that some sort of a sure-enough celebration is under way.

The Ministerial Association yesterday perfected arrangements for operating a rest room in Sixth street near A street, and immediately opposite the centennial committee headquarters. This rest room will be kept open throughout centennial week, and there will be advertising literature in abundance provided, as well as more necessary things for the holiday crowds which are expected to make their headquarters at the rest room.

Work on floats which are to make up the many pageants is progressing at a satisfactory rate and it is planned to have all the floats completed by Saturday night, so that there will be certainty that every float will be in the pageant for which it is intended.

It was announced yesterday that there will be an exhibition of woodworking and pen knife carving during the centennial week.

The committee is stressing the fact that the centennial will start next Monday and that some of the best features of the celebration are to be staged right at the beginning, hence the out-of-town visitors are being urged to come early in the week, that they may not miss any of the many good things prepared for their entertainment.

Tuesday, October 2, 1917

GIRL STRIKERS ARE ENTERTAINED AT HUNTINGTON

Striking telephone girls spent the greater part of Sunday in an automobile trip to Huntington, where a delicious luncheon was served and several talks made at a meeting at the Majestic theatre, with the miners of that community acting as hosts to the girls.

It had originally been the plan for the girls to leave Fort Smith about 9 o'clock, but they were late getting away, hence part of the plan to visit several points in the mining district was abandoned. When the girls reached Huntington they found a luncheon had been spread for them on the stage of the theater, which was filled with a crowd that was waiting for them to appear.

The principal talk at the meeting was made by Miss Leota Moore, one of the telephone girls, and she told in some detail how the company, after finding that she was in sympathy with the other girls, sent her to the "school of instruction," at St. Louis, and during her stay there paid all her expenses at a fine hotel, gave her automobile rides and other diversions and otherwise treated her very

nicely, in the effort to win her consent to remain with the company.

Former Prosecuting Attorney Simmons, in a strong talk told the crowd of the opposition he had encountered in his efforts to enforce the minimum wage law, the telephone company, he said, being among those who offered opposition to the enforcement of that law. Jack Adams also spoke, making a statement of the history of the strike of the telephone girls here, and announcing that organized labor was standing squarely behind the girls, to see that they are victors in the strike for their rights.

Friday, October 5, 1917

EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS FOR OPENING OF CENTENNIAL

"Everything is fit and ready, and the centennial celebration will start in a blaze of glory Monday morning," was the enthusiastic statement made last night by J. H. Kirkpatrick, general manager of the affair.

"The music has all been arranged, the floats are rapidly nearing completion for the big pageant on the opening day, the decorations will all be up by Saturday night, and everything else is in fine condition," he said.

Mr. Kirkpatrick declared that the City Federation of Women's clubs will have 17 floats in Monday's big pageant, and that there will not be less than 40 decorated cars and floats in the pageant, which will make it one of the largest, as well as one of the most handsome and interesting ever seen in Fort Smith.

The big flagpole is to be raised on the plaza today, the flags of the allied nations already are here, and the flag raising exercises Monday will be a most patriotic feature of the week's celebration.

Every department of the big entertainment is reporting progress declared Mr. Kirkpatrick. The committeemen are most anxious to propitiate the weather gods, that the weather next week may equal in brightness and otherwise the very fine weather of this week.

"With this kind of weather, we will have a record breaking success in every way," declared Mr. Kirkpatrick.

Shelves and tables for the exhibition of agricultural products of the county and section, are being erected by carpenters in the building at Sixth and North A streets, where the celebration headquarters have been for some weeks past.

The headquarters have been moved to the opposite side of Sixth street, adjoining the building where the ministerial alliance will maintain its rest room during the centennial celebration week.

Many of the boys and girls of the clubs of Sebastian county already are sending in their exhibits, and by tonight

much of this stuff will be on the shelves and tables in the exhibition room.

The great bulk of the exhibits will be brought in early Monday by the boys and girls, however.

It was announced yesterday that the business men of the city not only will act as hosts to the boys and girls Monday night at the Hotel Goldman, providing the young club members with supper room and breakfast, but that a delicious treat luncheon will be served them at noon Tuesday at the exhibition quarters. Fruits, candy and such stuff will be provided by the Fort Smith Commission company, while the Fort Smith Biscuit company will furnish the cakes, biscuits and other such goodies.

Saturday, October 6, 1917

EXPECTED INDICTMENTS OF MAYOR AND CHIEF ARE RETURNED FRIDAY

Eight indictments, one each against Mayor J. H. Wright for an alleged pre-election promise, and Chief of Police James Fernandez for alleged acceptance of a bribe, and six others, were returned by the circuit court grand jury Friday afternoon.

Mayor Wright and Chief Fernandez were placed under bonds of \$500 and \$1,000, respectively, at 2:30 p.m., an hour after the indictments were returned. The six remaining indictments were returned at 5 o'clock Friday afternoon, and the names of defendants and nature of the charges withheld from publication until arrests are made. Bonds were fixed at \$500 in each of those cases. Bench warrants will be issued this morning, it is understood.

JURY TAKES RECESS

Immediately on returning the last six indictments the grand jury recessed to Tuesday, October 18.

"At the request of the prosecuting attorney, the grand jury asks that it be excused until Tuesday week to give him time to prepare additional testimony" said Foreman John W. Howell of the jury, in making the request. The nature of the matters under investigation by Prosecutor Earl Hardin was not, of course, disclosed.

The indictment against the mayor is based on an allegation that on the day of the last city election, April 3, 1917, he promised Jim Burke and Barney Dunn that he would support John H. Vaughn for city attorney.

The charge against the chief is that on June 1, 1917, he accepted a bribe of \$25 from Clarence Owensby, deputy sheriff, to influence him to permit the opening and operation of a bawdy house at 105 Front street. The segregated district on that date was in full blast, and had been for years. It was closed by order of the mayor on August 10.

While no information was permitted to become public

regarding the identity of defendants in the last six indictments, it is believed that they are the result of the disturbances attendant upon the strike of telephone operators which has suspended operations at the Southwestern Bell Telephone company exchange in this city since September 21.

