

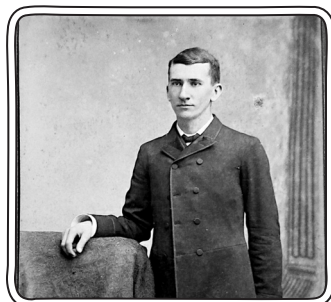


# The JOURNAL



## When the Flu Hit Fort Smith

*The Plague We Never Hear About*



*The Photo Album  
Mystery*



*Nearing Mars*



*Fort Smith's  
Historic People:  
Part III*

Vol. 43, No. 2, September 2019



**MISSION:** The mission of the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc., founded in 1977, is to publish the *Journal* of the FSHS and through the *Journal* and other activities to locate, identify, and collect historical materials; to publish primary source material and historical articles that pertain to the city of Fort Smith and the vicinity. Preservation of Fort Smith history is our primary mission, and we always welcome the loan of historical material, including photographs, letters, diaries, and memoirs, and will return it promptly.

**MEMBERSHIP & ORDERS:** *Journal* issues are available. Cost for current and past issues is \$7.50 plus a \$2.50 mailing charge per copy. Send orders to:

Editors,  
P.O. Box 3676  
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

or contact us online at  
[webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org](mailto:webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org).

Membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society includes a subscription to the *Journal* of the FSHS, which is published semi-annually. Send your membership dues and other business matters to:

Fort Smith Historical Society  
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**QUESTIONS** pertaining to the Fort Smith Historical Society or the *Journal* may be addressed by email to:

**Mary Jeanne Black**, inquiry coordinator and researcher, [mblack3086@aol.com](mailto:mblack3086@aol.com)  
Mary Jeanne edits the *Journal* department titled "Who Knew?" Contact her with your research and/or genealogical questions or topics.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE!** [www.fortsmithhistory.org](http://www.fortsmithhistory.org)  
Our website is updated by Webmaster:

**Al Whitson** [webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org](mailto:webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org)

Content tabs: Organization, Membership, Back Issues, Tables of Contents, Contacts & Links, Archives and a Gallery.

#### **SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS FOR POSSIBLE PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL:**

A submitted article is peer-reviewed by members of the *Journal's* editorial board and approved before publication. The due dates for manuscript submission are February 15 for the April issue and July 15 for the September issue. The story should be relevant to the city of Fort Smith and/or this area and significant to the history of the border region. Manuscripts must be based on historical documentation with notes, bibliography or a list of sources. We recommend that authors search through the literature on their subject. We encourage photographs, charts, or maps to accompany the article. These visual aids must be released by the owner, who is to be properly accredited and appropriately captioned.

##### **Specifics**

1. Manuscripts of 3,000-7,000 words may be submitted to the Editorial Board of the Journal electronically using the email address of [billy.higgins@uafs.edu](mailto:billy.higgins@uafs.edu), editor, or [stoliv44@gmail.com](mailto:stoliv44@gmail.com), Sherry Toliver, President of the Society, or [mblack3086@aol.com](mailto:mblack3086@aol.com), Mary Jeanne Black, Inquiry Coordinator.
2. Title page should include article title and author name.
3. Manuscripts should be double-spaced in Times Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins. Pages should be numbered, preferably with author name, in the top right corner.
4. Notes and bibliography cited according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* (Turabian). Book, journal, and newspaper titles should be italicized.
5. Photographs and maps should be submitted with manuscript in digital format of at least 300 dpi resolution and must be captioned with 1-5 sentences. Photographs and maps must be credited as to source.
6. Author photograph and short bio submitted at the end of the manuscript along with mailing address, phone number, and email address.

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Neither the Fort Smith Historical Society nor the editorial staff assumes any responsibility for statements, whether fact or opinion, made by contributors.

---

AMELIA WHITAKER MARTIN  
Journal Editor & Co-Founder 1977-2004

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# The JOURNAL

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COVER MAIN: Soldiers with the flu received treatment at Eberts Field in 1918-19  
(Courtesy photo)  
LOWER LEFT: L.P. Sandels (Courtesy photo)  
LOWER MIDDLE: Falcon (Photo courtesy of Douglas Kelley)  
LOWER RIGHT: Rosalie Tilles (Courtesy photo)

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# In Memoriam

## Linda Seubold

**L**inda Kay Poynor Seubold, seventy-six, died June 5, 2019. She was a longtime local journalist, reporting news and writing “Offbeat,” a feature column for the *Southwest Times Record* from 1984-1999. In 2000, she co-founded *Entertainment Fort Smith Magazine* with Lynn Wasson and served as editor-in-chief and author of “Hot Stuff,” its feature column.

She will be remembered for her first-person columns in both the newspaper and the magazine in which she pointed up many stories of local history and authentic local flavor. Her many readers regarded her as a friend. As a news reporter, she received many awards from state press associations for excellent coverage in reporting and investigative stories. She was noted for her avid coverage of music and entertainment in local venues and festivals.

Her eulogists summarized her great personality, talents, and contributions to this community in well-chosen and meaningful words, including these:

Linda was a magnet for stories. While she sought them out through an innate inquisitiveness that served her well as a journalist, people naturally gravitated towards her, opened up to her and shared their stories. Right after I started working at the paper, Linda and I traveled together on her old Oklahoma news beat so that she could introduce me to many of her well-earned sources. As we crossed the border into Oklahoma, she said, “There’s Pulitzers hanging from those trees, Hamby. You’ve just got to work hard to uncover them.” While journalism’s top prize may have escaped us both, I think Linda earned something far more valuable. She earned the respect of her colleagues and her readers. Her work helped inform and connect people through their stories, which helped make the community stronger. Hers was a life well lived and there will never be another like her. Her passing leaves an indelible hole in many lives. God speed, Linda.

—David Hamby

She was an ardent advocate for downtown Fort Smith. Her positive energy, make-it-happen attitude, belief in community and deep love of story telling will be missed.

—Michael Tilley



Linda was a vital part of the Fort Smith community for many years; she was a great journalist and wonderful person and will be missed. Pass the pepper sauce!

—Grant Tolley

It has been some decades since the time I worked with Linda in the newsroom of the *Southwest Times Record*. The thing that jolts my memory is her vivacious smile and robust laugh. That, and the deeper sense that she always had my back. In the newsroom, we sometimes made mistakes; I always knew I had an advocate in Linda, grace and energy went before her. I remember sharing our favorite tunes. I was somewhat new to the blues, and Linda introduced me to many of the great artists. (It is ironic that Linda, a very fountain of jubilation, understood the depths of human sadness.) I cannot wait to hear her laugh again, in another place.

—Kirk Jordan

Linda was one of the toughest women I’ve ever known. Her ability to separate facts and emotions made her a stellar journalist and a beautiful human.

—Bill Simmons

Members of the Fort Smith Historical Society will long remember and appreciate the life of Linda Seubold and her gracious influence on our fair city.



# News & Opportunities

## Fort Smith Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

September 11, 2019

6 p.m.

Fort Smith Public Library  
Main Branch, Community Room

\*\*\*

## Journal Wins Award From Arkansas Historical Association



**FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Board Member Mary Jeanne Black receives the Journal's award for Best State or Local Journal in the State 2018 from Arkansas Historical Association President Mark Christ at the seventy-eighth annual conference in Stuttgart, Arkansas. (Photo courtesy of Dan Maher)

\*\*\*

## Akins Honored For More Than 5K Hours Of Volunteer Service



**JERRY AKINS** (center with award) is presented with the George and Helen Hartzog Award by the U.S. National Park Service for his Lifetime Achievement as a volunteer with more than 5,000 hours of service.

(Photo courtesy of the Fort Smith National Historic Site)

\*\*\*

## Arkansas Historical Association 79th Annual Conference

April 16-18, 2020

Conway, Arkansas

**Theme: "Arkansas without Barriers: Pursuing Equity in the Land of Opportunity"**

AHA Memberships are \$20 per year or \$35 for two years and include four issues of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly and all events of the annual meeting.

You may submit a conference paper proposal to Blake Perkins, [bperkins@williamsbu.edu](mailto:bperkins@williamsbu.edu) before October 19, 2019, for consideration. Register for the conference using this link: <http://arkansashistoricalassociation.org>.

\*\*\*

## 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](mailto:claytonhouse@claytonhouse.org). These events are free to members of the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation and for non-members, a \$10 donation toward the preservation and programs of the Clayton House.

For more information about these and our other events, check our website, [claytonhouse.org](http://claytonhouse.org), or our Facebook page or give us a call!

\*\*\*

## **Fort Smith Museum of History**

**320 Rogers Avenue  
479-783-7841**

Upcoming events at the Museum:

- ❖ Saturday, September 14: Boston Store Tea, 1 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, September 21: Smithsonian Museum Day Live, All Day (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- ❖ Saturday, September 28: Fall Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Program with the Parkers at 11 a.m.
- ❖ Friday, October 4: Local Color Radio Hour
- ❖ Thursday, October 10: (ArcBest Exhibition)—The ArcBest Story: A Century of Innovation, 6 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, October 12: Judge Parker's Birthday, 2-4 p.m.

Veteran's Day Reception in November (See below for website updates on day and time).

An open house will be scheduled in December on same day as the Christmas parade (See below for website updates on day and time).

For program times, descriptions, reservations, and current exhibits, please visit the Fort Smith Museum of History website: <http://www.fortsmithmuseum.org/> newsletters.

Yarnell's Ice Cream, made in Arkansas since 1932, is featured in the museum's old-fashioned soda fountain. Come in and treat yourself.

\*\*\*

## **Drennen-Scott Historical Site Visitor Center**

**221 North Third Street  
Van Buren, Arkansas  
(479) 262-2750**

**[drennen-scott@uafs.edu](mailto:drennen-scott@uafs.edu)**

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

For 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](mailto:drennen-scott@uafs.edu).

Saturday visitors are often treated to a guided tour by

Albert Pike or perhaps another historically costumed interpreter.

Victorian Christmas Open House will be scheduled.

\*\*\*

## **St. John's Episcopal Church Mind Stretchers**

**Ruth Skinner Building across  
from St. John's Episcopal Church  
214 North Sixth Street  
6 p.m. for all programs**

Admission is free, and snacks in keeping with the lecture theme are served.

### **History Changes!**

The Arkansas/Oklahoma connections to difficult and important chapters in our history—and our present.

❖ September 17, 2019: William ("Todd") Timmons, Ph.D., "How History Changes: New Light on Our Reasons for Using the Atomic Bomb."

❖ October 15, 2019: Joyce Faulkner and Micki Voelkel, Ph.D., "Choosing to Forget: Extra-legal Executions during the Jim Crow Era."

❖ January 21, 2020: Charles Gourd, Ph.D., "Kidnapping by another Name—Federal Policy and the Creation of American Indian Boarding Schools."

❖ February 18, 2020: Sandra Gordy, Ph.D., "Japanese Internment Camps in Arkansas."

❖ March 17, 2020: Patrick Williams, Ph.D., "Reinventing America: Reconstruction 1863-1877."

❖ May 21, 2020: Kathy McGregor "'On the Row': The Prison Story Project."

\*\*\*

## **Fort Smith Regional Art Museum**

**1601 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith  
(479) 784.2787  
[info@fsram.org](mailto:info@fsram.org)**

### **Current Exhibitions**

❖ David Mudrinich: An Element of Nature—Drawings, Paintings, & Beehives, August 2 through November 24

❖ Norma Tomboularian: Life into Clay, September 6 through December 29

Lectures, Workshops, Education Programs, and Events throughout the year.

Contact the RAM for a full schedule of activities, exhibits, and children-centered art classes.

\*\*\*

## 'Territorial Arkansas' On Exhibit at UAFS



**“TERRITORIAL ARKANSAS: THE WILD WESTERN FRONTIER,”** at UAFS Boreham Library, is on exhibit in the Boreham Library with the public welcomed through Friday, September 27, 2019. Contact Jason Phillips 788-7588 or email [Jason.phillips@uafs.edu](mailto:Jason.phillips@uafs.edu) for program information.

(Photo courtesy of UAFS)

\*\*\*

## The Western District Fall Performances

A play by Brandon Chase Goldsmith

### Fall Performances

❖ Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25 at Carl Albert State College, Poteau, Oklahoma

❖ Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10 at the Rialto Restaurant, 720 Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith. Fundraiser for the U.S. Marshals Museum.

## Membership Renewal Policy Change

The Fort Smith Historical Society has changed its annual billing cycle to a straight calendar year basis. As a result, we will no longer bill individuals based on the date that they joined, but on a straight calendar year basis. Membership entitles you to all functions of the Society and to the two issues each year of the *Journal* mailed out in April and September. This year, 2019, marks Volume 43, No. 1 and No. 2.

Regular FSHS meetings are at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month except December and are held at the Community Room of the main branch of the Fort Smith Public Library.

The April 8, 2020, meeting, is designated for the annual election of Board of Directors and the Officers of the FSHS. Nominations for those positions will be by nominating committee and taken from the floor.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**CHECK ONE:** ☐ New Member  
☐ Renewal  
☐ Gift

Name

Street address

City

State

Zip code

### Please check the appropriate box:

- ☐ Annual.....\$30  
☐ Senior Annual (62 and older).....\$25  
☐ Student.....\$15  
☐ Annual Sustaining.....\$50  
☐ Joint Membership with  
Fort Smith Museum of History.....\$100  
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Please mail the completed form,  
along with your check to:

**Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 3676  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913

Membership questions:  
Email: [info@fortsmithhistory.org](mailto:info@fortsmithhistory.org)  
Phone: (479) 226-2066



# Fort Smith's Historic People

To salute the bicentennial of our fair city, the *Journal* added a new series in the September 2018 issue. Nine issues will carry a list of people who through their presence here as resident or visitor or chronicler have interacted with the environs and left a historical impression and a historical record. In this way the Society intends to widen confirmed knowledge regarding Fort Smith and the vicinity through documentation of these people— and sometimes machines—from both primary and secondary sources. The lists are chronological and cover generational spans, roughly every twenty-five to thirty years. Overlaps are unavoidable.

The years of Part III nationally covered the Civil War years, Reconstruction, Republican ascendancy in national politics with Laissez-faire policies toward Big Business, return to Democratic party rule in Arkansas and the South, the rising importance of the Western District Federal Court, and rising railroad, banking, and manufacturing industries in Fort Smith.

## Part III — 1855-1885



MAIN HOTEL, 608-610 Garrison Avenue

**1. John Hanson Thomas (J.H.T.) Main, M.D.** Born in Maryland, Main graduated from Starling Medical School, Columbus, Ohio, in 1836, the year of Arkansas statehood. Called to Fort Smith as a civilian physician to attend the sick and injured workers and soldiers engaged in the building the second fort, Dr. Main resided in this city from 1838 until his death in 1891. He knew and associated with principle figures of early Fort Smith, including John Rogers, Benjamin Bonneville, Captain Charles W. Thomas, Albert Pike, John Drennen, and Logan Roots. Main was against secession, but it came anyway, and Main suffered heavy financial losses during the Civil War years, but nevertheless retained an impressive list of properties: “a handsome residence, a dozen houses, the Main Hotel, and eleven farms, three thousand acres in

all.” See Amelia Martin, *Physicians and Medicine: Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, 1817-1976*. Sebastian County Medical Society, 1977.

**2. William Meade Fishback.** Fishback graduated from the University of Virginia in 1855, moving afterward to Springfield, Illinois, to practice law, and there he came to know another attorney, Abraham Lincoln. Venturing farther to the frontier, Fishback came to Fort Smith in 1858 where he stayed, practiced law, entered politics, voted against Arkansas’ secession in the first convention, and evacuated to St. Louis after the war began. Fishback returned to Arkansas with the Union captures of Fort Smith and Little Rock and established pro-Union newspapers. He married Adelaide Miller of Fort Smith in 1867, built a house, and fathered six children. Fishback developed a long career in Arkansas politics during the Reconstruction and Democrat Redeemer years and was elected governor of the state in 1893, serving one two-year term. He is buried in Oak Cemetery, the only Arkansas governor our fair city has yet produced. See Timothy P. Donovan and Willard B. Gatewood, *The Governors of Arkansas: Essays in Political Biography* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1981).

**3. Samuel D. Sturgis.** Officer in the United States Army and commander of the garrison at Fort Smith from 1855 to 1861. Sturgis, a favorite of the citizenry while here was accompanied by his wife and two small sons. After the secessionists

set up a government in Montgomery, Sturgis was ordered by the War Department to evacuate the post if Arkansas state militia moved on it. Sure enough, in April 1861 before Arkansas' secession on May 6, 1861, a pro-Confederate militia of some 300 men and six artillery pieces under the command of former U.S. Senator Solon Borland steamed from Little Rock up the Arkansas to attack the federal post at Fort Smith. On April 23, Sturgis loaded his post supply wagons with munitions and armaments and with his two companies rolled westward to Fort Washita in Indian Territory. Borland's men occupied the abandoned fortification and raised the seven-star Confederate States flag over the garrison yard. It stayed there until September 1, 1863, when Gen. William L. Cabell withdrew from Fort Smith in the face of attack by the Army of the Frontier under Gen. James G. Blunt. Sturgis served in the Union Army throughout the Civil War and afterwards was assigned to Col. George Custer's famed 7th Cavalry.



**STATUE OF SAMUEL D. STURGIS**  
in Sturgis, South Dakota

Sturgis, South Dakota, is named for him and displays an equestrian statue of him. See Edwin C. Bearss and Arrell M. Gibson, *Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979), 238-243.

**4. Pvt. Henry A. Strong.** Strong, a young Kansas farmer, enlisted in the U.S. Army at Mound City, Kansas, in 1862, assigned to the Twelfth Kansas Infantry. His Company K arrived in Fort Smith in December 1863 accompanied by 200 government wagons and 100 sutler's wagons that crossed the Arkansas River to get here. Strong thought Fort Smith to be "a very pretty place." He commented on the shade trees along the streets, mentioned "the several churches," and the "great number of government buildings." He voted in the 1864 presidential election. Strong's company took part in the 1864 Red River Campaign, escorted steamboats in Indian Territory, and foraged as far as Mr. Cotner's in Scott County and Franklin County. The diary he left behind gives a remarkable historical look at Fort Smith during the war years, including Strong's remarks on the winter weather, his loneliness, and a parade which showed the Second Kansas Colored as being "very well drilled." See Tom Wing, *"A Rough Introduction to this Sunny Land": The Civil War Diary of Henry Private Henry A. Strong* (Little Rock: Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 2006).

**5. D. N. Cooley.** In September 1865, U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Cooley, accompanied by command-and-staff officers of the Union Army, arrived for counsel with tribes of Indian Territory regarding their conduct during the Civil War and their plans to end slavery and cooperate with the federal government. Loyal-to-the-Union Indians were first to arrive. A few days later, the Confederate Indians rode into town. Fort Smith buzzed with excitement, and at the opening of the council, Cooley announced the purposes to be attained which would include healing but with provisions to be followed. One of those conditions concerned the freedom of African Americans held in Indian Territory, which was not under the jurisdiction of the U.S. government, and therefore, the Emancipation Proclamation and the proposed Thirteen Amendment did not apply. This provision was granted by the tribal reps at the meeting, but freedmen membership in the tribes remained a question. Cooley, to reconcile differences between and within tribes, assured those who had gone into battle against the U.S. Army now had a chance to renew their allegiance to the United States. One item vehemently opposed by Cherokee spokesman Elias Boudinot, was the creation of a single self-government in Indian Territory. While that did not pass the council nor did much else, one agreement was use of the Choctaw term Oklahoma for reference to Indian Territory. See Edwin C. Bearss and Arrell M. Gibson, *Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979), 304-08. Billy D. Higgins, *Fort Smith: Vanguard of Western Frontier History* (Lawrenceburg, Indiana: Eastern National, 2007), 53-55.

**6. Richard C. Kerens.** An Irish immigrant, Kerens joined the Union Army, serving as a wagon master with Gen. James Blunt's Army of the Frontier, which occupied Fort Smith in 1863. Liking the opportunities here after the war, Kerens stayed and received an overland mail contract via stagecoach from which he prospered. When his army friend Logan Roots swore in as U.S. Marshal, Kerens joined him as Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal. Kerens wedded Frances Jones in Fort Smith, built a house for the family, founded new enterprises, and gained powerful associates such as Powell Clayton, Republican governor of Arkansas. With Clayton and Roots as partners, Kerens and company built a railroad into Eureka Springs and constructed the



**MELECH LOUIS TILLES  
AND ROSALIE PECK TILLES**

Crescent Hotel. Following opportunities, Kerens moved his family from Fort Smith, a city that they loved and helped finance, to St. Louis after becoming a principle in major railroads of the day. Because of that influence, towns in Texas, West Virginia, New Mexico, and California are named for Richard C. Kerens. See Jerry Hendricks, “Richard C. Kerens: A Giant in Transportation,” *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (April 2013): 33-41.

**7. Logan H. Roots.** Like Kerens, Roots came to Fort Smith as part of the Union Army’s quartermaster corps where, as a young ambitious soldier, he gained invaluable experience in transportation and organization and made connections within Grant’s Republican administration. From that background, Logan Roots had a phenomenal and controversial rise as U.S. Marshal, banker, and Arkansas entrepreneur and developer. Roots, Kerens, Bernard Baer, Dr. E.R. Duval, and Arthur Gunther formed the National Bank of Western Arkansas, which later became the First National Bank of Fort Smith. Roots and his career and practices as U.S. Marshal in Fort Smith are depicted in an historically accurate play written by Brandon Goldsmith titled *The Western District*. The play was performed to sellout audiences in several venues in 2018-19 and is on a second edition tour this fall.