Special instructions were given the jury at its request by Judge Paul Little in circuit court Thursday morning, touching on the duties of officers in the matter of dispersing unlawful assemblies and on the law governing pre-election promises of candidates for city office in Fort Smith.

The Witnesses

Witnesses named on the indictment against Mayor Wright are John Vaughn, Mrs. John Vaughn, Jim Burke and Barney Dunn. On the indictment against Chief Fernandez the names of Sheriff Claude Thompson, Constable Virgil Tumblin and Deputy Sheriff Clarence Owensby are listed as witnesses.

Sunday, October 7, 1917

INDICTMENTS SERVED MAYOR AND CHIEF ARE RESULT OF STRIKE (incomplete)

Mayor J. H. Wright and Chief of Police James Fernandez are charged with nonfeasance in connection with early developments of the telephone strike here, in tow of the six indictments returned late Friday afternoon by the circuit court grand jury.

Charges are made that the mayor was present at the "destruction" of a gas pipe at the telephone office on September 22, and knowingly failed to arrest or cause the arrest of the persons causing such "destruction."

Chief Fernandez is charged with failure to disperse the assembly at the telephone office on September 20, and which the indictment calls an "unlawful and riotous number of men and women."

Bench warrants on the other four indictments of late Friday had not been delivered to the sheriff late Saturday, Sheriff Thompson declared.

Identity of the defendants in the remaining four indictments was the subject of much discussion and many rumors Saturday, but nothing official will be announced until service of the warrants.

The Witnesses

Witnesses named on the indictment of the mayor are C. A. Vedder, district manager of the telephone company; L. M. Loring, state traffic chief of the company, W. J. Echols, D. C. Smith, J. S. Miller and Grady Manning. Witnesses listed on the chief's indictment are C. A. Vedder, D. C. Snider, manager of the Goldman hotel, J. D. Frank of Little Rock, telephone company attorney, Frank Shaffer,

company employee, Andy Edmondson, manager of the Hot Springs exchange, John Dixon and W. J. Echols.

Wednesday, October 10, 1917

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Editor, *Southwest American*:

I have just read with much interest the communication of Mr. Martin F. Tygert of Gentry, Ark. His statements in regard to the Federals capturing Fort Smith and the Backbone Mountain fight in the main are correct, and have brought to my mind many incidents that occurred on that memorial day. At that time I was a 14-year old boy, pretty well grown for my age.

We lived three-fourths of a mile from where General Cabel had his battery planted.

General Cabel was chased very closely by Colonel Cloud, who had charge of a Kansas regiment. Cabel seeing that he would be overtaken, planted his batteries on the top of Backbone Mountain. His infantry was stationed on each side of his artillery about half way up the mountain. Col. Cloud sent a company of men on horseback as an advance guard in front they were riding at a very rapid gait and just before reaching the foot of the mountain they were fired upon by a company of Confederates who were secreted on the right of the road, and a number of Federals were killed and quite a number of horses. In this attack the Confederates did not lose a man. It came so unexpected to the advance guard that they turned and retreated until they met the main army. This of course brought on the main engagement. Col. Cloud planted his artillery at the foot of Backbone Mountain on the north side. The fighting lasted for about two hours.

General Cabel then retreated south and Colonel Cloud returned to Fort Smith. The Federals were shooting right in the direction of where we lived. The bomb shells and cannon balls were falling all around our place.

Quite a number of Confederates threw away their guns and left the main part of Cabel's army. I feel safe in saying that my mother cooked and fed more than fifty Confederates that day after the battle.

In less than two hours after the firing ceased my brother and I with some other boys, were on the battleground. When we arrived we found a bunch of Confederates with a white flag hunting the dead and wounded. We joined them and remained for the day and I remember very distinctly of finding a dead man myself.

He had been shot near a bluff about 10 feet high and in struggling had fallen off the bluff. A number of the dead Confederates were buried at the foot of the mountain and were later taken up and buried in the

National Cemetery at Fort Smith.

An empty farm house was used for a hospital and a number of wounded soldiers were kept there several days. I can recall many incidents of that battle, but it would make my communication too lengthy, so I will close.

R. H. PATTON

Huntington, Ark, Oct 9

Thursday, October 11, 1917

BIG CROWD SEES PRODUCTION OF REDSKIN ATTACK ON THE CITY

A crowd that jammed the Stadium seating capacity to the limit last night witnessed the spectacular reproduction of an attack on old Fort Smith by a band of wild redskins, staged by High school cadets, as the closing event of historical day at the Centennial celebration.

Rifles and revolvers cracked, Indians whooped, defenders answered in kind, and fighters fell here and there in the initial attack, staged with a dash and abandon that brought a thrill to the immense audience.

Defenders of Old Fort Smith were entrenched behind a "breastworks" forming a semi-circle a hundred feet in front of the grand stand and the hottest part of the fight was staged in full view of the crowd.

Whooping, yelling Indians, flourishing revolvers and mounted on buck skin ponies attacked in approved Indian fashion, circling round and round the fort, firing at random, and seldom coming within close striking distance of the gallant garrison. On foot, too, came the redskin attackers and thrilling hand-to-hand fights now resembling one of Fennimore Cooper's most spectacular battles and then smacking the football gridiron, were staged to the great delight of the crowd.

One hardy movie fan who rode a buckskin pony of spirit tried the dead fall from a moving horse—and got away with it. Directly in front of the grand stand, he dropped to the ground as a gun popped from behind the walls of the fort.

An unmounted fellow-savage mounted the animal and rode away for reinforcements. Shortly they returned, dismounted in the face of the defenders' fire, and after throwing their dead comrade across the saddle, a hardy warrior leaped on the pony and sped away. The defenders were left in possession.

The whole battle consumed little more than fifteen minutes, but the scene was a fitting close to the day's celebration.

The fighting arena was lighted with flood lights on the grand stand, and was given a touch of wild color by a camp fire built under a tripod of the approved wilderness type.

Most of the participants in the battle were high school

cadets, who have taken a prominent part in the week's festivities.