**8. Frances Kerens.** Frances came with her brother and widowed mother, Catherine, to Fort Smith just before the Civil War. Here, Catherine met and married widower Michael Manning, who had worked on building the second fort in the 1840s and may have been the first Catholic to permanently reside in Fort Smith. Catherine and Michael lived in a log home at what is now North Third and D streets and sent Frances to the nuns at St. Anne’s Convent for education. Frances married Richard Kerens and matched his energy in business with her own energy in the social life of Fort Smith. In later years after the family moved to St. Louis and Richard became very wealthy, Frances gave great gifts to the sisters of Mercy and the Catholic Churches of Fort Smith and Eureka Springs. See Jerry Hendricks, “Richard C. Kerens,” *The Journal* (April 2013): 33-41.

**9. Melech Louis Tilles.** Louis Tilles came to Fort Smith in 1863 as a supplier or sutler to the Union Army, which was about to occupy Fort Smith. A Jewish immigrant from Poland, Tilles came to like the city during his military affiliation and decided to stay because the place was a distribution point for the whole Southwest from Kansas to Fort Sill to Dallas. He sent for wife Rosalie in 1866. The town was a bit rough with muddy streets and saloons lining them, but Louis soon started a cigar and tobacco business that thrived. Louis saw education as a key to the future for his family and for the city. Elected to the school board, Tilles saw the city’s first two public schools opened. Active in city administration and in the Masonic lodge, Tilles and a few others formed the first Hebrew congregation in Fort Smith. After his wife died at the age of thirty-five, Louis Tilles continued his business while raising his five children. Three years later, Louis died, leaving five orphans including George Tilles, who would write one of the first histories of Fort Smith. See Nancy Ellen Carter, *Talk with Tilles: Selling Life in Fort Smith, Arkansas* (Xlibris Corporation, 2002), 18-28.

**10. Rosalie Peck Tilles.** Miss Peck met Louis Tilles in Kansas in the 1850s. She a German immigrant married Louis,



and the couple soon moved to St. Louis where Louis found work with the Catlin Tobacco Company and Rosalie gave birth to George in 1859 and two other sons, Emanuel (Manny) and Andrew (Cap) during the Civil War. Rosalie and sons followed Louis to Fort Smith in 1866. Rosalie gave birth to two daughters in Fort Smith, Hannah and Carrie. Rosalie Tilles was an outgoing and popular resident of the city known for her charity and goodwill. When she paid the unheard of price of eight dollars for a hat from a French milliner in town, people viewed her with wonder and remarkable interest. Although in apparent good health all her life, Rosalie died in 1872 at age thirty-five. When her husband died three years later, Rosalie's five children became orphans. Those children would eventually establish the Rosalie Tilles Children's Home. See Nancy Ellen Carter, *Talk with Tilles: Selling Life in Fort Smith, Arkansas* (Xlibris Corporation, 2002), 23-27.

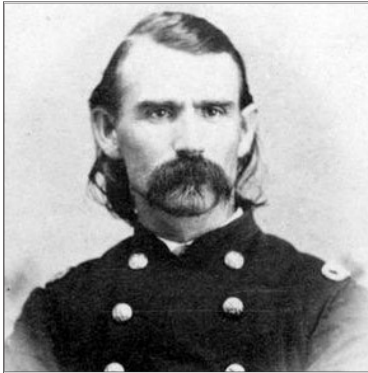
**11. Isaac C. Parker.** Ohio-born Parker migrated to St. Joseph, Missouri, as a young man to practice law, got elected as a Republican to the House of Representatives, stirred notice with one bill to support Indian rights, joined a Missouri militia during the Civil War to fight the secessionists, and was appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant to the federal bench of the Western District of Arkansas in 1875. There he served until his death in 1896. During his twenty-one-year tenure, seventy-nine men were executed on the gallows in Fort Smith, having been found guilty of capital crimes in Indian Territory over which Parker's court had jurisdiction if and only if a white person was involved in the crime. This record earned Parker the sobriquet "Hanging Judge." *Hell on the Border*, a sensational book by a court lackey, left a print record of truths mixed with half-truths and whole fiction that recent scholars have begun to straighten out. Two movies, *He Hanged Them High* with Clint Eastwood and *True Grit* with John Wayne, helped create more fiction surrounding the court and the era. One thing is sure, Parker had far more civil than criminal cases during his long run, and those rulings, often in favor of railroads, had profound effect on the economic development of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. For a start on the latter, see Bradley Kidder Sr., "Goodbye, Tall Old Oak," *White River Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Summer 1998): 3-11; Kidder, "Who Took the Trees?" *The Journal*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (September 2006): 7-21. For more on the former, see Roger Tuller, *Let No Guilty Man Escape* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001) and Daniel R. Maher, *Mythic Frontiers* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2016).

**12. Mary O'Toole Parker.** Arriving in Fort Smith as a thirty-six-year-old with her husband Isaac in 1875, Mary and her two sons, Charles and James, promptly joined St. Patrick Catholic Church and set about making a mark on the social and public education life of Fort Smith. Ms. Parker and Mrs. C.M. Barnes co-founded the Fortnightly Club to buy and circulate books among its members. That literary venture would lead to the establishment of the city's public library. Progressive, Ms. Parker along with her friend Florence Clayton held an open house for the public each New Year's Day. She wrote an editorial defending Indian rights over white acquisition of property in the Territory. As one biographer noted, "Mary found ways to make her own voice heard. She was involved. She was motivated and she motivated others. She rose to face difficult occasions without losing her faith or her grace, and she appears to have made a great number of friends along the way." See Sue Robison, "Mary E. O'Toole Parker: The Judge's Wife," *The Journal* (April 2016): 30-34.

**13. Samuel McLoud.** Another member of the U.S. Army quartermasters who came first to Fort Smith with General Blunt in September 1863, McLoud became a fast friend of Richard Kerens and would later marry Elizabeth Kerens, Richard's sister. McLoud joined a commercial bank started by Kerens and Roots and became its president just before it changed its name to First National Bank. Under McLoud's and his descendants' guidance, First National became one of the largest financial institutions in western Arkansas, a distinction that it holds 150 years later. See Jerry Hendricks, "Richard C. Kerens," *The Journal* (April 2013): 33-41.

**14. William Henry Harrison Clayton.** Born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, the twin brother of John Tyler Clayton and younger brother of Powell Clayton, William Henry served in the Union Army in notable battles Antietam, Fredericksburg, and the Wilderness. After the war, the Clayton brothers bought a 2,500-acre plantation near Van Buren and went into politics. As Reconstruction Republicans, they took on the ex-Confederates in the political and personal arenas. William Henry passed the bar and in 1874 was appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant to the position of prosecuting attorney for the Western District. Clayton, his wife, Florence Barnes Clayton, and their three children moved to Fort Smith eventually building the house on Sixth Street and having three more children. Working closely with Judge Isaac Parker, Clayton tried more than 10,000 cases, many of them civil actions, and secured convictions in sixty murder trials. He and Florence are buried in the Fort Smith National Cemetery. See Martha Siler, "William H. H. Clayton: From Carpetbagger to Federal Judge," *The Journal* (September 2009): 7-9.

**15. James Jackson (J. J.) McAlester.** Born in Fort Smith in 1842, McAlester joined the Confederate States Army in 1861. Afterward he returned to Fort Smith to work as an entrepreneur of sorts. In 1866, he met a geologist who told him of a vast deposit of coal in the Choctaw Nation. McAlester pulled up stakes and headed to the coal seam and there opened a store. In 1872, he married Rebecca Burney, member of the Chickasaw Nation. This union gave McAlester citizenship in both tribes



(ABOVE) THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE battlefield is depicted in a diorama created by Fort Smith National Historic Site Ranger Cody Faber and is on display at the South Sebastian County Historical Site in Greenwood.

(TOP LEFT) Brig. Gen. William Cabell

(LOWER LEFT) Col. William F. Cloud

and the right to own property. He proceeded to extract coal for personal gain. The Choctaw government followed tribal law in which mineral resources were shared equally among all Choctaw and so for this action, McAlester was sought by Choctaw police and barely missed being tried for treason, which carried a death sentence if found guilty. Instead his case would be overturned and eventually led to private ownership of minerals within the Choctaw Nation. McAlester, Oklahoma, is named for him. See *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Oklahoma Historical Society and *Chronicles of Oklahoma*.

**16. Brig. Gen. William Cabell.** The last Confederate commander of Fort Smith, the West Point trained Cabell evacuated the post September 1, 1863, in the face of an attack by a superior force under Union General James G. Blunt. Cabell had a plan to recover the lost ground by dividing the Union force. He surmised that Union cavalry officer Col. William F. "Flying" Cloud would come hard after him and that with an ambush and a rout of that force, Cabell and his men could return, surprise, and overwhelm Blunt and his infantry newly arrived at Fort Smith. Cabell was correct in his surmise and was dug in at a good spot twenty miles to the south, but his men at the Battle of Backbone Mountain could not defeat the mobile Union troops, who arrived in greater numbers via horse-drawn covered wagons. Cabell could not count on the determination of his troops, nor apparently their loyalty. Three hundred of them deserted, and two weeks later, still in their Confederate uniforms but under a homemade Stars and Stripes flag, found Cloud's cavalry en route to Dardanelle and told Cloud that "they had fought against him at Devil's Backbone, but now they wished to fight under him." See Edwin C. Bearss and Arrell M. Gibson, *Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979), 270-272.

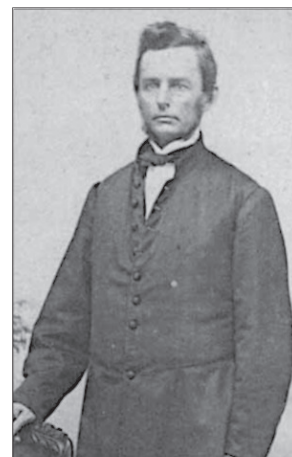
**17. Col. William F. Cloud.** Cloud, a rising Union Cavalry officer in 1862 led "one of the most exciting and dashing cavalry charges in the West during the Civil War routing a surprised Texas cavalry force at Dripping Springs north of Van Buren." Continuing through the downtown meeting only scattered resistance from what was left of two regiments of Confederate soldiers, Cloud charged to the river, capturing four steamers and stymieing Gen. Thomas Hindman's attempt to reestablish his command recently defeated in the Battle at Prairie Grove. Gen. James G. Blunt's successful invasion of Fort Smith in September used wagons to transport Union troops into battle at Devil's Backbone, Gen. Cabell's last-ditch attempt to turn the tide and recapture Fort Smith. The significance of the wagon borne troops was not lost on the U.S. Army command, who embraced this new mobility where, unlike the eastern theaters, the west with its vaster distances could benefit. See Colonel Thomas G. Waller Jr., "War on a Flying Cloud: Tactical Innovation on the Fort Smith Campaign of 1863," *The Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (September 2013): 20-27.

**18. Reverend Francis Springer.** Coming to Fort Smith as a U.S. Army chaplain, Springer had an outstanding reference from his fellow Springfield, Illinois, townsman, Abraham Lincoln, who wrote of him these words: "I personally



know Mr. Springer to be an excellent man and if he can be appointed consistently, I shall be glad.” And appointed he was, to head the Fort Smith field office of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, known in the day as the Freedmen’s Bureau. A main concern of Springer in this position was to help former slaves’ transition to a free life and livelihood. But another charge of the bureau was to assist destitute whites and wayward children. Fort Smith had plenty of these by the end of the Civil War. Springer worked diligently to raise funds for an orphanage and school and with his efforts a war orphan’s home was established with an initial enrollment of forty-one children. See Carole Barger, “The Plight of Civil War Orphans and the founding of the Rosalie Tilles Children’s Home,” *The Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (September 2013): 7-12; William Furry, ed., *The Preacher’s Tale: The Civil War Journal of Rev. Francis Springer, Chaplain, U.S. Army of the Frontier* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2001).

**19. Bass Reeves.** Reeves migrated to Fort Smith after the Civil War. An African American handy with firearms, Reeves began his career as a deputy marshal for the Western District in 1875 serving under seven marshals in fourteen years. Reeves, his wife, and family lived on a small farm on the edge of Fort Smith, the current address being N. 12th and M Streets. As a deputy who spent many a night searching for suspects and serving warrants in Indian Territory, Reeves’ adventures both factual and apocryphal drew the attention of scholars Daniel Littlefield and Nudie Williams and biographer Art Burton. Among Reeves exploits was the bringing in of sixteen prisoners in one haul, pursuing and arresting his own son, and standing trial for murdering his cook while on posse in Indian Territory (he was acquitted). Reeves moved to Muskogee in 1907, the year of Oklahoma statehood and finished his career as a lawman on the city police force. He died on January 12, 1910. His burial site is unknown. His likeness is a center piece of downtown Fort Smith atop his mount at the end of Garrison Avenue, the equestrian statue unveiled in 2012. See, Daniel Littlefield, “Negro Marshals in the Indian Territory,” *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 56, No. 2 (April 1971): 77-87; Nudie Williams, “Black Men Who Wore the Star,” *Chronicles*



**REVEREND FRANCIS SPRINGER**

(Photo courtesy of Don Montgomery, via Fort Smith National Historic Site)



**THE STATUE OF U.S. DEPUTY MARSHAL BASS REEVES** stands near the Fort Smith Trolley on Garrison Avenue.



of Oklahoma, Vol. 59, No. 1 (1981): 83-92. Art Burton, *Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Bass Reeves* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006).



**GEORGE WINSTON**

**20. George Winston.** George Winston was born in Georgia in 1846, son of slave parents. With the Civil War, Winston became a freedman and then enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he learned to read and write. Honorably discharged in 1870, Winston came to Fort Smith and found employment with Logan Roots as a security guard. Judge Henry Caldwell of the Western District, with a reference that mentioned Winston's "diligence and close attention to details," hired him as Court Bailiff, a position that had the duties of attending every court session, maintaining order, escorting jury members, and assisting the presiding judge. The next federal judges William Story and Isaac C. Parker continued Winston in that position, which he held until 1893. Turning to a real estate business, Winston's qualities brought him success in that enterprise, which he continued until his death in 1918 because of an automobile accident. See Juliet Galonska, "George Winston: Court Bailiff," Fort Smith Minutes produced by the Fort Smith National Historic Site, March 1996.

**21. John Spencer.** A deputy marshal for the Western District, Spencer and fellow deputy marshal J. H. Mershon made an arrest of a perpetrator of a grisly double murder in Indian Territory. To secure the conviction, evidence including the remains of the victims was imperative, which led the pair to a cave in the Arbuckle Mountains in Indian Territory. Descending into the cave via a rope tied around his waist in search of the remains, Spencer spotted the bones at about the same time he heard rattling and hissing. He realized that he was standing in a rattlesnake den, thirty feet from the surface. With help from a lantern that blinded the vipers and the roar of his six-gun, Spencer fought off the rattlers and gathered the bones. His fellow officers pulled him to the top. This riveting story appeared in the *Fort Smith Elevator*. No doubt, Charles Portis relied on these accounts to craft his *True Grit* counterpart story. See Glenn Shirley, *Law West of Fort Smith* (New York: Henry Holt, 1957).

**22. Valentine Dell.** A German immigrant to the United States, Dell settled permanently in Fort Smith in 1859. A well-educated man, Dell served his community as a school man, postmaster, state senator, and founder and editor of the *Fort Smith New Era* newspaper, which came into being with Union re-occupation. A foe of the Confederacy and supporter of Republican reconstruction, Dell gained appointment by President Rutherford B. Hayes as U.S. Marshal for the Western District in 1880. At first partners in law and politics, Dell and James Brizzolara, the two Republican stalwarts, fell out with each other. William Henry Harrison Clayton allied with Brizzolara, and after strings were pulled, Dell was replaced as marshal. Dell wrote that he was proud of his work in which he claimed prisoners were better fed than before him and "no prisoners were robbed, none chained by the neck or inhumanely treated...and none escaped." Dell continued to publish the *New Era* until his death in 1885. See Ben Boulden, *Hidden History of Fort Smith* (Charleston, S.C.: History Press, 2012).

**23. Belle Starr.** Born Myra Maybelle Shirley, the "Bandit Queen" was mythologized by reporter Alton B. Myers, who was sent to Fort Smith by the *National Police Gazette* to write stories, true or not, that would build circulation in a readership accustomed to dime novels. Finding a female character around which to let his imagination flow, Myers succeeded beyond his publisher's wildest dreams, writing that Belle Starr "was almost as feared as Jesse James! She shot first and asked questions later. Men could not resist her." Such wild claims were debunked by one of her relatives, Glenn Shirley. The historical facts about Belle Starr are: Born and raised in Carthage, Missouri, where she attended school and mastered a curriculum that included English, math, classical languages, and music. She played the piano. Living in and around Fort Smith, Belle Starr was arrested twice for horse theft and sentenced by Judge Isaac Parker to the federal pen in Detroit. True, she a bad run of husbands, most of whom themselves were having a bad run with the law. On February 3, 1889, near the Canadian River in Indian Territory, Belle Starr was shot in the back with buckshot and again in the face with squirrel shot. She died from these wounds. Her death received but a scant notice in one newspaper. Her murder was never solved. In a downtown Fort Smith store, next to robust roasts called Bass Reeves and Rooster Cogburn, is a coffee urn labeled Belle Starr. It holds the decaf. See Glenn Shirley, *Belle Starr and Her Times: The Literature, the Facts, and the Legends* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982).

### **And THREE who were NOT here:**

**1. Wyatt Earp.** Born in Monmouth, Illinois, in 1848, Earp migrated to western Missouri and was elected constable of Lamar Township north of Joplin. His wife died shortly thereafter and Earp, perhaps suffering from aftereffects of the lost, abandoned his job and in Indian Territory met a nefarious character who persuaded Earp to join him in a horse theft scheme.

The owner of the horses pursued, brought charges, and saw to it that Earp was arrested and taken into custody on April 6, 1871. Deputy Marshal J. G. Owens brought Earp and his accomplices to Van Buren where the Western District court was located until a few months later, when it was moved to Fort Smith. Wyatt was released on a \$500 bond, and a trial date of November 13, 1871, was set. Wyatt instead left the country, so to speak, in favor of a buffalo hunter's camp in western Kansas. Hooking up there with Bat Masterson, another young man on the make, it was first to Dodge City and then to Tombstone, Arizona, site of the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" that made the lawman famous. See Bill Black, "Fort Smith Minutes," Fort Smith National Park Site.

**2. Randolph Barnes Marcy.** At least not after the Civil War. As reported in Series II of Fort Smith's Historic People, Marcy led four expeditions from Fort Smith into the Southwest becoming the Army's leading expert on that area of the United States. He advocated this city as a preferred departure point for wagon trains and a logical terminus for a national railroad to California along the trail that he laid out. George B. McClellan married Marcy's daughter Ellen and named Gen. Marcy his chief of staff of the Army of the Potomac, the largest and best equipped Union Army, which McClellan commanded from 1861 until after Antietam. Following the war, Marcy never returned to a city that he adopted but which then became part of a secessionist state. Transcontinental railroads were authorized by the Pacific Railway Act of 1862 while Arkansas was out of the Union, but none ran anywhere near Arkansas. See Billy D. Higgins, "Capt. Randolph Barnes Marcy: Explorer and Surveyor," *The Journal* (September 2009): 28-33.



**3. Albert Pike.** At least not after the Civil War. Pike, like Marcy, had very good experiences with Fort Smith in the antebellum period and used Fort Smith as a base while he negotiated with Principle Chief John Ross for Cherokee allegiance to the Confederacy, which Pike gained. In leading Cherokee troops at the Battle of Pea Ridge, Pike was held responsible in the northern press for the alleged scalping of dead Union soldiers. With peace came cries for the federal government to charge Pike with war crimes. Nothing came of it, and President Andrew Johnson restored his citizenship in August 1865. Pike moved to Memphis to reside with his daughter, continued to write poetry and Masonic rituals, and in 1870 moved to Washington, D.C., as a national figure in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Did he carry gold from the Confederate treasury to be hidden in the Ouachita Mountains? Absurd? Don't be sure until you have read Warren Getler and Bob Brewer, *Shadow of the Sentinel: One Man's Quest to Find the Hidden Treasure of the Confederacy* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003).

**(LEFT) A STATUE OF ALBERT PIKE** erected by the Freemasons in the nation's capital is at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and D Street NW, the only outdoor monument having a Confederate general in Washington, he is depicted as Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction.

(Courtesy photo)

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**EBERTS FIELD**, near Lonoke, was the other Arkansas military base besides Camp Pike, and it was inundated with flu-infected soldiers at about the same time, as shown in this photograph of an overflow ward of its base hospital in September 1918.

# When The Flu Hit Fort Smith

## *The Plague We Never Hear About*

**By Taylor Prewitt**

**F**ort Smith was shut down from October 8 until November 3, 1918, because of influenza. There were no church services or other public gatherings, no club meetings, no church weddings. All schools were closed. Pool halls were closed. Streetcars, normally crowded during rush hours, could carry only those who could find a seat. Public funerals were banned. (Funerals were to be private with only relatives and “immediate friends” present.) The death toll from influenza was seventy-one in October 1918 (total mortality that month was a record-breaking 119); but such numbers mean little.<sup>1</sup> How many died after the quarantine ended November 2? What about Fort Smith citizens who died out of town? What about the numerous deaths of local men in

the crowded army camps? There were some 7,000 influenza deaths in Arkansas in the great pandemic, more than triple the number in the war, but again no one really knows; rural deaths were often unreported.<sup>2</sup> Influenza caused some 500,000 deaths in the United States, more than three times the number of American soldiers who lost their lives in World War I—and more of these were due to disease (mostly influenza) than to combat.<sup>3</sup> Worldwide, influenza infected about one in four of the world’s population.<sup>4</sup>

More than 115 deaths occurred in one month in a city of about 28,000; as many as five were reported in a day—and yet this bit of history lies in a black hole of our collective awareness.<sup>5</sup> It came and went so quickly, almost all in October 1918. Few of the victims were prominent citizens; most deaths were among young adults in their twenties or early thirties. The war, nearing its victorious end,



monopolized the front pages of the newspapers. And there was a curious mentality of keeping a stiff upper lip—stay positive so we can win the war, let's keep selling war bonds, don't risk demoralizing the population.