Thursday, October 11, 1917

OLD TIMERS HAVE BIG REUNION AT CENTENNIAL

Wednesday was Historical Day at the great centennial celebration at Fort Smith, and not only was it a historical day, but it was a day which will be long remembered by all those participating in the various events on the most interesting program, and by the thousands who watched the pageants and other exercises, as well.

It was a day signalized by the most perfect weather conditions. It was comfortably warm, the chill of the atmosphere of previous days not being noticeable, and the skies being clear and almost cloudless. As a result, there were crowds of people in the city from the rural sections, and the home folks themselves turned out far more numerous than has been the case earlier in the week.

There were two big features on the program yesterday—the big pageant during the afternoon, and the attack on the old fort at night. The pageant was a wonderfully interesting affair, and particularly so because of the presence not only of many of the old United States deputy marshals, but also of many of the pioneer men and women settlers and residents of this section. As Tuesday had been a day virtually set aside for the children of the city and county, so yesterday was a day set aside for the purpose of showing especial honor to those red blooded, noble men and women of a passing generation, who established the stronghold of civilization, peace and society in Fort Smith and the country surrounding it, and trailed the criminals of the old Indian territory.

The attack of the fort, carried out by the High school cadets, entertained thousands of persons at night, at the Stadium and was found entertaining, interesting and thrilling by all who saw it. Not a few persons in the crowd had reminiscent moments, wherein his or her mind wafted back a half century or more, to some particular instance of that kind, wherein some loved one was a participant.

Throughout the day, the agricultural display, the poultry show and the bee exhibit entertained large numbers of visitors. The agricultural exhibit continues to win words of admiration and praise from all those who visit the show rooms, while the poultry show tent is kept crowded virtually continuously. Hundreds of men and women have enjoyed closer association with the busy bee since the bee exhibit opened, than they expected to experience. Such association was perfectly safe, however as all the bees are confined securely in glass cases.

Thursday will be another big day and one of particular interest for many persons, particularly because Governor

Charles Brough will be here and the great automobile show will be formally opened. The following is the outline of the program for the day.

9 a.m.—Sight-seeing car.

9:30 a.m.—Band concert, Plaza.

11 a.m.—Auto parade.

1:30 p.m.—Band concert, Plaza; negro parade, fashion show at Majestic theater.

p. m.—Sight-seeing car.

p.m.—Football practice game, Stadium.

6:30 p.m.—Band concert, Plaza, Processional king and queen of centennial and crowning, Address by Governor Brough, Auto show, Banquet for Governor Brough at the Hotel Main.

Friday, October 12, 1917

CENTENNIAL WILL CLOSE SATURDAY IN BLAZE OF GLORY

Fort Smith's centennial celebration will come to a close Saturday, and the announcement was made last night at headquarters, that the last day of the celebration will be the biggest and best day of them all.

It will be Confetti Day, which in itself means much to the young folks, the carnival will be in operation all day, as will also the poultry show, agricultural and bee exhibits and Auto show, there will be at least two bands to provide plenty of music, and from early until late it is expected there will be plenty of fun and frolic for everybody.

The Plaza is to be turned over completely to the visitors, that they may have it as a playground for themselves and especially for the children, and it is expected to be crowded throughout the day.

In the afternoon, at 2 o'clock, there will be the last big pageant of the week, in which will be shown again all the decorated floats, decorated automobiles, loads of cotton, corn and other such products, manufacturers' exhibits, tractors—everything that has been in all the pageants during the whole week—all will be shown again in one monster pageant to bring the celebration to a fitting end.

The football game between Fort Smith and Van Buren will be staged at the Stadium at 3 o'clock.

At night, the city will be turned over to the home folk and visitors to make merry to their hearts' content, and virtually "the lid will be off" and the crowd can go as far as it likes, as long as it remains within the law.

Saturday, October 13, 1917

MAYOR WRIGHT IS CONVICTED

Major J. H. Wright was convicted of making a pre-election promise, fined \$50, and thereby removed from

office, by a jury in circuit court Friday evening. The order will not be entered until Saturday morning, when the mayor will cease to hold office. The defense will immediately take steps to appeal the case to the supreme court, but during its pendency the vacancy will be filled by Vice Mayor Bayley until a special election is called.

Sunday, October 14, 1917

CENTENNIAL IS CONCLUDED AFTER SIX DAYS OF FROLIC

Fort Smith's centennial is finished, completed, over and done with, the finis having been written to its last night, after six days in which home folks and visitors to the number of thousands enjoyed delightful programs, exhibits and street parades, besides numerous entertainment features of a more amusing if less instructive kind.

Favorable weather ruled throughout the week, and there was an utter absence of any incident that might in the slightest degree interfere with the pleasure of the crowds which filled the streets of the business section from early until late, on each of the days during the progress of the celebration.

The parade yesterday afternoon was the only set feature of the day's program, and it was a reproduction of the best parts of the several parades held during the week. Last night the plaza was the center of things, and the big crowd of folk there apparently enjoyed themselves thoroughly during the closing hour of the parade.

The auto show, the first annual event of that kind given by the Fort Smith Auto Dealers' association, also came to a most successful close, and it was the unanimous opinion of the officers of the association that the affair was far more successful than had been anticipated, even by the most optimistic of the promoters of the affair.

The carnival reaped a harvest during the afternoon and night. During the early hours of the night it was difficult for the attaches of the various shows and amusement devices to handle the crowds, so insistent was the demand of everybody to "cut in" on the fun and frolic.

Tuesday, October 23, 1917

CITY PRIMARY FOR MAYOR CALLED NOV. 13

Formal call was issued yesterday for a primary election to be held Tuesday November 13, to nominate a candidate for mayor to fill the unexpired term of J. H. Wright.

The special election under terms and provisions of the charter of the city, is to be held two weeks after the primary which will be Tuesday, November 27.

The matter of determining the modus operandi of naming a successor to Mr. Wright was referred by Acting

Mayor Bayley Saturday to City Attorney A. A. McDonald, following which the proclamation was issued fixing the date for the primary election.