There is no general agreement as to where the new variant of the influenza virus originated, but it appeared in American military camps in the spring of 1918; it struck a soldier at Camp Pike (later named Camp Robinson) near Little Rock on September 23. By that time 20,000 soldiers in camps all over the United States had fallen ill with influenza. Seven days later, there were 7,600 influenza patients at Camp Pike, 100 of whom died, in a camp numbering 52,000 recruits (making it the second-largest city in Arkansas).<sup>6</sup> Troop trains spread the disease efficiently; of 3,108 healthy troops who boarded a train at Camp Grant in Illinois, “jammed into the cars with little room to move about, layered and stacked as tightly as if on a submarine as they moved deliberately across 950 miles of the country,” more than 700 men were taken directly to the base hospital on arrival at Camp Hancock in Georgia. The death toll from influenza was approximately ten percent of all the troops on the train.<sup>7</sup>

Statistics are not available for the number of Fort Smith men who succumbed to influenza in military service during the war. Eighteen deaths of men from Fort Smith and the surrounding area, or with Fort Smith connections, are mentioned in the *Southwestern American* in September, October, and November 1918.

The commandant at Camp Pike, “fearing panic as well as not wanting to appear unpatriotic in wartime...ordered that neither the extent of the epidemic nor the names of the dead be released to the press.”<sup>8</sup> Dr. J. C. Geiger, U.S. Public Health Service officer for Arkansas, quoted in the *Arkansas Gazette* on September 20, called the threatening disease “simple, plain, old-fashioned la grippe”—a particularly bad chest cold. Even after quarantining whole families at Carlisle and confirming sixty cases in one day at Little Rock, Geiger acknowledged that the flu was worse than the usual grippe. But, he said, the situation in Little Rock was “not especially serious.”<sup>9</sup> And after 506 cases of flu were reported in the Little Rock and North Little Rock on October 4, with 296 cases more on the following day, Dr. Geiger reported, “Situation well in hand.”

The state health department was preoccupied with promoting vaccination against typhoid at this time.<sup>10</sup> Only on October 4 were doctors notified that influenza was a reportable disease.

But this dog wouldn't stay under the bed. The story burst with sudden and unexpected ferocity. All of Camp Pike was placed under quarantine on October 3. Despite the quarantine, new recruits were pouring in daily. Little Rock was quickly swamped by the flu virus (nobody knew it was

a virus; most assumed the disease was bacterial, attributing it to “Pfeiffer's Influenza Bacillus”).<sup>11</sup>

And yet *The Arkansas Gazette* reported on October 4, 1918, that the flu was beginning to go away. On the same day a humorous little poem about the flu appeared in the Fort Smith *Southwest American*:

### THE LATEST WHEEZE

By Edmund Vance Cook

When your head is blazing, burning,  
And your brain within is turning  
Into buttermilk from churning,  
it's the flu.  
When your joints are creaking, cracking,  
As if all the fiends were racking,  
All the devils were attacking,  
it's the flu.

### CHORUS

It's the flu, flu, flu;  
Which has you, you, you,  
It has caught you and it's got you  
And it sticks like glue.  
It's the very latest fashion,  
It's the doctor's pet and passion,  
So sneeze a bit,  
And wheeze a bit;—  
Ka-chew! chew! chew!

When your stomach grows uneasy,  
Quaking, querulous, and queasy,  
All dyspeptic and diseasy,  
It's the flu.  
When you have appendicitis,  
Par-en-chy-ma-tous nephritis,  
Laryngitis, or gastritis,  
It's the flu.

When you have a corn, or pimple.  
Complicated ill, or simple,  
Broken bone, or fading dimple,  
It's the flu.  
When no matter what assails you,  
If no doctor knows what ails you,  
Then the answer never fails you,  
It's the flu.

The Society column of the *Southwest American* announced rather flippantly under the headline “Until the Flu has Flown,” “Those who were anticipating the pleasure of attending the war bridge at the Elks Club under the auspices of the Young Matrons Circle of the Patriotic

League, YWCA, on Thursday afternoon, will have to curb their impatience, for the bridge has been indefinitely postponed until the threatened epidemic of Spanish influenza is over.” (There were various theories as to why it was called “Spanish influenza”—it was unlikely to have originated in Spain, but since Spain was neutral in the Great War, its journalists were free of censors and could describe the disease in gory detail—and the king of Spain had the flu.)

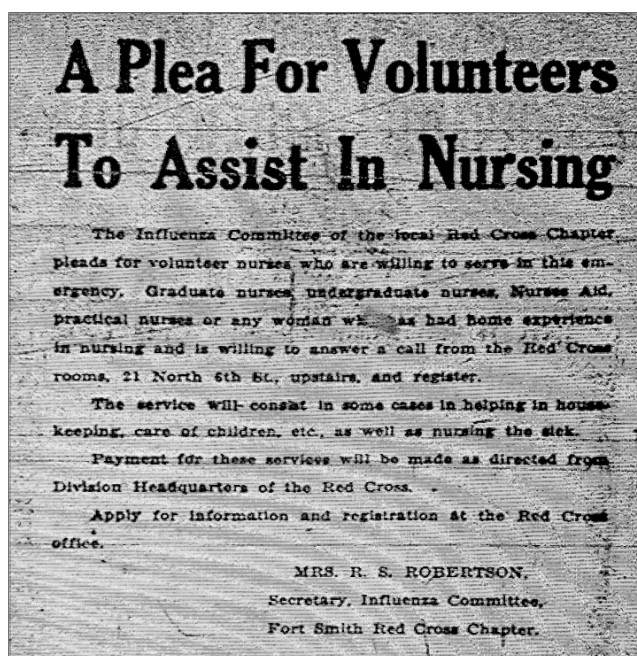
It may or may not have been Spanish, but it wasn’t funny. Four days after the light-hearted poem, on October 8, Dr. Charles W. Garrison, head of the Arkansas Board of Health, declared a statewide quarantine, closing schools and church services. The following proclamation appeared in the *Southwest American*: “In obedience to the instructions of the Board of Health all public assemblages are hereby prohibited within the limits of the city of Fort Smith from this date until further notice and all citizens are asked to lend their cooperation toward the enforcement of this regulation. The members of the grand jury now in assembly will be exempt from this ruling until their investigations have been completed. Arch Monro, Mayor—dated this eighth day of October 1918.”<sup>12</sup>

This was on the same day that the flu epidemic made a rare appearance on the front page of the *Southwest American* (during October 1918 the war usually claimed all the ink on page one): “Physicians Must Report All Influenza Cases Now.” However, the Fort Smith health officer said he did not think there was any necessity for closing of schools and other gathering places. In the following paragraph, it was announced that all Van Buren schools were being closed, as well as “all shows and public congregations.” This was immediately before Fort Smith was notified of the statewide quarantine.

At the same time the American Red Cross began to enroll nurses to fight the epidemic, and a call was made for volunteers to go into the homes where mothers and housekeepers were ill, and to “assume charge.”<sup>13</sup> There were fewer nurses than doctors, and the Red Cross was not just “calling” for nurses. “[We are searching] from one end of the United States to the other to rout out every possible nurse from her hiding place.”

Josey Brown was a nurse watching a movie in a St. Louis theater when the lights went out, the screen went blank, and a man appeared on stage announcing that anyone named Josey Brown should go to the ticket booth. There she found a telegram ordering her to the Great Lakes naval training station.

Not that many nurses were available in Fort Smith, but there were volunteers, as described in this item in the *Southwest American*: “Mrs. Vick, who was one of the first to volunteer to assist the Red Cross in caring for influenza



**THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED** to serve as nurses knew that they were putting themselves at mortal risk.

(Courtesy of the microfilm service of the Fort Smith Public Library)

patients, has contracted the disease and is quite ill at her home North 18th and J Street.”

One young Fort Smith man in the Navy had already died of the flu. The *Southwest American* had reported on September 25: ARCHIE BARTON DIES OF SPANISH “FLU” AT NAVY HOSPITAL. Young Barton had died in the naval base hospital in Philadelphia—“not quite 15 years of age—he would have reached that age on November 19 next. He was a well-built robust lad, and he had no difficulty in getting into the Navy. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Barton of 1200 N. 8th St. He is a fireman on the Frisco....The lad’s illness, it is believed here, was short.”

All too many of the cases, unfortunately, were all too short—sometimes leading to death after being perfectly healthy twelve hours before. An Army physician wrote:

These men start with what appears to be an ordinary attack...of influenza, and when brought to the hospital they very rapidly develop the most vicious type of pneumonia that has ever been seen. Two hours after admission they have the mahogany spots over the cheekbones, and a few hours later you can begin to see the cyanosis extending from the ears and spreading all over the face, until it is hard to distinguish the colored men from the white....It is only a matter of a few hours then until death comes....It is horrible....We have lost an outrageous number of nurses and doctors and the little town of Ayer [Massachusetts] is a

sight. It takes special trains to carry away the dead. For several days there were no coffins and the bodies piled up something fierce.<sup>14</sup>

Such was the case with David Brown, who died at age thirty-four. As described in the *Southwest American*, “The death was the most sudden recorded since the influenza epidemic reached this section. Brown was about his affairs Friday and taken sick that night with an attack of influenza which quickly developed into pneumonia complicated by a heart trouble,” dying the next morning.

Charley Fountain, a twenty-eight-year-old conductor for the Frisco Railroad, was the first casualty reported in Fort Smith, survived by his widow and two daughters. He “died of pneumonia in a local hospital”; there was a reluctance to attribute deaths to flu if they could be attributed to pneumonia, considering this to be only a complication of influenza.<sup>15</sup>

Numbers were given in the reports from the health department reported in the *Southwest American*; the Society columns named names, especially in the Van Buren reports. On October 8, “It was reported yesterday that Dr. M. S. Dibrell was ill at his home. The physician had been called to Okmulgee twice last week to treat Dr. Herr of that city, whose case of influenza had developed into pneumonia. A message came yesterday from that city announcing that Dr. Herr had suffered a relapse and relatives in this city were asked to come.” Dr. Herr died, thirty years of age, leaving a widow and two children, all of whom were also sick with the flu. He had practiced in Okmulgee for six years.

On the following day it was reported that Horace Hill and Will Kerwin, both attending the officers’ training camp at Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Georgia, had been stricken with Spanish influenza and occupied adjoining cots in the base hospital.

By October 15—one week after the quarantine was ordered—the health department reported nineteen deaths due to influenza in Fort Smith, with 941 cases from October 8 to October 15, and forty-six new cases on the previous day. “There is a marked decrease and health officials feel the epidemic is on the wane.” However, two days later a headline read: 5 DEATHS AT FT. SMITH: Is Largest One-Day Toll Since Influenza Epidemic Began.<sup>16</sup>

Daily newspapers provide the closest approximation to a reconstruction of the number of cases and fatalities. The Sebastian County Health Department and the Arkansas State Health Departments do not have these records.<sup>17</sup> Kelly Scott described this phenomenon in his 1988 review in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*:

A Rogers, Arkansas, journalist, Erwin Funk, accurately described the country’s mood while on a trip to Chicago in

October 1918. After relating how difficult it would be to gauge the impact of the flu in such a large city, Funk added: “Chicago is not doing any statistical gathering on the subject just now, at least for publication. Chicago isn’t interested in the flu anyhow. Chicago is interested in the war.” The same could be said about citizens of Little Rock, Fort Smith, or a dozen other Arkansas cities in the fall of 1918. The impending conclusion of the most catastrophic war yet endured by man proved to be an all-consuming topic for most people at the time, regardless of conditions closer to home.<sup>18</sup>

Two days later a headline in the *Southwest American* read: DEATH RATE LOW FROM DISEASE HERE: “Out of about 1,200 cases of influenza that have been reported in this city the past fortnight there have been reported only 28 deaths from pneumonia, much of which followed the influenza....The figures bear out the statement made earlier that in this climate the disease was hardly likely to be as deadly as it had been in the North Atlantic states.”<sup>19</sup>

Meanwhile, the society pages and the short news items continued their roll call. The words speak for themselves:

❖ *Southwest American*, October 9: “Dr. W. R. Brooksher is in Nashville, Tennessee, where he was called by the illness of his daughter, Miss Lucille Brooksher, who is suffering from an attack of pneumonia.”

❖ *Arkansas Gazette*, October 14: “Coal Hill—The influenza situation here is improving, only about 500 cases remaining. The physicians are badly overtaxed. The school and theater have been closed.”

❖ *Southwest American*, October 15: “The first official record compiled was on the 9th with 414 cases and one death after that day. On the 10th there were ninety-one new cases and one death. 11th 136 new cases and three deaths, on the 12th 122 new cases and two deaths, and Sunday the 13th 145 new cases and two deaths. Up to Sunday night there had been reported 898 cases since the inception of the epidemic.”

❖ *Southwest American*, October 9:

#### Dr. Holt Working Again

Dr. Charles S. Holt, who was confined to his bed at St. John’s hospital last week with an attack of influenza, has recovered and is at work again, which helps to relieve the strain on the small corps of physicians who have been endeavoring to give required attention to the large number of people afflicted here.

❖ *Arkansas Gazette*, October 16:

There is a marked decrease and health officials feel





**NOTHING WORKED AGAINST THE 1918 FLU**, but this did not discourage the pseudopharmaceutical industry.  
(Photograph courtesy of Dr. Sam Taggar)

the epidemic is on the wane. Today's deaths increase the total since October 4, the date of the first influenza death, to 19. Keith Dyer, aged nineteen, local high school graduate, died at the University of Arkansas, where he was attending the Student Army Training Corps. Hubert Levi, Oscar Perry, Ernest Schlaeffli, soldiers of the city, died at Camp Maybry, Texas; Camp Dodge, Iowa, and Camp Sherman, Ohio, respectively. Earl Shipley of Booneville died at Camp Humphrey, Virginia. John Oliver of Greenwood was officially advised that his son, Sherman, American Expeditionary Forces, had died in France from the disease. Mary Leake, age twenty, an employee of the government munition factory at Nashville, also died of the malady. Ninety-one of the 238 employees of the Fort Smith Wagon Company were reported ill today.

❖ *Southwest American*, October 12: "Sallisaw, Okla.—Seven members of the Brown family of eight, were placed aboard a Missouri Pacific passenger train last night and sent to a Fort Smith hospital, suffering with influenza complications."

❖ *Arkansas Gazette*, October 20: "Decreases in the number of new influenza cases in Fort Smith yesterday and today assured health authorities that the epidemic was waning fast. Twelve new cases yesterday and nine today was the report. The death rate, however, continues. Since Friday night there have been ten fatalities, bring bringing the total since October 4 up to thirty-seven.

❖ *Southwest American*, October 23: "City health

department death records show that in the first twenty-one days of October there were sixty deaths in the city and sixteen bodies shipped here for burial in local cemeteries. Of these deaths the records show that fifteen of the sixteen cases brought home for burial had been due to pneumonia resulting from influenza. It must be remembered, however, that fifteen or more of the forty-five were deaths at local hospitals of persons brought from surrounding towns for treatment. Thus, the total deaths up to Tuesday of Fort Smith from influenza approximated thirty. (But there were still sixty bodies.)

❖ *Arkansas Gazette*, Fort Smith, October 23: "Eighty-four new cases of Spanish influenza were reported here today, a marked increase over the past several days, and twenty-three more than recorded yesterday. From indications, the epidemic is not abating. There were two deaths today, including C. S. Carson, ticket agent for the Kansas City Southern Railroad."

#### **GIRL AT FORT SMITH COMMITS SUICIDE**

This headline in the *Arkansas Democrat* on October 25 reported that Martha Ramage, twenty, daughter of Theo Ramage, Rural Route Four, Girard, Kansas, shot herself to death at a hotel that day (firing "a bullet through her right temple into her brain," according to the *Southwest American*). Her girlfriend died from influenza pneumonia the day before, and her sweetheart, Sid Donovan, died at 3 o'clock that morning from the same illness. On September 19, the girl had made an unsuccessful attempt at suicide with poison.

Although the suicide victim had a history of a prior attempt before the pandemic began, this incident gives some indication of the emotional and psychological effect of this overwhelming plague, only hinted at in most news reports and best described in works of fiction such as *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*, a short novel by Katherine Anne Porter. The author almost died from a severe case of influenza; she was in a coma for a month, and when she recovered, she learned that her fiancé had died from his illness. When she was becoming ill, she and her boyfriend sang an old spiritual they both remembered: “Pale horse, pale rider, done taken my lover away....”

After a hundred years, we don’t hear many family stories about the 1918 influenza and its impact, but there are many of them. One friend recently told me that his father was born in Fort Smith in 1903, and his younger sister caught the flu in 1918 and died in less than forty-eight hours. She was about four to six years old.<sup>20</sup>

*Arkansas Gazette*, October 26, 1918:

#### **NO SERVICES SUNDAY**

Fort Smith, October 25—the city health authorities today declined to permit church services next Sunday because of the influenza. They received a petition from ministers of the city asking that the quarantine regulations be modified to permit services. 31 new cases here today reported as having developed yesterday. Similar number was reported yesterday for the day before.

*Southwest American*, October 29, 1918:

#### **112 NEW FLU CASES**

The health department records show 112 new cases of influenza for Saturday and Sunday, with five deaths, two of which were Saturday and three Sunday. The reports indicate new cases largely of a much milder form than in the early stages of the epidemic. After a conference yesterday the health department announced that unless there is a change from the rapid cessation of the epidemic the quarantine will probably be declared off next Monday and the probability that the churches will be released next Sunday from its restrictions.

*Arkansas Gazette*, Friday, November 8, 1918:

#### **SUCCUMBS ABOARD TRAIN**

Fort Smith, November 7—While aboard a train en route to a Fort Smith Hospital, Edward T. Lee, aged 29, of Quinton, Oklahoma, died from influenza yesterday. Lee was in a baggage car. Another influenza patient occupied an adjoining cot.

Three doctors in Sebastian and Crawford Counties died in the course of the epidemic—Clark Wood, J. S. Ozment, and Edgar Lee Lindsey.<sup>21</sup> Dr. Wood was unmarried and died at the age of forty-one. He had served as president of the Sebastian County Medical Society in 1913. Having played football for the University of Arkansas, he refereed football games after beginning his practice in Fort Smith.<sup>22</sup> The *Southwest American* reported on October 22, “Up to a week ago he had been in robust health and was among the lead of Fort Smith physicians who were driven day and night in combating the epidemic. Not until the latter part of the week was his case thought to be serious.”

Dr. Ozment died in Sparks Hospital on October 16, 1918, at the age of fifty-one. He and his wife had three children; he served as president of the Sebastian County Medical Society in 1915 and was serving a second term as county physician at the time of his death. “Dr. Ozment was among the first victims of the influenza, which soon developed into pneumonia, and for the past week his condition has been held to be critical,” his obituary reported.<sup>23</sup>

Dr. Lindsey died in one of the recurrent outbreaks of influenza on February 8, 1920, at the age of thirty-four. He had practiced in Fort Smith from 1914 to 1920, and he had served as secretary of the Sebastian County Medical Society in 1915; he was survived by his wife, his son, his parents, and his sister.<sup>24</sup>

And in Ozark:

#### **DR. WARREN DIES OF ATTACK OF FLU**

Special to *The Southwest American*. Ozark, Arkansas. Oct. 19—Dr. George D. Warren, one of the best-known and most highly respected practitioners of this section, died about 8 o’clock tonight of pneumonia following an attack of influenza. He was 34 years of age and is survived by his widow and one child.

“Every man’s death diminishes me,” but one of the great losses to Fort Smith was the death of Ben Kimpel of influenza at age thirty-five. A native of Dermott in southeast Arkansas, he was a graduate of the University of Arkansas and the Columbia University Law School. After beginning his law practice in Fort Smith, he joined Harry P. Daily in forming the firm of Kimpel and Daily. He was quite active in community affairs, and as chairman of the United War Work Campaign for Sebastian County he was representing this group at a meeting in Little Rock, where he was thought to have contracted the flu.<sup>25</sup> Under a headline, “75 NEW CASES OF INFLUENZA ARE REPORTED,” the *Southwest American* reported in its second paragraph, “Dr. Hynes stated last night that no

reports had reached the board yesterday of critical complications in any new cases, during the day. The most critical case yesterday was that of Ben D. Kimpel, who was reported last night suffering with double pneumonia and his family and friends much concerned over his condition.” The newspaper reported his death on October 9 and subsequently his funeral, which was at his home in Fishback Place on October 10. “The funeral...was announced as private but many close friends joined the relatives in paying the last tribute to the widely known young attorney....Many hundreds of absent friends paid tribute of flowers, and it was declared that a greater wealth of floral tributes was received than at any funeral for years.”

The Presbyterian minister was unable to officiate because of having influenza himself, so another pastor conducted the service. The list of active and honorary pallbearers reads like a who’s who of old Fort Smith: Robert Dickens, A. Y. Berry, Harry P. Daily, E. F. Creekmore, Robert Meek, W. H. Rector of Little Rock, L. H. Southmayd of Van Buren, T. C. Price, R. Scott Robertson, W. L. Seaman, Rudolph Ney, Judge Frank A. Youmans, Frank A. Handlin, Joe Ward, and Harry K. Albers. There were “hundreds of messages of condolence.”

An ironic footnote to the story appeared in the *Southwestern American* a few days later. A Sebastian County deputy sheriff was sent to Little Rock to bring back a man who was driving a car “in the jitney business” that had been stolen from Ben Kimpel several weeks earlier. “The defendant however was in the grip of a severe case of influenza and the officer was forced to come without him.”

And a final footnote: Kimpel Hall at the University of Arkansas houses the English Department, named for Ben Kimpel Jr., legendary professor of English there from 1952 until his death in 1983.<sup>26</sup> Dr. Kimpel had been a secretary to the U.S. Delegation in Vienna after World War II, before returning to Harvard, where he had been an undergraduate and graduate student. After visiting his mother in Fort Smith, he decided to take a position at the University of Arkansas. I remember his saying, when I was an undergraduate in the English department, that the only woman he would have ever considered marrying was Jane Austen.

Things can get a bit disorganized in a pandemic. Claude Marhanna, a Fort Smith cook, died at age thirty-six in Nashville, Tennessee. However, a “grave blunder,” according to the *Southwest American*, by a Nashville undertaker resulted in the wrong body being shipped to Fort Smith.

It must be remembered that at the time, in the middle of it, no one knew how long it would last or how it would all end. Victor Vaughan, surgeon general of the U.S. Army,

verbalized the sense of terror that was not unreasonable: “If the epidemic continues its mathematical rate of acceleration, civilization could easily disappear from the face of the earth.”<sup>27</sup>

Although people continued to get sick and die, the numbers began to decrease in the latter part of October; and the first voices calling for an end to the quarantine came from the preachers, whose church doors had been shut. The health commission turned down an appeal from the clerical association to allow church services on October 24. On November 1, however, the state health department declared that the statewide quarantine was over, though individual communities might need to continue quarantine measures on their own.

This news was buried on the lower left corner of page 2 of the *Southwest American*, but the merchants and the churches sponsored large announcements. “The Lid is Off” called for early Christmas shopping, with an image of Santa Claus. “Come to Fort Smith to do your Christmas shopping. Come this week if possible.”

The quarantine ended in November 1918, but the flu was not gone. It continued its work throughout the last months of 1918, which are generally considered to be the second wave of the pandemic. The first wave was in the spring of 1918 and a third wave was in the winter and early spring of 1918. In time the death rate began to fall, attributed to mutation of the virus back to its mean, and because people’s immune systems adjusted. The flu continued to raise its head for several years, finally dropping back to its usual pattern in the mid-1920s. The year 1920 saw either the second or third most deaths from influenza in the twentieth century.

Those who survived an attack of influenza were not necessarily immediately well. The poet Robert Frost, months after recovering from influenza, wrote, “What bones are they that rub together so unpleasantly in the middle of you in extreme emaciation...? I don’t know whether or not I’m strong enough to write a letter yet.”<sup>28</sup>

We don’t know how many more died after the newspaper stopped counting at 119, in a city of 28,000. Once the war was over and the quarantine was lifted, statistical reports from the health department ceased to appear in the newspapers; and the health department itself no longer has the records. Compared to Fort Smith, Little Rock, with a population of 58,000, reported 9,813 cases of influenza during October; there were 351 deaths. At Camp Pike, there were 6,364 cases of influenza among the 51,956 soldiers stationed there. Of these, seventy-nine died. (It must be noted that the previous month of September resulted in an additional 7,006 sick soldiers with 105 fatalities.) Nearly one out of every four people in central Arkansas became ill with influenza during September and





**THE ARKANSAS TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM** in Booneville was the only place in the state that had no cases of influenza in the 1918 pandemic. It had enforced a strict quarantine, prohibiting all physical contact with the outside world.

October.<sup>29</sup> It may be that the death toll in central Arkansas was higher than in Fort Smith because Little Rock had already been pole-axed by the epidemic from Camp Pike when the state-wide quarantine was ordered; the influenza may not have had as much time to catch a foothold in Fort Smith when the statewide quarantine was called October 8.

There was a lot of doctoring, and doctors were indeed hard working and even heroic. But they had nothing effective to alter the course of the disease. Nurses, also exposing themselves to infection, had a better opportunity to tilt the odds a bit in the patient's favor. Laudanum, calomel, quinine, Tanlac stomach tonic (iron, thiamine, niacin, and ten percent alcohol), even face masks proved ineffective. Swamp Fever and Chill Tonic was manufactured by Morris-Merton Drug in Fort Smith and ran daily advertisements, some in the form of news articles, in the *Southwest American* for the duration of the epidemic. A Morris-Merton Drug Company sign can be seen on a building across Rogers Avenue from the Fort Smith Museum of History.<sup>30</sup>

One thing did work; but it was in the realm of public health, not private practice: quarantine. The Arkansas State

Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Booneville was placed under strict quarantine, closing its doors to everyone and prohibiting all physical contact with the outside world. There were no cases of influenza in the sanatorium.<sup>31</sup>

Of course, this wasn't the last pandemic that the world will ever see. Will we be better prepared to deal with the next one? Probably not.

The consensus is that the need for vaccines, medicines such as Tamiflu, hospital beds, ICU beds and ventilators would swamp the available resources. Ideally, a vaccine could be prepared for whatever new and lethal mutation of the virus may appear, but it will take significant improvement in vaccine preparation and production methods to provide adequate supplies in time to combat an infection that would spread so quickly in our interconnected world. It is hoped that a universal vaccine to influenza can be developed; but until such scientific and technologic improvements appear, we would do well to remember one lesson from 1918: complete quarantine works—but you can't wait too long to get started.

For whatever reason, nobody talked much about the 1918 flu pandemic for a long time. Kim Allen Scott, in his

review published in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* in 1988, attributed this comment to H. L. Mencken, the Baltimore journalist and (sometimes cynical) cultural critic:

The epidemic is seldom mentioned, and most Americans have apparently forgotten it. This is not surprising. The human mind always tries to expunge the intolerable from memory, just as it tries to conceal it while current.

A few other major events of the time occupy this same black hole in our collective awareness. People in Tulsa are only now beginning to recognize what is now known as the Tulsa race massacre of 1921, which claimed some 100-130 African-American lives.<sup>32</sup> And in south Arkansas, nobody knew anything, until recent years, about the Elaine race massacre of 1919 that claimed an estimated 100-237 African-American lives.<sup>33</sup> I grew up in the area and may have heard a hint of it but nothing was acknowledged. A friend of mine who grew up in Helena (twenty-five miles north of Elaine) in the 1940s told me a few years ago that she had never heard of it.

Influenza had nothing to do with race; who knows why such stories aren't told?

World War II had its own story that could not be told for decades: the Holocaust. It takes a few decades. It may take two or three generations. In the thick of battle soldiers keep their heads down and are too busy fighting to stop and reflect about it too much. When they come home, few of them are ready to sit down and give a blow-by-blow report of the fighting to those at home. That may come later—a lot later, usually.

Mankind cannot bear very much reality. It takes a while.



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*major role in gaining support for construction of up-to-date facilities at Methodist Village.*

### End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> *Southwest American*, October 10, 1918; November 2, 1918; *Arkansas Gazette*, November 2, 1918 (provided by Dr. Joseph H. Bates, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences).
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2401>, accessed April 30, 2019.
- <sup>3</sup> [https://www.encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/war\\_losses\\_usa](https://www.encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/war_losses_usa), accessed April 30, 2019.
- <sup>4</sup> <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/1918-flu-pandemic>,

accessed April 30, 2019.

- <sup>5</sup> J. Fred Patton, *The History of Fort Smith 1817 through 2013* (Prestige Press, Seventh Edition), 2014), 427.
- <sup>6</sup> K. A. Scott, "Plague on the Homefront: Arkansas and the Great Influenza Epidemic of 1918," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 47 no. 4 (Winter 1988): 311-344.
- <sup>7</sup> John M. Barry, *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in Human History* (New York: Viking Press, 2004), 216-217.
- <sup>8</sup> N. Hendricks, *To Can the Kaiser: Arkansas and the Great War* (Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2015), 137.
- <sup>9</sup> Jack Schnedler, "Death gripped: The other great war in 1918—against influenza—killed millions globally and thousands locally," *Arkansas Gazette*, September 24, 2018.
- <sup>10</sup> Scott, 321.
- <sup>11</sup> Scott, 317.
- <sup>12</sup> *Southwest American*, October 9, 1918
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, October 8, 1918.
- <sup>14</sup> Barry, pp. 320, 351. 242, 187-188.
- <sup>15</sup> *Southwest American*, October, 1918.
- <sup>16</sup> *Arkansas Gazette*, October 16, 1918: "19 DIE OF INFLUENZA: Cases at Fort Smith Decrease and Situation is Improved," *Arkansas Gazette*, October 18, 1918.
- <sup>17</sup> Personal communications, Matthew Hicks, Sebastian County Health Unit Administrator, February 13, 2019; Dr. Dirk Haselow, State Epidemiologist, Arkansas Department of Health, February 14, 2019.
- <sup>18</sup> Scott, 320.
- <sup>19</sup> *Southwest American*, October 20, 1918
- <sup>20</sup> Mike Dewitt, personal communication, March 17, 2019
- <sup>21</sup> Amelia Martin, *Physicians and Medicine: Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas 1817-1976* (Fort Smith, published by Sebastian County Medical Society, 1977), 61.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 635.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 502.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 444.
- <sup>25</sup> Carolyn Gray LeMaster, *A Corner Of The Tapestry: A History Of The Jewish Experience In Arkansas, 1820s-1990s* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 217.
- <sup>26</sup> <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1688>, accessed March 16, 2019
- <sup>27</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/influenza-victor-vaughan/> Accessed March 16, 2019
- <sup>28</sup> Barry, 391-392.
- <sup>29</sup> Scott, 332.
- <sup>30</sup> <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMN7WW> Morris Morton Drug Co. Fort Smith, AR, accessed April 30, 2019.
- <sup>31</sup> Scott, 337.
- <sup>32</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulsa\\_race\\_riot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulsa_race_riot), accessed March 16, 2019.
- <sup>33</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elaine\\_race\\_riot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elaine_race_riot), accessed March 16, 2019.

# Fort Smith Photo Album Mystery

## *A Window into Fort Smith History*

By Brian Cotner

**M**y passion for old photographs began when our family album was destroyed. If you're lucky, you may have an antique album like the one we used to have—a plain, sturdy book with a wood and leather cover, filled with long narrow black pages full of precious family memories, pasted in place or secured with little photo corners. I remember looking at ours as a child, but I forgot about it when I got older, and did not think of it again for years, until my Grandpa Aaron passed away.

There is an old saying: “When an old person dies, a library burns to the ground.” I have always had a passing interest in my family history, but with the death of my last surviving grandparent, I began to reflect on all the questions I might have asked him, and never could. My passing interest became a bit of an obsession as I began to research my family history in earnest.

I learned that I had a great-aunt in Carlsbad, ninety-eight years old and still sharp as a tack, but her health was failing. I had planned to visit her and bring along our family album so she could share her memories with me before she died. The time came for my trip, but when I went to fetch the album, I found that it was gone, and had been gone for years. It had been left in a shed “temporarily” during a family move. Water had gotten to it, turned it to mush, and the mush had hardened into a brick. Very few photographs could be salvaged.

As you can imagine, I was crushed. In fact, I was very depressed about it for a while, but instead of giving in to despair, I became a detective. I redoubled my efforts at tracing my family history.

While most of my ancestry is rooted in Sebastian County (my ancestor Jacob Cotner settled here before the Civil War), I was surprised to learn that a significant branch had settled around Clarksville in Johnson County.

So, about a year ago I paid my first visit to the Johnson County Historical Society (my first visit to any historical society!) and was amazed to find a treasure trove of information about my family there.

In my excitement, I found myself rummaging through files and boxes that had no obvious connection to my research, until I came to a box that simply said



MINTA

“Unidentified Family Album.” Could it belong to my family? Could it be that easy?

I opened the box and was amazed to discover a beautiful old Victorian photo album. I had never seen anything like it. This was older and richer than the black paper photo albums I was familiar with. It had a worn velvet cover with wooden filigree, metal hinges and a lock. The pages had windows and slots cut in them, so that antique portraits could be secured without glue or tabs. And such portraits! The very first picture was a stately old gentleman in a priest's miter and a clerical collar, and then there were cherubic children in costume, elegant ladies in elaborate gowns and coiffures, and young dandies with top hats, silk cravats and jeweled pins.

I was enchanted by the old book, but I knew right away that these were not my people. My ancestors lived in log cabins and wore work boots and suspenders. I put the album back in the box and closed the lid, but I kept thinking about that book and the people in it.

Months went by, and I couldn't stop thinking about that



book. I couldn't shake the notion that each of these photos represented a lost memory, and somewhere, somebody might be looking for pictures of their ancestors, just like me. I went back to have another look. I was determined to figure out who those elegant people were, and if possible, reunite them with their family. So, with the permission of the Historical Society, I began to analyze the album and the photos within. Using gloves and surgical instruments, I carefully removed the photos from the crumbling book, examined them and photographed them.

### Photos and Photographers

The photos, as I learned, were of two types: small, plain "cartes de visite" (pronounced cart day vi ZEET, abbreviated CdV) and larger cabinet cards with colorful borders and studio names written in gold ink and elaborate cursive print. Since photo styles changed over the years, the card style could be used to date the photograph, and the photos in this album appeared to originate in the 1860s-1880s.

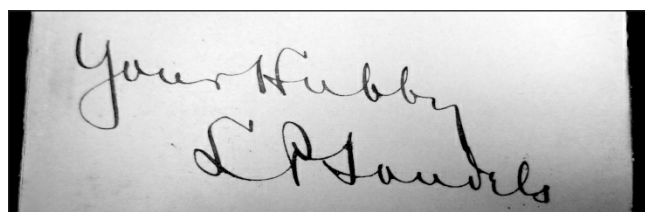
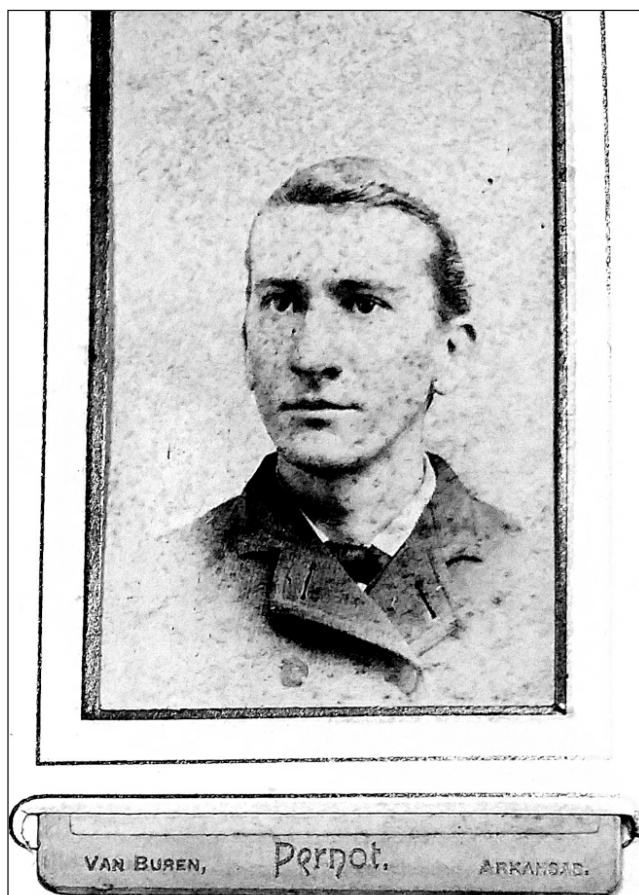
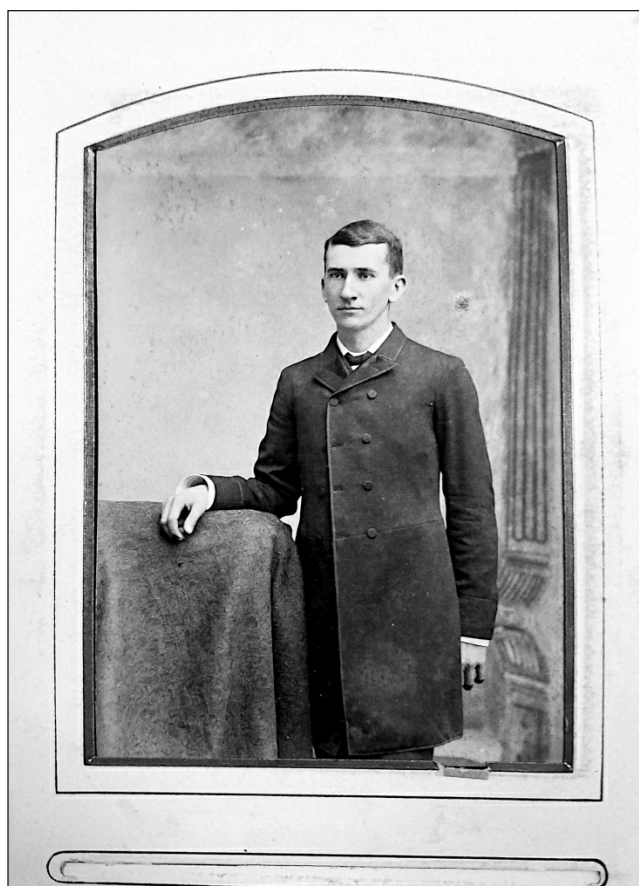
The photographers' names provided another clue. I was able to find a list of historic Arkansas photographers to see when their studios were active. Here are some of the names, and the dates when their businesses were active:

- ❖ J. P. Bergeron, Fort Smith, 1883-1884.
- ❖ John T. Clark, Van Buren, 1892-1900.
- ❖ C.C. Cook, Fort Smith, 1878-1907.
- ❖ Henry C. Pernot, Van Buren, 1884-1885.

Again, this confirmed that many of the photos dated to the 1880s.

Most exciting of all, I discovered that a few of the photos were autographed. One photo bore the name "Minta." Another was signed, "Lizzie Morris." Hours and hours of research revealed no significant leads. I either hit dead ends or found people who did not fit the profile. I found a girl named "Minta" who was the daughter of Judge Alfred Cope during the appropriate time period, but when I obtained photos of Judge Cope and his family, they did not seem to match the ones in the album.

The last two autographs turned out to be most significant, and they were found on two separate photos of an earnest-looking young man. One said, "Only A Preacher's Son." At this, my mind naturally turned to the aforementioned stately gentleman in the miter and collar. The other said, "Your Hubby, L. P. Sandels."

### Sandels Family History

This turned out to be the break I was looking for. The name L. P. Sandels meant nothing to me at the time, but I was soon to discover that the Sandels family were leading citizens of Fort Smith during the days of Judge Parker's court, and onward, and though their name has now nearly passed from memory, their contributions to Fort Smith history and society were quite significant.

I began researching Mr. Sandels' history, online and through state resources, in hopes that I might find pictures of him and his family members and connect them to the other photos in the album. Here is what I found:

Leonidas Polk "Lee" Sandels was born in Fort Smith on June 20, 1861, the youngest of six siblings. He was indeed "A Preacher's Son," born to Reverend John Sandels, a Fort Smith minister. Lee studied law as a young man, and became one of the most prominent attorneys in Fort Smith during his day, perhaps only exceeded by his brother, Mont Sandels. Lee served in Judge Isaac Parker's court and was personally chosen by Governor William Meade Fishback to create a compendium of all the legal statutes of Arkansas. He worked at this task until his untimely death at age thirty-two, and the work was published posthumously as "Sandels & Hill's Digest." The cause of death was "consumption," what we now know as tuberculosis. Although he autographed one of the photographs as "Hubby," there is no evidence that he ever married and he left no descendants. He is buried in Oak Cemetery.

Lee's father, Reverend John Sandels (1810-1874) was born in Ireland, graduated from Trinity College in Dublin, taught ancient languages at Kenyon College in Ohio and then entered the ministry and moved to Tennessee, where he met his wife, Catherine Hines. While serving as a minister there, he made the acquaintance of the Reverend Leonidas Polk, the famed "Fighting Bishop" who resigned from the Episcopal Diocese to command troops in the Confederate army. They worked together in founding the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. It was he who lent his name to Lee Sandels.

John moved to Fort Smith in 1859, where he became the first rector of St. John's Episcopal Church. When the Civil War broke out, Reverend Sandels followed the example of Reverend Polk and became a Confederate chaplain. John suffered from poor health after the war, but continued to serve as a pastor in Camden, Arkansas, and Natchitoches, Louisiana, until his health failed, and he returned to Fort Smith where he died. He is also buried in Oak Cemetery with many of his family members.