Wednesday, October 24, 1917

CONCILIATOR WILL RETURN TO CITY IF STRIKE NOT ENDED

Joseph S. Myers, federal conciliator, left last night for Clifton, Ariz., to join the president's special commission which is investigating labor conditions in that section of the country.

"I am not abandoning my efforts here to bring about an adjustment of the differences between the telephone company and its striking operators," said Mr. Myers yesterday. "I am not giving up my work in this case. I shall return to Fort Smith at the earliest opportunity, provided this strike is not amicably settled before I can get away from the president's special commission.

While Mr. Myers did not make a direct statement to this effect, he intimated broadly that in his opinion, only one question remains as a real issue to prevent the company and the girls from reaching an agreement, and that he is hopeful this issue can be surmounted within the next day or two, so that the girls may return to work and telephone service may be resumed here.

Sunday, October 28, 1917

WOMEN TO VOTE IN PRIMARY IN FORT SMITH NOVEMBER 13; WILL BE FIRST OPPORTUNITY

Of the 3,793 poll taxes that were paid last year in Upper Township, 422 were paid by women, and as a result a considerable number of women will have the right, under the law, to cast their ballots in the primary election for mayor, to be held in Fort Smith on November 13.

It will be the first time in the history of the state of Arkansas that women have been allowed to vote at any primary election. Ten days or two weeks ago the Democratic County Central committee for Jefferson county, in session at Pine Bluff, called a primary election to be held early in December, and Pine Bluff and Jefferson county women immediately called attention to the fact that they would be the first women in the state to exercise the right of suffrage. But the calling of the mayoralty primary election here for November 13 gives the Fort Smith women that honor.

One woman who holds a poll tax receipt and who will, she says, cast a ballot in the mayoralty primary, called attention yesterday to the combination of 13's in the official call for the election, which is to be held November 13, and under authority of Section 13 of Act 113, of 1916.

"This indicates somebody is going to be defeated," she remarked, because all those 13's will bring bad luck to someone.

Wednesday, October 31, 1917

THE GIRLS OFFER TO WORK FREE

Learning last evening of the outcome of the conferences in the office of Acting Mayor T. A. Bayley, between District Manager Vedder, insurance agents, manufacturers and the city commission, relative to fire protection telephone service, and desiring that the striking operators should not justly be accused of failing in bringing about additional fire protection service, six of the striking telephone operators addressed and delivered the following letter to Acting Mayor Bayley.

Fort Smith Ark., Oct. 30, 1917

Hon. T. A. Bayley, Mayor, Fort Smith, Ark.

Sir:

"We, the undersigned telephone operators, agree to operate the telephones for fire purposes, free of expense to the city or to the company.

MAMIE WHITE, ELIZABETH MAURACHER,
MINNIE KING, FAY MOOREHEAD, RUBY DAVIS,
ELLA MCMAHON.

Wednesday, October 31, 1917

HALLOWE'EN CELEBRATION ON GARRISON

Acting Mayor T. A. Bayley yesterday formally announced that the people of the city of Fort Smith and especially the younger folk, will celebrate Hallowe'en as it was celebrated last year, with a big jollification in Garrison avenue. The announcement by Mr. Bayley was as follows:

"The new ideal is to act with the young folk and turn what once were harmful pranks, into innocent revelry.

"It is right for young people to have their fund, so long as they do not harm other or damage property. Fun making with young people keeps one young in spirit. Let the entire city come out and celebrate.

"Superintendent of Schools George W. Reid and Prof. Ferrish will have charge of the arrangements.

"There will be a parade on Garrison avenue with a band of music, and people of all ages will be permitted to wear masks and grotesque 'make-ups.' Blowing horns, ringing bells, beating drums, and throwing confetti will be allowed. No fireworks. Class yells will be encouraged.

"In short, Garrison avenue will be turned over to the revelers on the condition that they do not make noise or engage in pranks anywhere else, and that they break up at 10:30 p.m., and go straight home, and do not do any

damage to property.

"Teachers in the various schools are requested to explain the object of this celebration and exact promises from the children not to do anything harmful, with the understanding that if this plan proves a success, it may be adopted permanently. Last year it was thoroughly successful.

"Everyone should wear old clothes or some outlandish costume that will provoke laughter. No rowdyism will be tolerated."

Saturday, November 3, 1917

ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL CONTEST HERE NOVEMBER

Fort Smith's big annual football game, the contest between Arkansas and Oklahoma, will be staged at the Stadium the afternoon of Saturday, November 17.

Arrangements for the affair were completed last night at an enthusiastic meeting at the Business Men's club, with Prof. Wilson of the University of Arkansas in attendance.

Committees were decided upon, to look after the details of the game, and the chairmen were appointed as follows, each chairman to name the members of his committee:

- General chairman—John Andrews.
- Publicity—Louis Weinstein.
- Finance—O. S. Poe.
- Decorations—Ray Gill.
- Grounds—C. W. L. Armour.

This will be the third successive year that Arkansas and Oklahoma have staged their annual contest in Fort Smith, and the local businessmen who participated in the conference last night expressed the opinion that the 1917 contest will be even more successful than were its predecessors, and that a record breaking crowd of people from this section of both states is expected to be in attendance.

The city authorities, through Acting Mayor T. A. Bayley, have already granted permission for the moving back of the fences at the Stadium grounds, so that there may be ample space, not only for the game itself, but for the overflow crowd that is certain to be present to witness the contest.

RAZORBACKS HERE

The Razorbacks spent yesterday in the city, en-route to Shreveport where Arkansas and Louisiana stage their annual contest today. The Razorbacks put in the afternoon at the Stadium, where they had signal practice and other light work. The boys appear in excellent fettle for today's contest and are confident they will defeat the Louisianans although they admit they do not anticipate any easy victory. The coach has been giving the Razorbacks training

in special lines of work the past week, and it is believed Arkansas will go into the contest today better fitted for all-around play than they were in their last previous game.