Lee's brother, Montillus Hines "Mont" Sandels, was probably the most famous member of the family. He was born in Maury County, Tennessee, in 1851, but moved to Fort Smith at the age of eight. He was home-schooled by



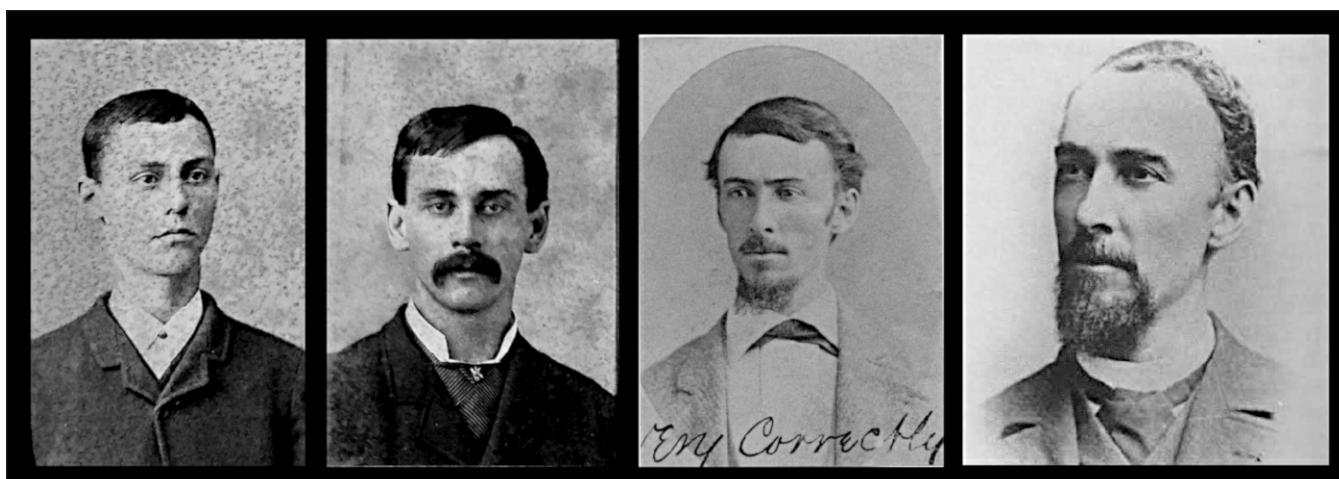
**REVEREND JOHN SANDELS**

his father and was actually the first of the family to study law, being Lee's older brother. He married Bettie Bliss Johnson, daughter of Charles Buck and Margaret Amanda (Rector) Johnson. He was widely acclaimed as a bright, personable and highly ethical young man and ascended quickly in his occupation. He was elected mayor of Fort Smith in 1876. He later became U.S. attorney for the Western District of Arkansas, assistant district attorney to Judge Isaac Parker, and finally associate justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas. Sadly, his life was also cut short by "consumption" and he died in Fort Smith in 1890, at the age of thirty-nine. His death was greatly mourned throughout the state. Courts closed to honor his memory. A township was named after him. His descendants have also played a significant part in Fort Smith history through the Echols, Sparks and Cravens families.

Lee's oldest brother, Matthew T. Sandels (1844-1863), was a sergeant in the Confederate Army. He served in Griffith's Consolidated Infantry out of Fort Smith. Evidence suggests he died in the war at the age of nineteen. His cause of death and place of burial cannot be found.

Lee's oldest sister, Lucilla "Lula" Greenfield Sandels (1847-1904) was the wife of Colonel Johnathan Caldwell "John" Wheeler (C.S.A.). Col. Wheeler was publisher of the *Wheeler's Independent*, an early Fort Smith newspaper, son of John Foster Wheeler, and nephew of General Stand Watie, the famous Native American Civil War officer. Lula





### MONT SANDELS COMPARISON.

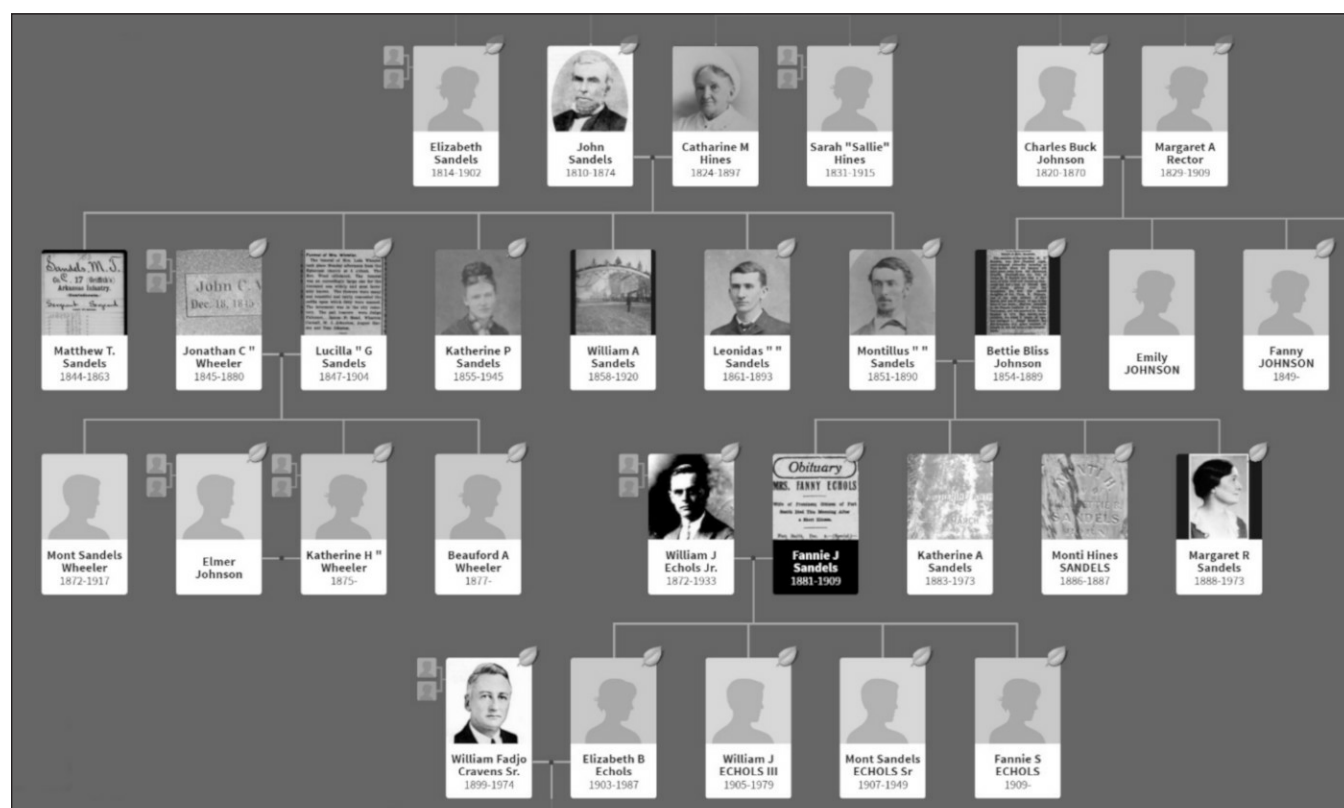
*Photos 1 and 2 from left are from the photo album. The next two are from other sources.*

was active in Fort Smith society and was greatly honored at her death. Mayor Bill Johnston was a pallbearer at her funeral.

Lee's other sister, Katharine "Kate" Phoebe Sandels (1855-1945) was a socialite and civic leader in Fort Smith. She never married, but attended to her father and brothers in their ill health, and looked after Mont's daughters after he died. She was also very active in Fort Smith society,

leading everything from blood drives to local theater, and she was instrumental in founding Fort Smith's public library.

William A. Sandels (b. 1858) is the most obscure of Lee's siblings. He moved from Fort Smith to Leadville, Colorado, when he was a young man, worked as a teamster in the Colorado silver mines for years, then in later life returned home to Arkansas to mine zinc in Marion County.



### SANDELS FAMILY TREE



## Unidentified People In the Old Photo Album



His cause of death and place of burial cannot be found.

### Photographic Confirmation

Internet research and inquiries at the Pebley Center and various state agencies produced only a few photographs of the Sandels family, but it was enough. Several photos of Reverend John Sandels were unearthed. Age and illness had altered him, but his stern visage and bushy eyebrows matched the photo of the mitred cleric in the album. Likewise, photos of Mont Sandels in later years seemed to

match a young man in the album, with the same high forehead, almond eyes, delicately sculpted nostrils, long neck and sloped shoulders.

### Provenance and a New Mystery

At this point, I met with officials with the Johnson County Historical Society and presented them with my findings. I had attempted to contact descendants of the Sandels family to reunite them with the album, with little to no success, but the Fort Smith Museum of History had

expressed definite interest in the album. The folks from Johnson County agreed with my conclusions and felt that the album belonged in Sebastian County...if the owner of the album would give us permission.

I was a little bit shocked. I should have inquired about the provenance of the album at the outset of my investigation, but in fact I had never considered the possibility that the "Unidentified Album" might actually belong to someone! I got the contact information for the owner, Mrs. Barbara Wilson. I called her and she told me a very interesting story.

### **Nursemaid and Chauffeur**

It turns out that the album had belonged to Barbara's mother, Eleonora Steuber. When Eleonora was a young girl, she lost her parents, and spent her childhood living with relatives, in a German-speaking home, working on a farm in Johnson County. As a teenager, she was forced to strike out on her own. She sold a cow that she owned and moved to Fort Smith. There she had made the acquaintance of a woman named Mrs. Johnston. Mrs. Johnston hired Eleonora as a nursemaid and a chauffeur. The two of them took long automobile trips together. Eleonora once drove Mrs. Johnston all the way to Los Angeles by car in the early 1920s. At Mrs. Johnston's urging, Eleonora attended Draughan's Business School, and then she married and moved back to Johnson County. The album had come to Eleonora from Mrs. Johnston. But who was she, and how did she come to have the photo album to begin with?

Barbara and I began to look through her mother's correspondence and matched them with old census information and phone directories. We deduced that Eleonora had been the nursemaid and chauffeur of Mrs. Mary Bates Bourne Johnston (1856-1930). Mary, also known as "Mamie," was the wife of William Joseph "Bill" Johnston (1851-1922), who was mayor of Fort Smith, and evidently a very close friend and fan of Mont Sandels. It was Mayor Johnston who had named Mont Sandels Township, and he had even named his youngest son Mont Sandels Johnston.

It is still not clear how the Johnston family obtained this photo album, or how it came to belong to Eleonora Steuber. Many historical photos were found of the Johnston's, but none of them matched the photos in the album. However, this link to Mayor Bill Johnston further strengthened the connection of the album to Sebastian County, and Barbara felt that the album should be donated to the Fort Smith Museum of History, which is where it resides today.

### **Mysteries Remain**

There are still many mysteries to be solved! Besides the details of provenance, there are many photos in the

album which have not yet been identified. I suspect there could be other significant figures in Fort Smith history there. Whose "hubby" was L. P. Sandels?

Who are these lovely children? I would love to learn who all these elegant, fascinating people were, and how they were all connected.

Researching this photo album has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. However, I feel that I have gone about as far with my research into the album as I can go.

I am hopeful that others may pick up where I left off. If so, I hope they will share their discoveries with the rest of us!

*Special thanks to Caroline Speir, Shelley Blanton, Joe Wasson, Michael Smith, Barbara Wilson, and the Johnson County Historical Society.*



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*in Clarksville. His family has lived in Sebastian County since before the Civil War. He hopes you will write names on the back of your photos and keep them in a clean dry place.*

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# Town at the Crossroads

## *Fort Smith During the U.S. Civil War*

**By Buck Foster**

In 1817, Major William Bradford and Company A of the U.S. Rifle Regiment established Fort Smith at the junction of the Poteau and Arkansas Rivers on the present Arkansas-Oklahoma border. It was built to protect American interests in the Southwest and contain the war between the Osage and the Cherokee Indians. Later, other forts appeared that linked up with Fort Smith in communication and supply lines—Fort Gibson and Fort Towson (1824) in the Indian Territory and Fort Scott in Kansas (1842).

In the decade preceding the Civil War, Fort Smith was an important base of operations and outfitting point for several government surveys, served as a gathering point for departure to the California's gold fields, and troops who patrolled the Indian territories. In 1860, the city of Fort Smith had a population of about 2,500. Greenwood and the rest of south Sebastian County had about 10,000 people. Several businesses, from blacksmiths to hotels and eateries, lined the main road, Garrison.

Visitors during the war indicated that Fort Smith was "beautifully located" and a "very pretty place. There are several churches in the place. Shade trees along the street, besides barracks and buildings in the garrison. There are a great number of government buildings and the quarters are substantial buildings of brick and the outworks of stone. It has been a place of great wealth and much refinement." One of the most significant roads in Fort Smith was Fort Towson Trail, better known as the Texas Road because of its final Southern destination. Texas Corner at the east end of Garrison Avenue was the beginning of a long trail to Fort Towson in Indian Territory and the much longer trail to Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Texas Road would be a road traveled heavily for those fleeing to and coming from Texas during the Civil War.

After the firing on Fort Sumter, Arkansas Governor Henry Rector called for 5,000 volunteers. Former U.S. Senator Solon Borland took 300 men and eight artillery pieces aboard two steamboats and headed to Fort Smith to seize the fort.

The War Department in Washington had previously decided to abandon Fort Smith if Arkansas decided to secede, but the secession vote had not happened. When the news reached Fort Smith of the possible abandonment,

concerned citizens held a meeting in February to voice their disapproval and asked for a suspension of this decision. They had, after all, voted to send Union men Samuel L. Griffith, a prominent Fort Smith merchant, and William Fishback, then a Greenwood lawyer, to the Arkansas Secession convention to be held in March as delegates. "The late decision of the people at the ballot box has proved beyond question the almost unanimous voice in the counties adjoining Fort Smith for the Union as against violence, mob law and secession."

But Fort Smith post commander Captain Samuel D. Sturgis felt that pro-Union sentiment that seemed plentiful in the city would not be enough to stop Confederates from taking his fort. In the state capital, Confederate sympathizers had seized the Little Rock arsenal. To the west, the Choctaw Nation had voted to support the Confederate cause with men and horses.

Captain Sturgis, hearing that the pro-Confederate state militia had arrived at Van Buren, five miles distant, considered his position unsound. Besides having to battle Borland's larger force with his two companies, Sturgis reported that he considered the "entire population of the surrounding country...ready at a moment's warning, to take up arms and resistance could result only in his men's capture and the loss to the government of all the arms, horses, means of transportation...at the post."

So, on April 23, Sturgis and his two companies of the 1st U.S. Cavalry abandoned Fort Smith taking with them all the public property they could load.

The state troops marched into Fort Smith taking it without firing a shot. Shortly after, pro-Confederate residents gave a "secessionist" ball honoring the Honorable Robert W. Johnson, an Arkansas representative to the Confederate Congress. Fort Smith citizens sympathetic to the Confederate cause flooded to the event to show their support. Men in dress clothes and women in hooped skirts danced well into the night.

Arkansas did secede on May 6, 1861, in the second convention vote after Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for troops from loyal states to put down a rebellion. Through June and July, at least seven companies were raised in this area for the Confederate cause, the most familiar being



J.H. Sparks' Fort Smith Rifles and Captain Hurtzig's Belle Pointe Guards, the latter composed almost entirely of German immigrants to western Arkansas.

Women contributed to the war effort setting up sewing societies in various churches like the old Harrell Methodist Church on North Fifth Street where they fashioned uniforms, socks, coats, blankets, and all sort of textiles for the Confederate troops.

Mrs. Mary Rutherford Cravens plied her needle for the soldiers' needs and presented a flag to the 1st Fort Smith Rifle Corps. Salina Rhyne Harper prided herself with her skill in cutting buttonholes. Sophia Kannady recalled making "pants, tents, wagon sheets, haversacks...and at night we would knit socks...we would scrape lint to make bandages for the wounded. Many women worked in their homes making cartridges"

Not all Fort Smith women took part in these endeavors, possibly because they were less than enthusiastic about the war and the Confederate cause. An anonymous letter to the editor of the Fort Smith *Times Herald* complained that some of the people of Fort Smith were not doing their part (for the Confederacy). "A majority of ladies who have taken the most interest are those who can ill afford to spare their time, needing it for their own support, while there are others who are very enthusiastic in the taking time, and whose time is all their own, who seldom if ever seem at the place of meeting. Now, I simply ask, ought this to be so?"

Besides moving materials to support the troops, Fort Smith women served needs at General Hospital and provided supplies for the sick soldiers. Kirk Espy, surgeon for the Louisiana regiment located in Fort Smith in the summer of 1861, wrote an open letter to "the ladies of Fort Smith" thanking them for their kindness and attention to the sick soldiers.

Some Fort Smith women went further, risking arrest and imprisonment. In her voluminous hoopskirt, Sarah Jane Parke smuggled food and supplies to Confederate forces through federal checkpoints

Danger to the city's populace came not only from Union soldiers but from Southern troops as well. Confederate Gen. McCulloch issued General Order No. 5 on June 17, 1861, ordering his men to stop "committing depredations (sic) as the stocks of private citizens near this post and to cease insulting unoffending women. He called upon his officers to end these "outrages" immediately.

The *Times Herald* fired back against complaints declaring that the "southern soldier is brave and noble hearted" and that "our ladies can walk the streets in perfect security and without fear of insult. Never was our little city so quiet by night or day."

Possibly, it was not the "Southern Ladies" that these soldiers were "offending?" The *Times Herald* on July 18

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*"A majority of ladies who have taken the most interest are those who can ill afford to spare their time, needing it for their own support, while there are others who are very enthusiastic in the taking time, and whose time is all their own, who seldom if ever seem at the place of meeting. Now, I simply ask, ought this to be so?"*

— Letter to the Editor  
in the *Fort Smith Times Herald* during Civil War

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reported angrily that "Complaints are made to us frequently about the abolition sentiments of some new in this this country. It is time for these traitors to be stopped in their course. If they hold such sentiments, the people ought to make them leave or fix them so they cannot give aid and comfort to the enemy."

How many "abolitionists" compared to loyal Confederates in Fort Smith and western Arkansas, we will never know. What was evident from the start was there were few staunch supporters of the Confederate cause and more whose support was short lived.

On July 26, 1861, two volunteer companies of Confederate soldiers disbanded in Fort Smith and went home. In August, after participating in the Battle of Wilson's Creek (near Springfield, Missouri) the Belle Pointe Guards disbanded. Some people blamed it on the lack of discipline among the farm boys. Most of the Guards simply went home. Some joined regular Confederate units and others became involved in irregular outfits forming up across the countryside.

As early as July 1861, reports of partisan groups circulated around the fort. At the county line, Major W. T. Bourne and Mr. S. B. Bennett found a man hanging in a tree with one leg cut off at the knee and a black handkerchief over his face. No one questioned in the area appeared to know anything about it.

One Confederate private of the garrison was fearful for the townspeople. "The want of a proper militia organization is a fact and the parties who ridiculed the idea of such an organization are likely to pay the penalty." Even at that, John King declared that if the federals took Fort Smith that he would have to "go to the brush anyway."

In March 1862, Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis (USA) defeated Major Gen. Earl Van Dorn (CSA) at Pea Ridge,

Arkansas, solidifying control of Missouri for the Union and laying groundwork for a federal move toward Fort Smith and Indian Territory.

By August 1862, the countryside around Fort Smith had been almost exhausted of subsistence and forage and sections to the north were being "overrun by marauding parties of jayhawkers, Tories, and hostile Indians, and was fast becoming depopulated." An aftereffect of Pea Ridge, no doubt.

By October 1862, the federals were in control of much of the Indian Territory with the capture of Fort Gibson and the fort would continue to be headquarters for Union troops until the end of the war.

Around the same time, Confederate officers in Fort Smith faced a growing problem. Unless large quantities of corn were shipped in, it would not be possible to continue to feed the thousands of animals. By December, there was no forage and few rations stored in the Fort Smith and Van Buren magazines.

Major Gen. Thomas Hindman, transferred to the west to reconstitute Arkansas' Confederate armies after Pea Ridge, decided to take his men north to drive the federals out of northern Arkansas and regain the way to Missouri. If he sat in Fort Smith, his horses might starve. Hindman's army was defeated at the Battle of Prairie Grove on December 7, 1862. This opened the way for the federals to take Fort Smith as the Confederates never again had a large force stationed there.

Union Gen. James Blunt and his Army of the Frontier entered Fort Smith on September 1, 1863, with no resistance. The Confederates force under Gen. James Cabell had abandoned the fort the day before. The federals were now in control of Fort Smith and would maintain that control for the remainder of the war. The Stars and Stripes were raised on the parade ground flagstaff for the first time since April 23, 1861.

Great jubilation filled the streets. Fort Smith Union citizens welcomed the blue uniformed soldiers and the return of "the glorious emblem of Freedom, Humanity, and Justice proudly floating from the flagstaff, where but yesterday was disgraced by the display of the ensign of foul treason." Nine days later, Major Gen. Frederick Steele captured Little Rock for the Union.

Three things immediately came to the forefront: The first was a mass meeting of Unionists from twenty Arkansas counties with intention to bring the state back into the Union; The second was realization there was no supplies nor economy in Fort Smith. Commerce had essentially stopped under Confederate occupation as supply routes were cut and material became scarce. Many businesses closed and people had left. Some fled when Confederates took the fort and now some, like Sophia

Kannady and husband Jerre and Salina Rhyne Harper, became refugees because they hated and feared the Federals; The third thing was the influx of new people. Many more people would come into Fort Smith than would leave it. "Mountain Federals," those men who hid in the mountains rather than be conscripted into Confederate service, came pouring in. There were men who were conscripted but managed to desert the Rebel army and get to the fort. A newspaper reported that "Contrabands are flooding to Fort Smith."

Despite all the lack of supplies and the movement of people, they had to celebrate. Kansan of the 12th Infantry Regiment (USA) Henry A. Strong recorded in his diary that he had attended "An Arkansas dance. A Real HO DOWN. Had a young lady to ask me for a chaw of tobacco."