Tuesday, November 13, 1917

J. H. WRIGHT TO HIS PERSECUTORS

When B. D. Crane denies, as he did in Monday night's *Times Record*, that he did not discuss with me over the telephone my order closing the red-light district and say I had been "listening to the parsons too much", my only reply is that he is seemingly as reckless with the truth as he has been in boosting food prices.

In regard to the statement of H. Kaufman, of the Boston Store, as published in the *Times-Record* Monday night, denying that he circulated a petition against closing the redlight district, I have to say that I stand ready to prove in court by competent witnesses that he was very active in trying to have the order rescinded and that he called on a leading banker and urged him to intercede with me personally to at least extend the date of closing the district until the Boston Store's bills down there could be collected.

To Rev J. H. Kirkpatrick I have this to say, in all kindness, in regard to his published statement in the *Times-Record* Monday night, that I qualified my published statement as to the committee of ministers who called on me on the red-light district matter previous to my election as mayor. On taking the matter up with Rev. J. F. Johnson of Lexington Avenue Baptist church he clears the statement by stating the ministerial committee was Revs Trimbel, Heinz and Ferguson.

However, I do not believe that Rev. Kirkpatrick will publicly dispute with me that he and Rev. J. David Arnold called on me after my election, at least twice, to urge that the district be closed and that one of those calls was made the day before my order was issued to close the district.

As to houses operating in the district since I ceased to be mayor, through the frame-up which he now appears to indorse, I cannot say. Prior to my vacation of the office of mayor we were using diligent effort to keep the district closed, and so far as any complaints from Rev. Kirkpatrick or any other persons reaching me I had no reason to believe we were not meeting with complete success, and I will say further to the public that if I am re-elected mayor today I am going to renew my efforts to keep the district closed.

Respectfully,

J. H. WRIGHT, Candidate for Mayor

Wednesday, November 14, 1917

MONRO NAMED MAYOR BY MAJORITY OF 200

Arch Monroe was elected mayor of Fort Smith over J. H. Wright in the Tuesday primary by a majority of 200 votes.

The vote was: Monroe, 1,443: Wright, 1,243: total, 2,686.

It was the largest vote ever cast in a primary election in Fort Smith exceeding by 843 votes the total cast in the spring primary and exceeding by 377 votes the vote in the general election of April 8, 1917, when Mr. Wright was elected over Fagan Bourland by a majority of 107 votes.

Saturday, December 8, 1917

ALL UNIONS IN CITY ON STRIKE BUSINESS MEN SECURE NO CONCESSIONS FROM COMPANY

Controversy Between the Bell Telephone Company and the Operators Union Results in a General Strike Which Affects Every Laboring Craft in the City and Indicates a Complete Tie-Up of Every Industry for Indefinite Period.

The First Workers to Lay Down Tools Will Go Out at 7 o'clock This Morning and Others Will Join Them During Day, Retail Clerks and Barbers Being Last at 10 o'clock Tonight.

A general strike of all organized labor crafts in Fort Smith will go into effect today.

Approximately 1,100 men will be affected by the strike order, which was issued last night at a meeting of representatives of each of the 34 labor organizations of the city, and who were given authority on Wednesday night, at a labor mass meeting, to call a general strike if they were unable otherwise to bring about a settlement of the long pending strike of 65 operators who went on strike against the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company September 19.

Saturday, December 15, 1917

GENERAL STRIKE IS ENDED; UNION FORCES RESUME WORK PENDING PHONE ADJUSTMENT

The general strike is over. Agreement by which striking motormen and conductors return to their former positions under the old contract was reached at noon Friday, and within two hours street cars began to move again after being idle since last Saturday afternoon.

Other crafts returned to their work Friday afternoon, and by this morning the last striker will be back at his job.

The strikers return to their posts pending settlement of the strike of 65 girl operators of the Southwestern Bell Telephone company here which began on September 19.



Al Whitson researches one-hundred-year-old newspaper microfilm items of interest for today's readers and significant to the documented history of city and surrounding areas.

Index

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.
 (pc) —Postcard.

“removed,” 20
 “removals,” 20
 “six-oared skiff,” 8-10*, 11
 “Updating History: UAFS Student
 Works to Digitize Historic
 Documents,” 12

-A-

Add-a-Tread Tire Co., 55
 Adelphi College, 29
 African Americans, 31, 32
 Alamo, Tony, 39
 American National Bank, 14
 Anderson, Anne, 45
 animal mobilization for Army, 56,
 58
 Anti-Catholic, 38-39
Arkansas Catholic Newspaper, 40
Arkansas Democrat, 32
Arkansas Intelligencer, 7
 Arkansas Razorbacks, 66-67
 Arkansas River, 10
 Arkansas Post, 8, 10
 Arkansas State Graduate Nurses
 Association, 26
 Arkansas Tech University, 38
 Arkansas Territory, 8
 Arkansas Vital Records, 47
 Arkoma Milling Corporation, 41
 Atkinson, Benjamin F., 14*
 Atkinson House, 25
 Atkinson-Williams Hardware, 14*
 Atlanta, Georgia, 31
 Ayre, Sidney Russell, 45

-B-

B., Darla, 40-49
 Backbone Mountain, 63
 Bailey, Dr. William W., 24
 Barger, Carole Ann Cotton, 2*-3
 Barger, Floyd, 2, 3

Barnes, Kenneth, 38
*Anti-Catholicism in
 Arkansas: How
 Politicians, the Press,
 the Klan, and
 Religious Leaders
 Imagined an Enemy,
 1910-1960*, 38-39
 Convent Inspection Act,
 38

Barr, Miss Mary, 26
 Bayley, Mayor T. A., 66
 Beard, Gladys Viola, 41
 Beasley, Miss Lula, 26
 Belle Fontaine, 8, 9, 10
 Belle Point, 9, 11
 Belle Point Hospital, 26
 Belle Point Hospital School of
 Nursing, 26
 Belle Point School, 45
 Bethune, Mary McCleod, 31
 Bethune Cookman
 College, 31
 Birnie, Charles A., 15
 Birnie, H. C., 15
 Black, Mary Jeanne, 3, 40-49*
 Boathouse Museum, 10
 Bodine, Betty Gean, 44
 Boss, Richard C., 10
 Boston Store, 30
 Tea Room, 30
 Bourland, Fagan, 22
 Bourland, Julia, 22
 boxing, 55
 Bradford, William H., 10
 Bradford's Rifle Company, 8, 10
 Brizzolara, James, 16*
 Brogan, Edward C., 15-16, 17
 Brogan, Joseph, 15-16, 17
 Brogan's Liquor Store & Saloon,
 17*
 Brooksher, Mayor Robert, 30
 Buckner College, 49

Burdwick, infant of Thos., 45

-C-

Caldwell family, 20
 Calvary Cemetery, 16
 Camp Chaffee, 27
 Fort Chaffee, 42
 Cantonment Smith, 24
 Caulder, Private Peter, 10
 Center Valley Cemetery, 42, 44
 Chaney, Susan, 29
 Charleston, Arkansas, 49
 Cherokee (Indian), 8, 10
 Christ, Mark, 5*
 Christensen, Fire Chief Phil, 4*
 Christensen, Kim, 4*
 Cialone, Ernest, 10
 City Charity Hospital, 25, 26
 City Parks Department, 46
 Claflin College, 31
 Clancy, Ned Burnett, 45
 Clark, William, 8, 11
 Clinton, Governor Bill, 32, 35, 36-
 37
 Cole, Thomas, 10
 Columbia, South Carolina, 32
 Coomer, Denora, 12, 14
 Cooper, Rebecca, 44
 Corbin, Chris, 32
 Corps of Discovery, 10, 11
 Cotner, Cleve, 21
 Cotner Monument, 21
 Cox, Dawn, 14
 Crawford County Hospital, 33-34
 Creekmore Park, 33
 Criminal Detention Facilities
 Review Committee, 32
 Crowder, Bradle, 44

-D-

Daniels, Harlin, 33

Darr, 48
 Daughters of the Confederacy,
 21
 Davis, J. H., 17
 Davis, P. R., 14*
 DeBlack, Thomas, 38
 *A Century Forward: The
 Centennial History of
 Arkansas Tech
 University*, 38
 Degan, Father George, 24-25
 Deloney, Father, 33
 Denkla, Caroline, 7
 Denkla, Charles Holden, 7
 Denkla, Henry Clay, 7
 Denkla, Johnanna, 7
 Denkla, William Moore, 7
 Deschamps, Francis John, 35
 Deschamps, William Francis, 35
 deTonti, Henry, 8
 Doerr, Baby, 41
 Doerr, Charles, 41, 42, 44,
 45, 48
 Doerr, Charles Jr., 44, 45
 Doerr, Claude, 44, 48
 Doerr, Faye C., 41, 44, 45
 Doerr, J. B., 41
 Doerr, Jessie, 41, 42, 46, 48
 Doerr, John Jr., 41
 Doerr, Joseph, 41
 Doerr, Phillip, 41, 45, 48
 Doerr, Raymond, 41, 42, 44, 45,
 46, 47
 Doerr, Richard, 41
 Donahoe, Frances, 17
 Donahoe, James, 15, 17
 Drennen, Charles Holden, 7
 Drennen, John, 7
 Drennen, Mrs. Kate, 6-7
 Drennen-Scott Historic Site, 7
 Drennen-Scott House, 6, 7*
 Duenas, Victor, 15
 Duffhey, Captain, 9
 Durden, J. P., 16
 DuVal and Cravens, 16

-E-

Echols, W. J., 16
 Edmondson, Sam, 13
 Electric Park, 19
 Elm Grove Park, 33
 Ellis, Dr. Mary Calline (Prince),
 24, 29*

Espley, Mr., 49

-F-

Faber, Cody, 12
 Falconer, Sheriff Henry I., 14*
 Falls of St. Anthony, 9, 10
 Faulkner, William, 38
 Fentress Mortuary, 45
 Fentress, Nead, 54
 Fernandez, Chief, 62
 Fields, Mary I., 44
 Fields, W. O. and L., 44-45
 Find a Grave, 42
 Fleming, W. J., 13
 Foltz, Dr. Larry, 34
 Forest Park Cemetery, 19*-23
 Confederate Circle, 21
 Hilldale, 19
 Summit, 19
 Fort Armstrong, 9
 Fort Clatsop National Memorial, 10
 Fort Crawford, 10
 Fort Gibson, 10
 Fort Osage, 10
 Fort (Prairie du Chien), 9
 Fort Smith Centennial, 56-59, 60,
 61, 63-64, 65
 Fort Smith Country Club, 19
Fort Smith Elevator, 20
 Fort Smith Fire Department, 50
 Fort Smith Glass Products Co., 51
 Fort Smith Historical Society, 2, 3
*The Fort Smith Historical Society
 Journal*, 42
 Fort Smith Museum of History, 3,
 13, 14, 15, 17
 Fort Smith National Historic Site,
 12, 16
 Fort Smith Public Library, 23
 Genealogy, 23, 45
 Fort Smith School Board, 30
 Fort Smith Senior High School, 51
 teacher assignments, 51
 Fort Smith Wagon Factory, 52
 Fort Worth, Texas, 35
 Frambers, R. C., 40
 Franklin, Tennessee, 14
 Freeland, Rev., 45
 Frizzell, P., 13

-G-

Garrison Avenue, 13, 14, 52

bridge, 56, 66

Gerhardt, 24
 Gilham, Charles Wayne, 45
 Glen, Mr., 9
 Goodnight, Lillian, 45
 Gower, William Emmet, 44
 Griffin Theater, 3
 Guzik, Helen Ann, 41