A moment of levity perhaps, but following months proved difficult for Fort Smith. Soldiers and civilian alike suffered from a lack of food. John A. Mitchell, private in the 18th Iowa wrote his parents on February 21, 1864, "Times is hard as usual. We still live on half rations here and not much likely to be better without the river get up some."

The Arkansas River around Fort Smith was wide, but notoriously shallow. The channel, outside of spring rains and winter thaws could drop to three or four feet, making it impossible to ship supplies via steamboat.

It became so bad that the officers suspended work on the fortifications because rations were so scarce. "Been nothing scarcely to eat. Here there are many refugees it takes most all of the rations for them and the bigger portion of them are negro....a negro is much better thaut of down here than a white soldier among the shoder straps" complained one private.

The Arkansas, depending on the rainfall, could rise and fall in a matter of hours. Sporadically, a steamboat or two made a successful trip to Fort Smith from Little Rock, but not enough to fulfill the never-ending need for more food, "there have ben two [boats] up here but what they broat want hardly a drop in the bucket for there are so many eaters here."

Some men threatened to quit doing guard duty unless they receive more rations.

Prices rose as the supply dried up to nothing. Items like soda, apples, butter, eggs, watermelons, papers, envelopes, and ink soared to several times their pre-war price. A lack of payroll, sometimes going six months, meant enlisted men could not afford to buy food even if available and the refugees rarely, if ever, had money.

Foraging parties left the fort daily. These men cut wood, gathered hay, grain, and searched for foodstuffs. With the scattering of men from battles like Pea Ridge, the desertion of men from the ousted of Rebel force, the lack of food in

the surrounding area, and the Confederate support of many people in the Arkansas River Valley, the number of irregular troops increased around Fort Smith significantly from late 1863 to the end of the war. Refugees increased as the violence amplified.

Each month seemed to bring another report.

- ❖ January 25, 1864—a forage train attacked by bushwhackers—one killed and four wounded.

- ❖ February 17, 1864—Guerrillas robbed a house of the other side of the river last night.

- ❖ May 20, 1864—two men of the 2nd Kansas Colored were killed by guerrillas—they shot a citizen who was coming in with us and shot his two yoke of cattle only a few miles from town and was only a half mile in rear of command—they hung several Union citizens between here and Dardanelle.

- ❖ On August 6, 1864, four bushwhackers—A. J. Copeland, James Rowton, John Norwood, and William W. Carey were convicted of killing Union man John Brown and eight soldiers of the 1st Arkansas Cavalry. They were executed by firing squad.

- ❖ August 23, 1864—the Indians attacked the 11th colored. They were guarding a herd and making way up...was nine miles and some 15 or 16 wounded.

- ❖ Henry A. Strong reported that on “December 16, 1864, a dispatch bearer supposed to have been killed near [here] yesterday as he was captured by some rebs. We passed a grave today of one the 2nd Ark Cavalry who was killed by bushwhackers. His body was scarcely covered, head and feet in sight.”

John Reed of the 18th Iowa Voluntary Infantry made a prediction after hearing that two more men were killed by guerrillas, “these gorillas are going to be a scourge to our country for years to come.”

While guerrillas tore apart the countryside, people fleeing from across the southwest continued to reach Fort Smith. A few passed on through headed to Kansas, or Missouri or Texas. Others, without money or provisions, remained with the hope that the government could help.

When the federals took control in September 1863, post chaplain Rev. Francis Springer took charge of the war refugees. There were thousands, he said, mostly widows, children, and contrabands. He immediately went to work trying to raise money and obtain supplies, especially calling on his home state of Illinois.

By August 1864, it was clear that there were just too many people to feed. A plan developed to send the masses out of Fort Smith. On August 8, a wagon train of 1,500 headed out of the Arkansas River valley toward Kansas. In mid-October, a wagon train of Union refugees from Texas arrived in Fort Smith and were pushed on toward Kansas.

By winter 1864, the desperate situation grew even more

grave. The low water levels of the Arkansas stopped all supply boats. Those crops that were planted stood un-gathered for fear of guerrilla attacks or lack of manpower. Thousands of animals had perished in trying to supply the western posts via wagon trains from Fort Scott. It took 200 wagons to match the cargo carried by one steamboat. Supplies had to be shared with Fort Gibson, it too in terrible shape.

John Reed wrote his father in December, “and now I must tell you that times are about as hard as ever.” Smallpox had arrived, probably with the refugees, and he was “almost barefoot.”

Five supply boats reached Fort Smith from Little Rock on December 22 and upon unloading took on 478 refugees. They were sent to Cairo and Springfield, Illinois, (Thanks to Reverend Springer). A witness in Springfield recalled their arrival. Most of the people were helpless women and children who were “poorly clad, some barefoot, many without a change of clothes, few enjoying robust health” and about sixty on sick call.

In January 1865, four supply boats arrived and took refugees on. On the return trip, one of the steamers, the *Chippewa* came under Confederate fire from the bank. Some of the women and children panicked and jumped overboard. All drowned.

At a public meeting on February 9, 1865, Fort Smith citizens composed a petition to President Abraham Lincoln, stating 2,000 loyal and destitute people needed assistance and protection from guerrillas. They wanted to band together and protect one another in order to plant crops. Some would stand guard while the others would farm.

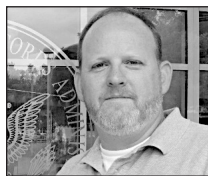
Instead, the post commander ordered all persons who could not take care of themselves out of Fort Smith. He found 5,000 people who needed assistance. “To me the wants of these people and to ensure supplies to our troops, at least 2,000,000 rations are required here.”

In late January 1865, the *Fort Smith New Era* reported that the town of Fort Smith was pitiful to see. Fences, fruit trees, and shrubbery had been destroyed or torn down. Much of the damage, it reported, was done by the families coming in from the country for protection at the garrison and staying in houses vacated by owners.

The geographical location of Fort Smith seemingly readily accessible by river and military road and an east-west, north-south crossroads became a puzzle during the Civil War. So many destitute families reached it, but supply trains and boats never seemed to arrive in adequate numbers. The fort/city sat at the foot of the Unionist hills to the north and the head of the Confederate-leaning Arkansas River valley. It was on the eastern edge of the Southern-pledged Indian Territory. It was in wagon distance of Union-held Kansas. It was a magnet that drew both the



innocent and the violent. The massive influx of refugees, heavy guerrilla activity, a prolonged lack of supplies, and the populace split over sides in the war made the city's experience unique and historically significant during the Civil War.



*Dr. Buck T. Foster teaches history and is currently researching the end of market hunting and the rise of the sportsman in Arkansas. He lives in Clarksville with his wife, Holly, youngest daughter Lily, and his black*

*Labrador retriever, Cooper. Foster anticipates the day that temperatures drop, the leaves fall, and the ducks migrate.*

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FALCON

# Nearing Mars

By Douglas Kelley

I will talk of things heavenly, or things earthly; things moral, or things evangelical; things sacred, or things profane; things past, or things to come; things foreign, or things at home; things more essential, or things circumstantial.

—John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*

**F**lying is a lot like baseball. When played to perfection, nothing happens. Three up, three down, for nine innings. Twenty-seven batters, twenty-seven outs.

One takeoff, one landing. During the time in between, the passengers hardly notice they are in the air.

Perfect game. Perfect flight.

It is one of those picture-perfect, postcard kind of mornings as I roll the Falcon business jet onto the runway. The gray concrete, a 150 feet wide and a mile and a half long, either side of its white centerline stripe marked with the rubber residue of countless landings, stretches out before the windshield. Two thousand feet down the

runway, a yellow airport pickup truck pulls off into the green grass bordering the pavement, the driver's early morning check of the runway interrupted by our departure.

"Use caution," the tower controller says, "for the vehicle on the left side of the runway. Turn right on course, cleared for takeoff."

My co-pilot, in the seat to my right, acknowledges the clearance and reaches up to the overhead panel to move the final switches--pitot heats, windshield heat, ignitions, landing lights. A last glance around the panel, then, "All set."

At that moment the sun begins its appearance for the day, its top limb crowning from within the eastern horizon, red in the filtering haze of the atmosphere.

The Beatles song comes to mind.

"Here Comes the Sun," I say, only half in tune.

My feet on top of the rudder pedals, holding the toe brakes, I advance the two power levers about half way. A slight lag, and then, catching up with the command, the engines roar, the pointers of their gauges swinging swiftly

around their dials in response. Still pressing on the brakes, feeling the pent-up energy through the airframe, I say, "How's it look?"

"Looks good."

"Here we go, then," I say, pushing the power levers full forward to the end of their travel. Nearly simultaneously, I slip my feet down off the brakes.

The reaction is immediate, 5,700 pounds of thrust per engine starting the airplane forward, and I feel the slight press back into my seat. Today the plane is heavy, with nearly full fuel and six passengers taking the weight to near the maximum for takeoff, so acceleration is not brisk. Some days, when the load is light, the takeoff was more like a launch.

Still, 32,000 pounds of airplane and payload quickly gather speed, and after just 1,000 feet of ground roll the airspeed indicator shows eighty knots. We pass the airport truck, parked well off in the grass. In my peripheral vision, I see the driver watching the takeoff from his seat in the cab.

A few seconds later, my copilot calls, "V-one."

V1. Decision speed. Until now, the takeoff could have been aborted, pulling the power back and stopping on the runway. From now on, regardless of almost any problem or malfunction, the decision will be to fly. I take my right hand from the power levers and move it toward the control yoke.

As I do, the co-pilot calls, "Rotate."

Both hands on the yoke now, I pull smoothly back. Through a series of cables, linkages, and hydraulics, the command is transmitted to the tail, moving the hinged elevator control surfaces, causing the passing airflow to push the tail down. In reaction, the nose of the airplane rotates up. So poised, the Falcon breaks free of the ground and leaps into the air. The runway falls away, soon to disappear below the nose of the plane. The green grass, too, and taxiways and hangars and the airline terminal.

The aircraft is no longer a thing of the earth.

"Gear up," I say.

The co-pilot moves the switch lever, its red knob shaped like a tire for clear identification. From somewhere below the floor come sounds of gear doors opening, of landing gear moving up out of the slipstream and into their wells, the movements confirmed by the familiar clunk of struts into up locks and the thump of doors closing.

Ahead, the sun is fully up, just then breaking its own bond with the earth, and already fading from red to burnt orange. I look at it briefly, pleased that today's flight is not toward the east. Before the warm orange changes to the bright, white-hot sun of summer, we will be making a turn to the west, putting the sun safely and comfortably at our backs.

Setting climb power, I say, "Flaps up," and the co-pilot moves another lever.

This time the movements are almost silent, the hydraulics back at work, moving the flaps and the wing slats into the retracted position. Unencumbered by the drag of gear, flaps, and slats, the airplane quickens its speed increase and altitude gain.

"Start your right turn when able," says the tower controller, "and contact departure."

The co-pilot responds, saying good day to the tower controller, and flips the switch to change to the frequency for the departure control.

"Passing 1,700 feet, climbing to 5,000," he says into his microphone.

"Roger," answers the departure controller. "You are cleared on course, climb and maintain one five thousand."

I am already in the turn, the plane seeming to follow my thoughts, the bank of the wings so smooth and natural. Sweeping through my field of view in the turn, the blue hills of western Arkansas float like islands in the mist of early morning valley fog, their eastern flanks bathed in the first sunlight of day. I imagine the controller at his station in the TRACON building at the base of the tower, a dark room lighted by glowing radar screens. He sees none of this, the poor unfortunate.

The Falcon climbs away from Earth, leaving the ground and all its earthly precepts behind. Below are the towns and roads and boundaries, the man-made things that become inconsequential and irrelevant in what is sometimes called the grand scheme of things.

The privilege of seeing the land from above, of seeing the air from within itself, never ceases to impress. To climb among the clouds invites poetry, but I am not a poet. I am a pilot. I am one who merely works among the clouds. The poetry is best left to others.

But that does not mean I do not feel the effects. Just as fishermen fish not only for the fish, but for the pleasure of sitting on still water, or a farmer knows the pleasure of holding a handful of good dirt, even the most inarticulate pilot knows the pleasures of the air. And I do know that.

I glance at my co-pilot and then back out through the windshield. The sun, now at our backs, is up high enough to cast its yellow light across the fields and buildings below. Long shadows of the taller structures and trees stretch across the ground, but are already shortening their reach before the rising day. I see cars and trucks on the highways, their drivers on the way to work. Not much more than an hour ago, I had been one of them. Above, the sky is a bright blue, cloudless.

"Beautiful day for an airplane ride."

"They all are," says the co-pilot.

I smile. I have often had the very same thought, that every day is a good day for an airplane ride, but it is not always expressed by others.



The pointer of the altimeter steadily moves around its numbered face, its altitude reporting the most recognizable clue of motion. Every forty seconds we are a thousand feet higher. For a few minutes, until the departure controller breaks the silence with the hand-off to the enroute controller, the cockpit is quiet, save for the faraway hum of the engines and faint sound of wind. From the passenger cabin, we hear snatches of conversation, talk of sports and news from the morning papers.

Beautiful day, indeed.

In two hours and fifty minutes we will be back on the ground, in San Diego. With the two-hour time difference, it will still be time for breakfast. Maybe have an omelet by the harbor, seafood for lunch.

Climbing westward, I settle into my seat. How in the world did I end up with such a job?

### **Watching the Sky**

A cloud does not know why it moves in just such a direction at just such a speed.

—Richard Bach

It begins through the eyes of children.

The first awareness of airplanes, almost always, is of looking up when they fly over, children with attention captured for a moment by the sound of engines in the sky, whether droning hum or roaring jets. Round faces upturned, splashed by the sun and filled with wonder.

And that is how it begins. Children at play look up into the sky and see an airplane. Often it is just a glance. Sometimes it is a longer, lingering look.

Frenetic play, running from one activity to the next, from playing ball or jumping rope to building forts—the bundle of energy that is a child does not often stop. But sometimes it does, maybe after spinning around and around, around and around, arms out, invoking the giddy sensation of dizziness, when the inner ear loses all control and children flop crazily to the ground, flat on their backs, lying still while the world spins around them.

The dizziness gradually ebbs away, but for just a few minutes, maybe longer, they stay on their backs, the green grass itching their bare arms, and they gaze up into the blue of the sky.

Like countless children before me, I played the childhood games, played swing the statue and red light, green light, spun in circles until we all fell down. I, too, lay in the grass in no particular hurry to get back up, in no particular hurry to stop looking into the sky. It gave me time to wonder, to form questions for which we children had no answers. Why did the wind blow, and from where did it start?

What caused clouds to form? What caused a clear sky,

in the space of half an hour, to fill with countless puffs of white, like clumps of cotton floating high overhead? What made the clouds take shapes as familiar as rabbits or bears or even palaces, shapes just waiting for our imaginations?

And why was it that on some days the sky was a pale blue, its color faded like an old woman's worn house dress, and on others it was as blue as the bluest blue imaginable, so deep I felt I could almost see into space.

Sometimes, as I lay in the grass with neighborhood kids splayed out all around, recovering from induced dizziness or just loafing, I saw, so high it was barely visible, an airplane. Like a silver swept-wing fly crawling across the perfect blue dome, the speck of an airliner moved silently on its way. If everyone was still and quiet, we might hear the jet engines, the sound traveling far behind the plane, the speed of sound far slower than the speed of sight.

Then there were the contrails, perfectly straight signatures of passage. Not every high flying airplane produced the fine white lines, and on some days there were more contrails than others, as if the conditions in the atmosphere had to be just right. Some were short; brief marks quickly fading away, leaving no evidence they had ever existed. Others stretched from horizon to horizon, long and lingering streaks marking the transit across the sky. The airplane itself was almost invisible, just a speck at the head of a contrail, like a comet riding its tail.

Sometimes we wondered aloud. "How high do you think they are?"

"No telling."

"Miles high, wouldn't you say?"

"I'd say."

We wondered, if the airplane was so tiny way up there, what the world looked like to the people in the plane, way down here.

In my case, it was more than an idle question. It was a curiosity that did not go away.

### **Watching the Planes**

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

—Mark Twain

"You can just stand by the wall, then."

I looked up at Mr. Hill, my fifth-grade teacher. He stood by his cluttered desk, watching the class stream out the door into the hall, heading toward the playground. The sentence was not unexpected.

"How long this time?"

"All week. Or until I get your homework."

Carnall Elementary, Fort Smith, Arkansas. Every hundred feet or so the bland light beige brick of the walls was interrupted by a brief section of glossy red or yellow

brick. Each of these spaces of color were eight or ten feet wide, and the back wall of the school, overlooking the playground, had about six of them, spaced just far enough to inhibit conversation. Any student sentenced to stand at one section of colored brick was effectively separated from any student assigned to the next, and the despotic Mr. Hill used this arrangement of architecture for punishment. While the other kids ran around playing kick ball, swinging, or climbing on the monkey bars, the kids assigned to the wall could only stand and watch.

Any number of infractions could warrant getting put on the wall, but in my case it was usually incomplete homework. I did the crime, and I served the time. As rehabilitation, however, the wall failed. I never seemed to learn that it was better to do the work.

It was, in retrospect, an odd year, an aberration. A review of report cards shows that for that year, and that year only, I had a woeful disregard for matters of education. Failing grades in science, barely passing English, even suffering in the relatively easy social studies, all subjects I enjoyed both before and after. Well, maybe I did not enjoy English.

I spent a lot of time standing up there by the wall, watching the other kids play.

It was not totally wasted time. Avoiding the watchful eyes of teacher/wardens on playground duty, I pantomimed illegal messages to my fellow prisoners on either side, stationed at their own section of wall, and felt like I was getting away with something. Using stones picked up off the ground, I worked to master the art of juggling. I thought about what I was going to do after school, homework not included. I thought about what was for lunch. I thought about many things, and imagined becoming wise, proving that homework was not the only path to knowledge. I was into Zen before I knew what Zen was.

And I watched the planes.

The school was almost directly under the flight path of airplanes flying in and out of the Fort Smith Municipal Airport and standing by the wall gave me plenty of leisure time to watch them coming and going. I had no idea what kind of planes they were. Some were airliners, both propeller and jet, some were military fighters and transports. One frequently seen military plane was a silver one, unpainted aluminum actually, a transport or cargo plane, judging from its big fat fuselage. It had two rows of windows, indicating two decks, and I tried to imagine how much it could haul. On its nose was a distinctive large black bulb-shaped appendage, like a nose on its nose. It looked like an aluminum flying clown. Its size made it seem closer to the ground than it probably really was, and every time it went by I feared it would hit the water tower by the Bonded Warehouse. I feared and, being a kid, I

hoped. We could have used the excitement.

There were also little planes. Piper Cubs, my friend Bill Martin called them. Bill always seemed to know what he was talking about, so Piper Cubs they were. It was not until later that I learned Bill knew little more about airplanes than I did, and that not all small planes were Cubs. In fact, hardly any of them were, in those days of the late 1960s. By then, later models of Pipers and Cessnas had largely replaced that venerable classic.

The fact was it did not matter, really, what types of planes I watched as I stood by the wall, serving time for homework not done. What did matter was that an early genesis of an interest in flying may have been the hours I spent there, watching the planes cross the sky above the playground. The minute or so those planes spent in my field of view was but a glimpse of where they had been, or were going, and I wondered what I was missing.

Those people had been places, or were on their way, and that alone was sufficient for envy, but more than that, they were going places in a most intriguing manner. They were not only going, but were going UP THERE, so high it must be dizzying. I imagined the elation of flying, of being so high in the air, looking down.

An oak tree does not remember when it was an acorn, but it does know the ground from which it grew. So it was, when asked how I became interested in flying, I always give credit to Mr. Edward Hill, tyrant though he was, for playing a role in the direction my life took.

Thanks, Eddy.

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

—Henry Thoreau

The night takeoff from Runway 8 in Albuquerque was smooth—the thunderstorm that slipped down from the Sandia Mountains and invaded the airport had moved away and dissipated. Other storms, small in size but magnificent in electrical display, had lingered over the mountains for most of the evening, but now they, too, were little more than ghostly wisps of their former selves.

Save for one lone remnant of storm, its cloud tops diffusing in the moonlight like Einstein's hair, the path home was clear.

In a matter of minutes, we rose above the peaks and banked around the dying storm top, climbing away to the east. Steve and I settled into our seats, surrounded by the cocoon of switches, gauges, and glowing panel lights. Looking back into the cabin, I saw the passengers, engaged in their small talk and their magazines. Briefcases were left

closed, the work inside staying where it belonged. Some had drinks, but most just leaned back against the headrests, eyes closed.

It had been a long day.

Albuquerque fell behind, and the sparse landscape of New Mexico dropped away below the airplane. In the distance, the lights of Tucumcari came into view. Soon they would pass below, along with all the other lights of civilization.

Taking their place were lights from above. A nearly full moon lighted the world, washing out many of the stars. Still, I leaned forward, my face near the glare shield, watching the night sky. I recognized the constellation of Cassiopeia and thought of the John Masefield quote, "All I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by."

The bright moon also dimmed the chances of seeing any meteors, those streaks of star dust burning up in the atmosphere. It was August, and the Perseid shower was due.

Looking out the windshield on his side of the cockpit, Steve said, "Where are they?"

"It's early. The best time is the hours before dawn.

Three or four in the morning."

"I'm not staying up that long."

"It's only a few more hours."

"I'm still not staying up."

I smiled. "We do have Mars, though," I said, nodding toward a bright object not far from the moon.

"That's Mars?"

"Yeah."

"Closest it's ever been, they say."

"Well," I said, "closest in a while, at least."

"Hasn't been this close for sixty thousand years."