-H-

Hagen, Albert O., 45
 Hagan, Leroy William, 44
 Harris, Emily Martha, 45
 Harris, Joshua P., 14
 Harris, Leslie, 14
 Harrison, Geneva, 44
 Harvey, Dr., 28
 Heavener, Oklahoma, 27
 Hempstead, Mr., 9
 Henderson State University, 39
 Hensler, Laurie Kay Crowley, 3
 Hester, Ezra, 42
 Higgins, Billy, 3, 8, 11*
 Hilton Head, South Carolina, 35
 Hoge, Dr. Arthur Sr., 27, 28, 45
 Hoge, Dr. Marlin, 28
 Hoge, Dr. R. F., 45
 Hollenbeck, Sheriff Bill, 12
 Holloway, Clarence J., 44
 Hotel Main, 17*, 55
 Howard, Irene, 26
 Huckaby, Sedrick, 35
 Hudson, Judge David, 14
 Hughes, Tabitha, 34
 Hunt, Edward, 40
 State of Arkansas county
 of Sebastian v.
 Edward Hunt, 40

-J-

Johnson, Brenda, 34
 Jones, Dr. Kevin L., 12, 18*
 Jones, infant of Travis, 45
 Jones, Patrick, 15
 Jump the Wagon, 42, 44, 48

-K-

Kansas City, Missouri, 40
 Kansas City Southern Railroad, 27
 W. K. Kellogg Foundation, 29
 Kennedy, John F., 38

King, Martin Luther Jr., 31, 33
 Kite, Dr. Steven, 12
 Klasse, Bonnie Elizabeth, 41
 Knights of Columbus, 32
 Kramer, Sgt. Balthazar, 10
 Ku Klux Klan, 39
 Kutait, Dr. Kemal, 34, 35

-L-

Lewis, Meriwether, 8
The Liberator, 39
 Lilly, Dr. Ken, 34
 Lincoln High School, 30
 Long, Major Stephen Harriman,
 8-11
 Lunsford, James, 15
 Lyric Theater, 54

-M-

Mallalieu Methodist Church, 35
 Bill Clinton, 37
 Marceline, Missouri, 38
 Martin, Amelia, 3
 Mayor's Committee on Race
 Relations, 30
 McConnell, R. O., 42
 McDonald, Anita, 32, 35
 McDonald, Bob, 35
 McDonald, Dr. Harry P., 30*,
 31*-37*
 Arkansas Board of
 Education, 32
 Harlem Hospital, 31
 Kansas City General
 Hospital, 31
 Meharry Medical College,
 31
 McDonald, Harriet Elizabeth
 Deschamps, 35*
 McDonald, Jan, 32
 McDonald, Margaret Bowling, 32*
 McDonald, Palmer, 30, 31, 34, 35,
 36, 37
 McDonald, Ruby Bultman, 32,
 33*, 36
 McGehee, Wanda, 42
 Ancestors inside the Gates, 42
 McGee, Judith, 42
 McGill, George, 35, 37
 McLaughlin, Paul, M., 41
 McNamar, Maria McDonald, 32,
 33, 34, 35, 36, 37

Midland Boulevard, 19
 milk, 53
 Monroe, Mayor Arch, 67
 Monroe, Pres. James, 8
 Montag, Mildred, 27, 29
 Moonshiners, 53
 Moore, Carolyn, 29
 Morehouse College, 31
 Moulton, Dr. Edward, 34

-N-

Nalf, Paul James Jr., 45
 NARA Fort Worth, 13
 Nashville, Tennessee, 31
 National Association for the
 Advancement of Colored People
 (NAACP), 30, 37
 Fort Smith School Board,
 30
 National Medical Association, 34
 Nerdy Building, 25
 Ney, Jerome, 30
 Nickles, Katie, 45
 Nightingale, Florence, 24
 Notes on Nursing, 24
 Ninth Street Baptist Church, 30
 Nolan, Tyler, 15
 Norman, Cpl. Daniel, 10
 Northside High School, 30, 32
 African American, 30
 Norton, Cecil, 45
 Nurse Practice Act, 26, 27
 nursing, 27
 Associate Degree Nursing (ADN),
 29
 WWII, 27

-O-

Oak Cemetery, 20, 22, 46
 Oglesby, Ira D., 16
 Ortega, Samuel, 14
 Osage (Indian), 8, 10
 Owens, Captain, 9
 Oxford, Freer L., 45
 Oxford, Geneva, 45

-P-

Palmer, Bob, 31
 Palmer, Edmond Perry, 31
 Palmer, Jim, 31
 Palmer, Robert John Sr., 30, 31, 35*

Parker, Charles, 16
 Parker, James Joseph, 22
 Parker, Judge Isaac C., 15, 16, 25
 Parker, Katherine (Kate) Bailey,
 22
 Parker, Mary E., 16
 Pebley Center, 14, 37
 Patterson, Wadley Harold, 45
 perpetual trust, 22
 Phelan, George R., 16
 pirogue, 8, 10*, 11
 dugout canoe, 11
 Plains Indians, 11
 Polk, Ellene Rebsamen, 27, 28
 Pollan, Clayton Rudolph, 45
 Pollan, Kate Searle, 45
 Pollan, Norman R., 45
 Post, John, 12
 Potato Hill, 40, 42, 44, 45,
 48-49
 Poteau River, 10
 Prewitt, Dr. Taylor, 30, 35, 37*
 Progressive Medical Society,
 25
 Progressive Men's Club, 32
 prostitutes leave town, 53
 Pryor, Governor David, 32
 Purl, James, 46
 Purl, Sarah Belle, 46
 Putman, Rachel, 12

-R-

Ray, Agustus Hamilton, 48
 Ray, Mary Ann, 48
 Reese, Lenora Ethel, 44
*Research Guide to the Criminal
 Case Files of Fort Smith,
 Arkansas, 1866-1900*, 13
 Defendant Jacket Files,
 13
 Criminal Case Files, 13
 Rice, Maylon T., 38
 Ritter, Ann, 15
 Riviera, Joseph, 15
 Roberts, Lucile, 44
 Robinson, Floyd, 45
 Robinson, Sen. Joe T., 39
 Robison, Sue, 5*, 19, 20, 21, 22,
 23*
 Rogers Cemetery, 20
 Rogers, John H., 14*, 16
 Rutledge, Seth, 31
 Rutledge, Theodore, 31

Rye, George, 53

-S-

Sahm, Clara, 27
San Diego, California, 28
San Diego State College, 28
Scott, Caroline, 7
Scott, Charles, 7
Scott, Francis, 7
Sebastian County, 12
Sebastian County Archives, 13, 14, 16
Sebastian County Circuit Clerk, 14
Sebastian County Courthouse, 17*
Sebastian County Medical Society, 25, 26, 27, 34
Seahorn, Carol Ann, 15
Seaman family, 21
Searle, Lille, 45
Sesser, David, 39
Sidler, Myrtle, 44
Sieber, Dolly, 26
Simpson, Racheal, 15
Sisters of Mercy, 24, 26
St. Edward's Mercy Infirmary, 26, 27, 45
Sisters of St. Benedict, 34
Sloan, Pvt. Robert, 10
Smith, Al, 39
Smith, General Thomas Adams, 8, 10
Smith, Kevin, 14
South Carolina State University, 32
Southern Belle train, 27
Southwest American, 45
Southwest Times Record, 32
Southwestern Bell Telephone strike, 59-60, 61, 62, 65, 66, 67
Sparks, George, 26
Sparks Regional Medical Center, 26
Sparks School of Nursing, 24, 25*, 27, 28*
Speegle Cemetery, 42, 44
 Marietta Cemetery, 43
 (for internments see 43)
Speegle, George Washington, 42, 44, 46, 48
Speegle, Lorenzo Jackson, 42
Speegle (Speagle), Jessie Winford, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48
Speegle, Sarah B., 48

Speir, Caroline, 4*, 13
St. Andrew-by-the-Sea Methodist Church, 35
St. Charles, Missouri, 10
St. Edward's Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, 34
St. John's Catholic School, 33
St. John's Hospital, 25, 26
St. John's Hospital School of Nursing, 26
Stalcup, J. C., 13
Stewart, Wayne, 45
Stubblefield, Scott, 14
Sulphur Springs Presbyterian Church, 45
Sumter, South Carolina, 30, 35, 36
 Palmer Chapel, 31
Sutton, Earle, 44

-T-

Theurer, George, 17
Theurer, Joseph, 16
Theurer, Lina, 16-17
Theurer, Mary C., 16
Thompson, Mary Breckinridge, 26, 27
Thompson, Richard, 26
Three Rivers, 10
 Arkansas River, 10
Grand River, 10
 Verdigris River, 10
Tidwell, Charolette, 34, 35, 36, 37
 Antioch for Youth and Family, 34
Tidwell, Nathaniel, 34
Tolliver, Sherry, 3
Trammel, Ama Ruth, 45
Treaty of Fort Clark, 8
Tucker Duck and Rubber Company, 50
Tuey, Buster, 45
Turner, Private Martin, 10
Twin City Hospital, 33

-U-

UA Medical Center, 28
University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, 28
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith (UAFS), 13
University of California, 34

U.S. Cadet Nurses Corps of the United States Public Health Service, 27
Urich, Yanko, 22
 King of the Gypsies, 22

-V-

Vines, Bill, 33
Voyage in a Six-Oared Skiff up the Mississippi to the Falls of Saint Anthony in 1817, 9

-W-

Walker, John, 38
 History of Arkansas Tech University, 38
Ward, Otis, 41
Wasson, Joe, 3, 26, 41
Wasson, Lynn, 26
Watkins, Pvt. Perry, 10
Wentz, Willard, 14
West, Elliot, 11
 The Contested Plains, 11
West, Reverend, G. Edward, 33
Westark Junior College, 29
Westbrook, Rena, 3
Western District of Arkansas, 14
Western Grain Company, 40*-41
Western Grain Journal, 40
Wheeler, Millicent, 20
Wheeler, Mrs., 20
Wheeler, Stephen, 20
White Bluff, 7
white settlement, 8
White Spot, 27
Whitson, Al, 50, 67*
Williams, Arizona, 32
Williams, Edward, 45
Williams, Fred, 45
Wing, Jerry, 12*
Wing, Tom, 6, 7*, 12
Winter, Mike, 44, 45, 48
Winton, Euba, 31, 34, 36, 37
women vote, 65
Wood and wife, 16
Wood, Miss Ella, 26*
Woodard-Jones, Bobbie, 3
Woodward, C. E., 40-41
World War II Oral History Project, 2, 3
Wright, Mayor J. H., 62, 64, 65, 67

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www.fortsmithhistory.org

Find the links listed below to aid your research!

- **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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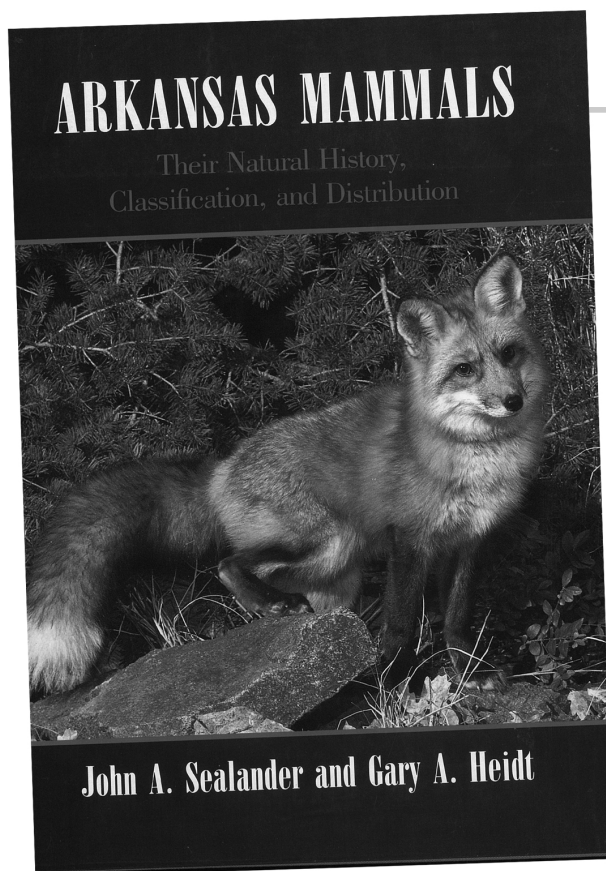


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