"That's a while."

I thought of the astronomers, perched on their stools, peering through their telescopes, figuring out things like that.

We flew on, crossing into Texas.

"Doesn't look all that close to me," Steve said.

"It's still thirty-five million miles away," I said.

I glanced down, back inside the cockpit, looking over the instruments. Everything was as it should be. The autopilot was doing its job. I considered the altimeter. Flight Level 410. About 41,000 feet.

I looked over at Steve. "You know what, though? Right now we are about seven miles closer than most people."

Steve looked back at me, absorbing what I was saying. Then he laughed out loud.

Traveling a mile every eight seconds, we sped eastward, feeling privileged.



*Doug Kelley was raised on Fort Smith's south side and attended Carnall Elementary School. He is a corporate pilot for ArcBest and the author of a best-selling historical novel, *The Captain's Wife*, published by the Penguin Group in New York.*

## 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).

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## 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

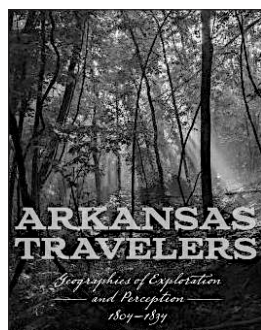


# Reviews

## ***Arkansas Travelers: Geographies of Exploration and Perception, 1804-1834***

By Andrew J. Milson, (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018. Pp. 277 including notes, bibliography, index and maps, \$34.95 cloth).

Never before have readers and students of Arkansas' early history been on such a journey beside the four major explorers of the state—Thomas Nuttall, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, William Dunbar and George William Featherstonhaugh—until historian and geographer Andrew J. Milson applied modern-day geo-mapping analysis to these explorers historic and recorded travel journals.



The result is a truly eye-opening volume, which lays aside the traditional travels so long ago, and neatly places each excursion with two major themes—that of place and landscape.

Milson and his professional cartographer Erin Greb, hired to produce maps found in the book, unveil the treks of each of the four over the rugged Arkansas landscape. Milson takes modern methods to plot both a negative and positive to each and every stop, to reveal hidden feelings of these explorers, that perhaps, they didn't even realize how their journals were developing of favor or bias towards the location or personalities discovered while traveling.

Nothing could be clearer in Milson's unearthing of this new mapping science applied to these four explorers and their travels. These methods, applied in this book, not only reveal not just what the traveler said, but were he said it.

The land area we call Arkansas, as these four explorers plied the rivers and slogged through the backwaters, was experiencing a momentous transformation of cultural and environmental landscapes following the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 and up until admitted as the twenty-fifth state in 1836.

Milson, as a historian, has the ability admits the intricate details of the journals, mapping the travels and assessing the personal ties of each explorer. He does on occasion finds a little humor.

In writing about George William Featherstonhaugh

(whom many writers use the shortened name of Fenston) and his entry into the Arkansas Territory.

"It was with anticipation of better times ahead then that, after about two weeks, visiting the surroundings of St. Louis, Fenston and his adult son George purchased a Dearborn wagon and an "elegant" and "good-tempered" horse that they named Missouri and set out for Arkansas," Milson wrote.

The book is neatly divided into six chapters, giving each explorer his own time and travels. Milson applies a geographical lens with different settings for the focus of each of the travelers. Some were searching for minerals and commerce; others for fine farm land and opportunity for the wave of humanity headed westward.

It was Fenston who noted the mad rush to Texas, as many skipped across what he called the "salubrious" parts of Arkansas to their own disappointing peril of a faraway land.

These four explorers wrote about the "pellucid" rivers and sweeping vistas with admiration, but then along comes vivid descriptions of some distasteful individuals found in early Arkansas to be scofflaws, bullies, gamblers, renegades, murders and thieves in these early days.

Milson has given us a new way to examine these travels and the Arkansas Travelers themselves.

*Reviewed by Maylon Rice. Mr. Rice sits on the Arkansas Historical Association Board of Directors, is a community activist, serves as an officer in the Washington County Historical Society, and is dedicated to the uplift of every single Arkansas citizen.*

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## ***Cold Blooded: A Chilling True Tale of Terror, Rape, and Murder in the Arkansas River Bottoms***

By Anita Paddock, (Fayetteville: Pen-L Publishing, 2019/172 pp. Black and white photos throughout. Map, Acknowledgments. \$15.).

I was intrigued with reading *Cold Blooded* because I attended Oak School with Larry Price and his brother, Bruce. The Price family would later move to Lamar, where Larry met Jawana and they would be married. Happily married until this tragedy, with all kinds of dreams and

plans. Who would have thought such a nice couple could meet such a tragic end—murdered!

Anita Paddock managed to transcend the horror of this fate in the book, mainly because she empathized and identified so much with the Prices and with Holly Gentry and officer Ray Tate, the other two victims of cruel and senseless actions. From the time I read the first pages I could not put it down until I finished it, I was so caught up in the story that Ms. Paddock was presenting to her reader. She keeps the tension going for the reader as we go from place to place exactly where the events occurred and with dialogue that may have happened there. She found reliable sources that allowed her to pinpoint the times and movements of the killer(s). And their habits, such as the job that the killer had landed and the kind of nice people with whom Larry and Jawana worked at Baldor and at the Phoenix Village Mall. The poignant memories of lost life described in the account were so overwhelming.

I recommend this book, which is the third true crime story written by Anita Paddock, all based on real events that took place in and around Van Buren within a year's time. Yet, she is far from coming across as detached, indeed it is her humanity and compassion that comes through the pages and made me want to keep turning them.

Since Ms. Paddock used the trial records and police evidence as the factual basis of her historical novel, it was interesting to read her opinion in the author's closing notes regarding the killer(s) and the odd fate of the man who was convicted of all four murders.

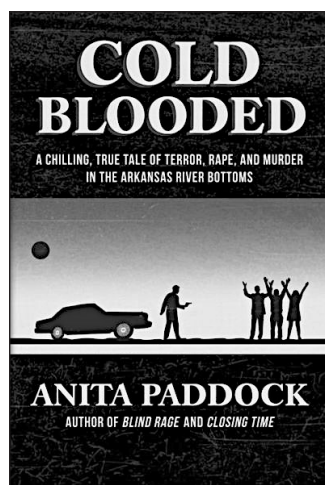
*Reviewed by Mona Caldwell Russell. Ms. Russell is an avid reader, lives in Johnson County, and is dedicated to her family and her church.*

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***Yearning to Breathe Free: A Judicial Review of the Cuban Relocation Project Fort Chaffee, Arkansas 1980-82***

By Judge Jim Spears, (Fort Smith: Red Engine Press, 2019. Black and white photos throughout, \$15.00).

Yearning to Breathe Free reads like an autobiographical reminiscence, with primary sources, of Judge Jim Spears's experiences as a Federal Public Defender for dozens of

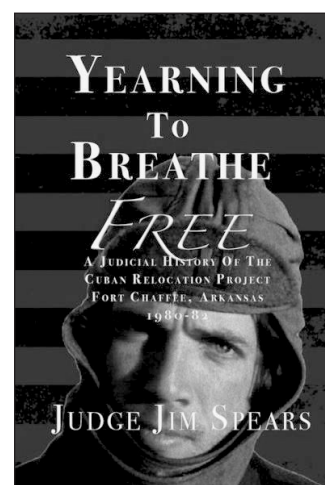


Cuban refugees processed through Fort Chaffee between 1980 and 1982. As Fort Smith was thrust into the international spotlight, Spears describes how local people from various backgrounds joined together to form the Court of the Magistrate or Las Corte del Magistrado on-site at Chaffee. Las Corte handled assorted charges, disputes, and legal cases between refugees and, sometimes, between refugees and U.S. guards.

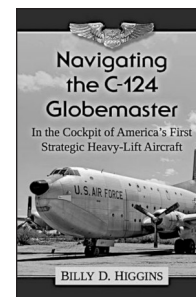
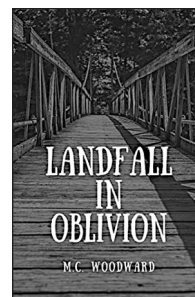
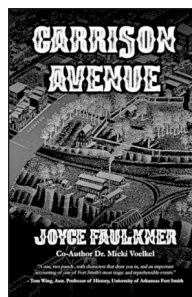
Spears gives a brief history of the events that brought the Cubans to Fort Chaffee but the meat of his work details court proceedings, offering explanations of legalese that is both entertaining and palatable to any reader—even those without legal training. Spears recounts his own unfamiliarity with the bureaucracy of government work, an accidental streaking incident at a business dinner, and frustrating language and cultural barriers that endear the reader to his position. On the concern of cultural barriers, Spears describes the refugees' understanding of the U.S. legal system as rudimentary at best, coming from propaganda work and anti-U.S. television broadcast in Communist Cuba. His retelling of events covers situations left out of U.S. Army After Incident Reports and local media coverage, including a few engrossing court cases. Spears gives a few “where are they now” updates on people the reader meets throughout the book (including the business dinner streaker).

Spears' underlying message throughout is “the world is watching the U.S. to see how we act during all of this.” How have we handled the situation? How were human beings treated? What was done to ensure people received justice? He answers these questions, and more, as the book comes at a time when the U.S. faces similar scrutiny for the handling of other people deemed “undesirable” by officials. Current news is riddled with allegations of abuses at the southern border, speedy immigration court proceedings for asylum seekers, and regular Americans drawn in to do jobs on both sides of the court room. On this issue, Spears' work acts as a reminder that there are American people who will do everything they can to help others receive a small sliver, at the very least, of the pie that is America.

Spears is successful in informing the reader about the work that he and others did to ensure refugees received justice. He uses letters from former co-workers and



*Southwest Times Record* articles, as well as his own record keeping, as evidence to back his account. Spears quotes the Emma Lazarus poem etched into the Statue of Liberty, *The New Colossus*, as something which motivated him and the work of those at Las Corte del Magistrado. *Yearning to Breathe Free* is a quick read, at 111 pages, yet it is full of meaning. It is evident that this is a very important time in Spears' early career that helped establish relationships—both professional and personal.



*Reviewed by Erin Langford. Ms. Langford, a Fort Smith Historical Society member, is a graduate historian and published author. She has studied and written about the Marielitos among other subjects.*

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### BOOK NOTES

Available now in local bookstores:

❖ Joyce Faulkner and Micki Voelkel, *Garrison Avenue*. (Fort Smith: Red Engine Press, 2019). A novel set in Fort Smith about 100 years ago with a large cast of

players, Faulkner and Voelkel center their plot around the 1912 lynching of Sanford Lewis on Garrison Avenue.

❖ M.C. Woodward, *Landfall in Oblivion*. (Fort Smith: Topsy Mockingbird Books, LTC., 2018). A novel, part science fiction, part classical history in which Woodward seeks to represent eternal truths via a host of memorable characters.

❖ Billy D. Higgins, *Navigating the C-124 Globemaster: In the Cockpit of America's First Strategic Heavy-Lift Aircraft*. (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co. Publishers, 2019). Part memoir, but researched from coast to coast, Higgins documents the role of the C-124 Globemaster in establishing the "American Century."

## Fort Smith Razorback Club

Narisi's Restaurant, 904 Garrison Avenue



*If you can identify any of the people in the photograph or know the year of the photo, please notify Mary Jeanne Black, Fort Smith Historical Society researcher, at [mblack3086@aol.com](mailto:mblack3086@aol.com). (Photo courtesy of Mike Bock)*



# Who Knew?

**By Mary Jeanne Black**

**W**ho knew...when the Fort Smith Historical Society was established in 1977 it would be such a strong link to Fort Smith's history. It was a goal. What a strong foundation was laid by these progressive initiators. If you have interest in a particular part of Fort Smith's history, please let us know just us know or ask us at [info@FortSmithHistory.org](mailto:info@FortSmithHistory.org).

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We would like to thank the family of Pfc. Willie Ware Nance for the generous donation of the book, *The Fighting Men of Arkansas*. The book, 1,170 pages, was given in memory of their World War II soldier. After we have completed our research, the book will become a part of the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Boreham Library; Pebley Center, Room 137. The center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through. It is non-circulating and may be used by the public as well as the university community. It will be available for all to view. You never know what treasures can be found when replying to an inquiry.

Thank you, Bruce Collins. Your soldier's sacrifice will not be forgotten. What kind people I have met.

It all started with an email:

**Question:** While cleaning my attic in preparation to move, I came across a copy of *The Fighting Men of Arkansas*, a book which gives a historical account of WWII and includes pictures and bios of the men from Arkansas and fought in the war. My father and uncle both served during the war and were from Arkansas.

I am hoping to find an appropriate historical society to donate the book to, and I hope you will be interested. If you can use the book and will promise to keep it in hands that will keep the book available to the public, I would love to send it to you.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you,

Bruce Collins

**Answer:** We are certainly glad you found us, and the

University of Arkansas-Fort Smith staff of the Pebley Center love history as much as we do. They do everything they can to make sure university students find the resources they need for successful papers. Plus, have had extensive training in preservation and degrees to back it.

I was very impressed while visiting with their enthusiastic and helpful "in charge." (I used "in charge" because I am not certain of her title.) Just know, I call Shelley and she gets it done.

Thank you,

Mary Black

**Question:** Thanks so much for getting back to me...I'm so happy this book will find itself a good home. I will package it up this week and put it in the mail.

It's funny how I found you, actually. I was going to send the book to a cousin who lives down in Huntington and ask her to take the book to Fort Smith, either to a library or an historical society such as yours. Anyway, I decided to do a little advance research and was led straight to your organization's page where I immediately saw you are working on a WWII project...perfect! Thanks again for your response...I hope all is well in Fort Smith.

Bruce

## From the Book:



**Pfc. Willie Ware Nance**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence O. Nance of Fort Smith, was born September 26, 1915, Jenny Lind, Arkansas. He attended elementary school at Jenny Lind and Greenwood High School at Greenwood, Arkansas. He was employed by the E. H. Noel Coal Company before entering the Service November 9, 1943. Private Nance was sent to Camp Fannin, Texas, for basic training and was trained as an infantryman. He won the rifle Marksmanship Medal while there. He was then sent to the Hawaiian Islands and on into the South Pacific, he remained overseas for one year before he was killed in action during the battle for Okinawa. This gallant soldier died April 20, 1945, and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife, the former Lucille Haley. P. 872. *Willie Nance has a marker in Fort Smith National Cemetery.*



**Brig. Gen. William Orlando Darby** was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy W. Darby of Fort Smith, where he was born February 8, 1911. He graduated from Fort Smith High School and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He was sent to the British

Isles in January 1942, where he served with the 34th Division. General Darby formed the 1st Ranger Battalion, in England and led this unit throughout the many hard-fought battles of the North African campaign. It was under his leadership that the Rangers spearheaded the Sicilian invasion. General Darby fought several hand-to-hand battles with Germans and Italians. After two of his three Ranger battalions were destroyed he was placed in command of the 179th Infantry of the 45th Div., until returning to this country in April 1944. After serving eleven months at Washington, he went back to Italy as division commander of the 10th Mountain Division. The General was killed in action by artillery fire only eight days after assuming this command and two days before all German forces in Italy surrendered. He had been wounded three times and held ten high military decorations, including the Distinguished Service Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Silver Star, French Croix de Guerre, and Distinguished Service Order from the British government, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the rarely awarded Order of Kutuzov from the Russian government. He had been selected by *Future Magazine* as one of the ten most outstanding American young men for 1943. Pg. 872. *Brig. General Darby has a marker in the Fort Smith National Cemetery, Fort Smith, Sec. 9, and Lot 3119.*



**Aviation Cadet James H. Harmon Jr.**, son of Mrs. and Mrs. James H. Harmon Sr., was born July 3, 1925, at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He received his education by attending Fort Smith Senior High School and was employed as junior weather observer prior to entering the Army Air Corps on January 9, 1944. He

received basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas, and later attended Pre-flight School, Santa Ana, California; AAF Navigation School, San Marcos, Texas, and Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, qualifying for aerial gunner. Cadet Harmon received carbine Marksmanship Medal, American Theater Defense Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged October 29, 1945, at Barksdale Field, Louisiana, returning to Fort Smith. P. 869. *(Jim married September 18, 1948, to Margaret Ann Bryan. James (Jim) H. Harmon Jr. of Fort Smith, Sebastian County, died Friday, March 21, 2008, in Fort Smith. He was eighty-two years old. James. He was a meteorologist*

*for forty-two years with the National Weather Service and was a faithful member of St. Boniface Catholic Church. He was an avid bowler and tennis player. Preceded in death by a daughter, Karen Rogo. He was survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, a daughter and two sons. He is buried in the Fort Smith National Cemetery.*



**Capt. Leo William Blakely**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Woodard Blakely, was born July 26, 1922, at Fort Smith. He received his education by attending Fort Smith High School and Junior College. Entering the Army Corps on July 30, 1942, he qualified for fighter pilot. He

landed in New Guinea May 4, 1944, and participated in New Guinea, Southern Philippines, Northern Philippines, Western Pacific and China campaigns. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Victory Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with five Battle Stars, and Philippine Liberation Ribbon, with one star. Captain Blakely served sixty days with the Army of Occupation in Korea. Pg. 888. *According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Leo William Blakely enlisted December 5, 1943, and was released March 31, 1965. Death, September 19, 2009.*



**Fireman 1/c Glenn William Brewer**, son of Daniel and Ola Brewer of Mansfield, Arkansas, was born at Hartford, Arkansas, in 1920. He attended the Shilo schools and was engaged in farming until entering the Navy on November 19, 1943. He was sent to

Farragut, Idaho, to serve boot training and completed eight weeks of training there. Fireman Brewer was then sent to special school at Eureka, Monterey and San Francisco, California, where he became a telephone operator and truck driver. A veteran of more than two years of navel service, he was honorably discharged at Shoemaker, California, January 18, 1946. He and his wife, the former Iva Rebecca Basham, are the parent of one daughter. Pg. 882 *According to the Department of Veterans Affairs office, Death of Glenn William Brewer, May 24, 1988.*



**Sgt. Charles B. High**, son of Mrs. Ida Lee Emma High, was born June 23, 1909, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He attended Duval School and Arkansas Polytech College. A member of National Guard Battery D, 206th C.A. (A.A.) from January 20, 1926, to September 2, 1927,

and Battery G from March 14, 1929, to March 13, 1932, he joined the Army Air Force, May 16, 1944. Sergeant High received basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas, qualifying as airplane mechanic and aviation crew member. He was a

second class gunner in National Guard Battery D and expert first and second gunner in Battery G, and received Drivers Award, Certificate of Meritorious Service, and Good Conduct Medal. Attached to Squadron A, 611th B.U., Sergeant High served at Eglin Field, Florida, as a driver of jeep and staff car. After being honorably discharged in June 1949, at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, he returned to Fort Smith, where he lives with his wife, Marie. Page 889. *Death August 23, 1963.*



**Seaman 1/c Aaron Wendell**

**Coleman**, son of Ebbie J. and Alton O. Coleman, was born June 11, 1927, in Greenwood, Arkansas. He attended Greenwood School. Entering the Navy July 18, 1945, he received boot training at San Diego, California. Seaman

Coleman was still in the service, according to last report received. His home is in Greenwood. p. 891. *Death, November 5, 1992, 65, St. Joseph Cemetery, Tontitown, Washington, Arkansas.*



**T/5 Harold Lee Burns**, son of Mr.

and Mrs. A.R. Burns of Fort Smith, was born on November 7, 1914, at Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and moved to Arkansas and attended Junior College. Employed by the Harding Glass Company, he entered military service on April 8, 1944, and

was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for basic training. He later attended the Wheeled Vehicle School at Fort Knox, and was assigned to the 777th Tank Battalion, arriving in the European Theater in December 1944. Overseas nearly seven months, he took part in the Rhineland and Central European Theater Ribbon with two Battle Stars, Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Ribbon. Corporal Burns also holds the Expert Medal for the rifle and sub-machinegun and the Sharpshooter's Medal for the carbine and machine gun. He was honorable discharged on December 4, 1945, at Camp San Luis Obispo, California. He and his wife, Irene, have two children. P. 917. *Death September 26, 2009, Fort Smith National Cemetery, Harold and Irene had their golden wedding anniversary on September 6, 1987. They have two daughters and one son, and several grandchildren.*



**Lt. Walter Wayne Pogue** is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Franklin Pogue of Fort Smith. Born in that city June 16, 1919, he was educated at Belle Point and at Fort Smith High School, then attended the American Technical Society School, Chicago, Illinois. He was a sign painter

until entering the Army Air Corps on October 18, 1940. After completing basic training at Jefferson Barracks,

Missouri, he trained at March Field, California, and was commissioned as a fighter pilot at Chanute Field, Illinois. Arriving in England in January 1944, he participated in twelve missions over Germany. On April 13, 1944, while over Liege, Belgium, he reported by radio that his plane was short of fuel. He fell behind enemy lines and was never located. This gallant flier was reported as missing in action on that date and eight months later was pronounced as officially killed in action on that date. Lieutenant Pogue was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal, posthumously. He is survived by his wife, Jessie Pauline, and child. p. 907. *Jessie Pogue 1929-1997 Buried Fort Smith National Cemetery, Sec. 14, Site 779B. Walter W Pogue 1919-1944, Sec. 14, Site 779A.*



**Robert Harry Lynch**, son of William

Walter and Mamie Florence Lynch, was born November 2, 1908, at Greenwood, Arkansas. He received his education by attending Fort Smith Public Schools, after which he was the publisher of a weekly newspaper in Texas and athletic

director of The Fort Smith Boys Club. Entering the infantry as a private, July 12, 1942, he received basic training at Camp Roberts, California, and later attending Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, qualified for athletic and recreation officer. After two years of service, he departed from the United States, July 3, 1944, attached to the 81st Infantry Division, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, he saw action at Palaus (sic.) (Angaur-Peleliu) and the Philippines (Leyte). Major Lynch qualified for the M1, rifle, heavy machine gun, and pistol marksman; sharpshooter, with anti-tank gun and expert with light machine gun. He received a Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star and two Battle stars and a Philippine Liberation Medal. After spending thirty days with the Army of Occupation in Japan, he returned to the States and was honorably discharged at Camp Chaffee, February 14, 1946. He and his wife, Lois Constance, live in Fort Smith with their children. p. 897. *Birth November 2, 1908. Death August 10, 1982, survived by his wife Loice, a daughter, son several grandchildren, burial Roselawn Cemetery, Fort Smith.*



**Pvt. Ervin Terwilliger** was the son of

Vora and John Terwilliger of Fort Smith. Born in Booneville, Arkansas, on April 28, 1917, he attended Fort Smith High School and was employed by the Athletic Smelter Company and was secretary of Local Union 374. Entering the United

States Marine Corps June 7, 1944, at Little Rock, he was sent to Camp Pendleton, California, for boot training and became an infantryman. Sent to the South Pacific area in November 1944, he saw service in November 1944, he saw



service in Hawaii, the Marshall Islands and the Marianna Islands before he was killed in action on March 6, 1945, during the fighting on Iwo Jima Island. He is survived by his wife, Alma Marjorie, and their three children. p. 910. *Buried Fort Smith National Cemetery, Sec. 2, Site 866. Death March 6, 1945.*



**Pfc. Dorothy Sargent**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude L. Sargent, was born May 27, 1923, at Van Buren, Arkansas. Receiving her education by attending Fort Smith and Van Buren Public Schools, she was later employed by Arkansas Ordinance Plant in Fort Smith; by business firms in Oklahoma City, and at Tinker Field Air Base, until enlisting in the Army Air Forces (W.A.C.) January 28, 1944. She received training at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, qualifying for airplane and engine mechanic and serving sixteen and a half months with Squadron C 4136th A.A.F. Base Unit. Private Sargent received Good Conduct Medal January 27, 1944, and was discharged at Fort Sam Houston, June 9, 1945. P. 904. *Dorothy Lee Sargent Gregory, Born—May 29, 1923. Died—November 28, 1949. There is a discrepancy on Birth in Book and Birth on Death records- Born: May 27, 1923, Sec. 1. Stated in book. Born: May 29, 1923, on Death records, marker in Fort Smith, AR National Cemetery.*



**Electrician's Mate 3/c James Fred Matteson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Alva Matteson, was born January 28, 1922, in Hutchinson, Kansas, moving to Arkansas in 1925. He attended Fort Smith High School, afterwards being employed by Jeffries Amusement Company. Entering the Navy January 11, 1944, he received boot training at San Diego, California, and attended training school at the University of Kansas. Mate Matteson departed August 11, 1944, for Okinawa and remained overseas for a year and four months, participating in campaigns of Leyte, Luzon, and Okinawa. He was on board the destroyer *USS Luce* when it was sunk by the Japanese off Okinawa and later served on the *USS Olmitak*. After being honorably discharged February 6, 1946, at Memphis, Tennessee, he returned to Fort Smith, where he lives with his wife, Virginia, p. 905 and 907. Fred and Virginia was buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith. The couple had three children.

More to follow on *The Fighting Men of Arkansas, World War Two*. The book is set up similar to a yearbook. There are some single photos and some smaller photos arranged in a collage-like configuration in the shape of a "V" referred to as plates.

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### Another Question to Share

We get questions from new homeowners who would like to know the history of their home and subdivision. The two title companies who have copies of all deeds are Guarantee Abstract and Title, 1900 Rogers Avenue in Fort Smith and Waco Title, 7300 Cameron Park Drive in Fort Smith.

A title search and copies can be costly and aren't necessary for anyone who wants a simple history of their property. The work is certainly cost justified from the companies; it is not only time-consuming, it requires skill. They of course have closings also. The rest of the closing in companies use Title Insurance and an Attorney's Title opinion.

Anyone can go to the county courthouse, county clerks' office, second floor. The staff are very helpful and guide visitors to the records needed. The book and page number are required to find a record. That will be explained. Copies are twenty-five cents each. The staff is not there to do the work for you. They explain and show visitors the information needed. An aside: Stop by the bakery for cookies to give the staff; it will make their day.

If you just want an idea of the history of your property, you can search city directories, census records, county tax records, old newspapers. Of course, anyone will have gaps in your data but this gives you a good idea of where you need to start.

**Question:** I recently purchased Kinkeads but I have been told there's a lot of history with this building. Was wondering if I could get some of the history, maybe old pictures. The address is 1004½ Garrison Avenue.

**Answer:** Rick, I am forwarding your inquiry to volunteers who have agreed to help with questions about Fort Smith History.

Mary Black, Inquiry Coordinator, Researcher-Fort Smith Historical Society.

Can anyone help R. E.?

**Answer:** Others probably know more, but my history with that building only dates back to when it was the Long Bar. The Long Bar got most of its business from 7 a.m. to noon in those days. Plant workers getting off the third shift made up the regulars. I wasn't a patron, but I remember the Long Bar had dollar bottles of beer long after every other bar in town had raised their prices. I was also told that the Long Bar wasn't lying. It had a bar starting right inside the front door that ran in a straight line to the back of the building. Here you go, hope this helps.

Good Luck,  
Joe Wasson.

## Answer:

2019

1004½ Kincaids

1962

1004 A & A Surplus Store general merchandise, A.J. Baumeister.<sup>1</sup>

1951

1004 The Past Time Snooker Parlor, Robert E. Adams, manager.<sup>2</sup>  
The Past Time Liquor Store, Lee R. Gillett.<sup>3</sup>  
The Past Time Beer Parlor, G. Walter Johnson.<sup>4</sup>  
DeLuxe Café. Charles J. Sedilitz.<sup>5</sup>

1945

1004 The Past Time Snooker Parlor, Oscar H. Gillett.<sup>6</sup>  
The Past Time Liquor Store, Oscar H. Gillett.<sup>6</sup>  
The Past Time Beer Parlor, Oscar H. Gillett.<sup>6</sup>  
DeLuxe Café, Charles J. Sedilitz.<sup>5</sup>

1936

1004 Beck's Retail Liquor Store, Edward D. Beck.<sup>7</sup>  
Past Time Snooker Parlor, Edward D. Beck.<sup>7</sup>  
DeLuxe Café, Edward D. Beck.<sup>7</sup>

1930

1004 The Past Time Parlor, E.D. Beck<sup>7</sup>—C.D Riley.<sup>8</sup>  
(Prohibition was going on, so no beer here.)  
DeLuxe Café, Andrew Georges<sup>9</sup>—George Brown.<sup>10</sup>

1928

1004 Narisi Brothers Confectionary—Jacob J.<sup>11</sup>,  
Joseph<sup>12</sup> and Dominick Narisi<sup>13</sup>.  
DeLuxe Café, Andrew Georges<sup>9</sup> & George Brown.<sup>10</sup>

1925

1004 Narisi Brothers Confectionary. (The brothers had a confectionary shop at 904 & 1004 Garrison.)  
Jacob J.<sup>11</sup>, Joseph<sup>12</sup> and Dominick Narisi.<sup>13</sup>

1911

1004 J.K. Jones<sup>14</sup> Saloon & wholesale liquors.  
1004½ Thomas Black, Barber.<sup>15</sup>

1910

1004 J.K. Jones<sup>14</sup> Saloon.  
1004½ J.F. Reynolds<sup>16</sup> Barber Shop.

1907

1004 J.K. Jones<sup>14</sup> Saloon (also wholesale-retail liquors)  
1004½ J.A. Carrigan<sup>17</sup> Barber Shop

1904

1004 J.K. Jones<sup>14</sup> Saloon  
1004½ John Carrigan<sup>17</sup> Barber Shop

1898

1004 J.K. Jones<sup>14</sup> Liquors  
1004½ J.W. Shoptaw<sup>18</sup>, Barber

1890

1004 J.K. Jones<sup>14</sup> Liquor Store  
1004½ D. Zerboni<sup>19</sup> Meat Market

## <sup>1</sup>A.J. Baumeister-1926-1991

### <sup>2</sup>Robert E Adams,

A. 1957 Fort Smith City Directory, Robert E Adams (Irene-wife) h. 2901 Grand Avenue,—mgr. Main Snooker.

### <sup>3</sup>Gillett, Lee R., B. 13 March 1927—D. 18 March 1992

A. 1951 Fort Smith City Directory, page 203, Gillett, Lee R (Jan C; Pastime Liquor Store) h208 Lecta.

B. Marriage Record; **Gillett, Lee R**, Male, 21, 1927, Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas. Spouse: Jan Gaines, female, 16, Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas, Marriage Date: 223 Oct. 1948; Marriage License: 5th Oct. 1948; Sebastian County; Marriage.

C. SS Death Records. Index **Gillett, Lee R** Born: 13 Mar 1927 Died 1992 Civil Arkansas. Front: **US WW2 Draft Card** W553A Lee Roy Gillett order #13841-A Res. 2212 South R, Fort Smith, Arkansas. Mailing address. WMA, Lexington, Missouri, 18, Born Moffett, Oklahoma. Fort Smith 7693 Born. March 13, 1927. Mrs. O. H. Gillett, 2212 South R, Fort Smith, Ark. (Mother) student. Lee Roy Gillett. **Back:** Registrar's Report, White, 5' 9", 137 lbs.; Complexion, Dark; eyes, brown; hair, brown; no obvious physical characteristics that will assist in identification. Registrar Mary Louise Beard, 1 Lafayette, Missouri, March 13, 1945.

### <sup>4</sup>G. Walter Johnson, B. December 13, 1879, D. March 14, 1964 Wife, Lona May Johnson. Buried in Calvary Cemetery. Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas.

A. 1920 USA Census, Arkansas, Sebastian, Fort Smith, 111 No 8th St. **Johnson, Walter**, Head; Home owns, mortgage; M, W, 40, mar., Eng. r, w, s; b. Arkansas, Father USA, Mother USA ; repairman, automobile shop, works for self. **Johnson, Lona**, wife; f, w, 36, mar, Eng. r, w, s; b. Arkansas, f. b. France, French, m. b. Mississippi; outside wk. none. **Johnson, Earl**, son, m, w, 16; s; Eng. r, w, s; b. Arkansas, Arkansas, Arkansas; Collect; Bank; wage. **Johnson, Melvin**, son; m, w, 14, Sing; Eng. r, w, s; Arkansas, Arkansas, Arkansas, none.

B. 1940 Census, Fort Smith, Sebastian, Ark.; Ward 2, Apr. 15, 1940; 723 No. Enum. Jack Ulmer; 511 No 16th. **Johnson, Walter**, Lodger, m. w. 60, Widower, 7th, Arkansas, same-5 yrs. ago, employed for pay, Bartender, Beer Parlor. 52hrs; 24wks.

### <sup>5</sup>Sedilitz, Charles John (Jack) b. 24 Feb 1912, Minn. D. 11 Dec. 1953, Fort Smith, AR. Buried Roselawn Cemetery, Fort Smith, AR.

**A. Arkansas County Marriages**—April 22, 1933; Sedilitz, Charles J., Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas, b. 1912, Arkansas to Louise Barros

**B. 1940 US Census Arkansas**, Sebastian, Fort Smith, Sedilitz, Charles J. 620 Clifton Court, 2500 HV, (own), head; M,W,28; HS2; M b. Minn., in 1935-same addr; worked 52 wks., Mgr. café; other income 1200. Sedilitz, Louisa, wife, f, w, 26, Louisa, mar.; HS4, b. Greece; naturalized; same, home. Sedilitz, Donna Joan; f, w, 1; S, no school, Arkansas. Sedilitz, Charles, (A.) father, m, w, 65, wd.; 4th grade; Germany; same.

**C. 1951 Fort Smith City Directory**—Sedilitz, Charles J. and Louise; home 3323 Stanard.

<sup>6</sup>**Gillett, Oscar H.** (Dec. 4, 1893-July 1989. Forest Park Cemetery)

**A. 1930 U S Census**; Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas, Dist. 0043, Gillett, Oscar; Head; rent, \$75; m, w, 36, married 23; read, writes; b. Ark., f. Tenn., m. Missouri; working on own account; Traveling Sales, Pants. **Gillett, Mary A.F.**, W, 36; mar. 23; Eng. r, w, s; Kansas, Ohio, Iowa; not employed.

**B. Fort Smith City Directory**, 1951, Mgr. Sportsman, Inc., home 5620 Free Ferry. pg. 203.

**C. Oscar H. Gillett**, Pg. 193. Fort Smith City Directory, (Mary) - Pastime Liquor Store. Pastime Beer Parlor, The Past Time Snooker, Parlor, residence, 423 North Seventh; also at the same address are **Nellie V. Gillett** (Wid. Of Edgar A.); **E. Rolland Gillett** (Bernice) Past Time Liquor, Pastime Snooker Parlor; home 208 Lecta.

**D. 1920 United States Census**; Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas, Ward 2, Dist.0151, **Gillett, Oscar**; Boarder, M,W, 25, married; Eng. r, w, s; b. Ark.; F. Tenn.; M. Ark.; Eng. r, w, s; Traveling sales; pants manufacturer; Wage. **Gillette, Mary**, Boarder; F, W; 24; Married, reads, writes; b. Kan., F. Ohio, M. Iowa.

**E. WW1 Reg.**, #18, June 5, 1917; Oscar Horton Gillett; 511 No 16th, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Born December 4, 1893, Natural Born; Springdale, Ark. USA, Shipping Clerk; USA; Woods Manufacturing Company, Fort Smith, AR (This was the “pants factory”.) Depend on you for support? Wife. Married, Caucasian. Signed, Oscar Horton Gillett. Back of card: Medium Height; Medium Build; Blue eyes; Light brown hair. No obvious disqualifications. Local Board, Joe Lane September 12, 1918.

**F. Oscar Horton Gillett**, *Southwest American* Newspaper; Fort Smith, Ark.; Friday, April 19, 1912, P. 2. Springdale Graduation. Springdale, Ark.

<sup>7</sup>**Beck, Edward Dalton**, November 27, 1880-August 14, 1939.

**A. 1930 US Federal Census Arkansas, Sebastian**, Upper Township, Fort Smith, Ward 4, April 7, 1930. Ruth Z Davidson, Enumerator. 311 No 22nd Street.

**Beck, Edward D.**, head, owns, 3,000, no radio, male, white, 49 married at 20 yrs.; Eng. r,w,s; b. Texas, F. Missouri, M. Texas; proprietor, pool room; employed, not vet. **Beck, Lucy Ann**, wife, F, W, 51, married at 22; Eng. r, w, s; b. Texas, f. Texas, m. Georgia. None.

**B. 1938 Fort Smith City Directory**, Beck, Edward D., liquors, 8 So. Towson Ave, r. 311 So 22nd; p. 51.

<sup>8</sup>**Riley, Chilean D**

**A. Riley, Chilton D** (Lois) (Pastime Parlor) h1208 So. A, Apt 4 City Directory 1930.

**B. Riley, Chilean D** (Lois) (Club Cigar Company), 1208 So. A. City Directory 1928 Pg. 504.

**C. Riley, Chilean D** (Lois) (The Turf), h. 313 Lexington, 1938 City Directory, Fort Smith, Ark., pg. 404.

<sup>9</sup>**Georges, Andrew (Marianthi)**

**A. Fort Smith City Directory 1938**, pg. 190. Andres Georges, (Marianthi).

**B. 1940 USA Census**, Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas 310 No 10th Street.

<sup>10</sup>**Brown, George**

<sup>11</sup>**Narisi, Jacob Joseph Sr.** (Maria Stella) b. March 19, 1876, Italy-d. December 12, 1946; Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas

<sup>12</sup>**Narisi, Joseph** (Vincinzina) b. 1877- Italy d. 1943 Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas; Immigrated 1896.

<sup>13</sup>**Narisi, Dominick (Mary)** b. 1879 Italy-d. 1958, Fort Smith, Sebastian, AR; Immigration 1904.

**A. US 1920 Census Arkansas**, Sebastian County, Fort Smith, lists Census lists Dominick as the Mgr. of fruit store.

**B. 1928 Fort Smith City Directory**, Business-Confectioners.

<sup>14</sup>**Jones, J.K.**—Born

**A. 1910 US Census**, Arkansas, Sebastian, Ward 4, Dist. 0157) 322 So 13th Street (Born circa 1854 Jones, J.K. Head, male, white, 56, Marriage 1, born Iowa, USA, USA, Eng. R, w, s, Liquor dealer, wholesale, **Jones, Alma**, wife, female, white, marriage 1, 16 yrs., 1 live birth, 1 living, Minn., Germany, Germany.



**Jones, James K.**, Son, male, white, single, 1 yr.  
Arkansas, Iowa, Minn.

<sup>15</sup>**Black, Thomas 1879-1946**

**A. 1910 United States Census**, Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas, Ward 2, District 0151- 1714 North Ninth & R Streets.

Black, Thomas Head, Male, mulatto; 31; Married once, 3 yrs.; So Carolina, So Carolina, So Carolina; Eng. r, w, s; Barber, Barber shop, works for himself; owns home, free, house not farm.

Black. Zuella, Wife, Female, Mu, 25, Married once, 3 yrs.; 1 child, 1 living; Mississippi, Mississippi, Mississippi; Eng;

Black, Bernese, Daughter, Female, 11 months (11/12); Single; Arkansas, South Carolina, Mississippi.

**B. Marriage** Thomas Black marriage to Zuella Hibler, Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, May 29, 1907.

**C. WW1- Registration Card -Front:** Thomas Black, Born April 9, 1878. Barber, self-employed; 1714 N 9th, Ft Smith, AR; Notify Mrs. Zuella Black, 1714 North Ninth. Signed, Thos. Black. Below that was written out Thomas Black in the same handwriting.

-Back of Card: # C 3-2-4 Registrar's Report: Height- Sort; Build- Medium; Color of Eyes- Dark Brown; Color of Hair- Black.

No obvious reason to be disqualified. Mrs. H. B. Boyer, Signature; dated Sept 3. 1911.

<sup>16</sup>**Reynolds, J. F., Barber**

Reynolds, J. F., Barber, 1004½ Garrison, 1910 Fort Smith City Directory, pg. 470.

Reynolds, John F., barber, 1004½ Garrison Av., r. 320 South 16th

<sup>17</sup>**Carrigan, John Augustus (1861-1931)**

**A. 1910 Census**, Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas, Ward 7. Carrigan, J. A. 49, (abt. 1861) Head, Male, white, born, Arkansas; Carrigan, Susan 42; Wife; F;W; Married 19 yrs.; 2 children born; 2 living; born; Arkansas; Carrigan, Esther; Daughter, 17; W F, Sing., Born, Arkansas. Carrigan, Jessie; 9; Son; W, M, Sing. Born, Arkansas.

<sup>18</sup>**Shoptaw, Jim, B. 1866 – D. (?)**

**A. 1900 US Census**, Fort Smith, Ward 3, Sebastian, Arkansas. Shoptaw, Jim, head of household, Wht male, born Oct 1866; 33; Married 6 years; Unknown, Unknown, Unknown; Occupation, Barber. Shoptaw, Laura, wife, wht, female, Born Sept 1877, 6 yrs. married, 2 live births, 2 living, Tenn., Tenn., Tenn.;

Shoptaw. Earl, son, male, wht, b. Sept 1895, 4 yrs. old, S, Arkansas, Unknown, Tenn.; Arthur, son, male, wht; s; 1897 2, S, Arkansas, Unknown, Tenn.

**B. Marriage License**, State of Arkansas, County of Sebastian, Fort Smith District James W Shoptaw, 24 of Sebastian County, Arkansas to Laura B Brooks, 17 of Sebastian County, Arkansas. Witnessed this 20th day of December, 1893. C.H. Howe, Clerk of this County Court. By Claude Hoffman D.C.

<sup>19</sup>**Zerboni, Dominio B. July 1857-D. 1900**

**A. Fort Smith News Record**, Dec. 17, 1897, pg. 1, Zerboni Mkt. Ads that appeared in the special edition page of Fort Smith merchants with Holiday shopping ideas. The paper explains, "Christmas Shoppers, They Are Out in Full Force Today. Merchants Are Busy with Every Prospect of a Big Rush Next Week." "Order your Turkey Now at the Zerboni Market." "The fattest geese & ducks you ever saw at the Zerboni Market." "All kinds of game at Zerboni Market." "All kinds of Kansas City Meat at Zerboni Market." "Squirrels, rabbits and possums at Zerboni Market." "Get some of that corn-fed beef from Joe Ward's cattle only at Zerboni."

**B. Fort Smith News Record**, Fort Smith, Arkansas—Sunday April 15, 1900, p. 1,

**C. Zerboni Passes Away:**

**MET HIS DEATH WITHOUT WARNING**  
**Sudden Demise of a Well-Known Butcher –**  
**It Was a Terrible Shock to His Family**  
**Taken off suddenly by an Attack of Heart Trouble**  
**Particulars of the Affair.**

Dominio Zerboni the well-known butcher died suddenly at his home, 312 North Fifth Street, shortly after two o'clock yesterday morning.

The deceased was on the avenue between 8 and 9 o'clock Friday night, and was then in seeming good health. Shortly after two o'clock he was taken with acute attack of the heart.

The morbid sense of the street public created a rumor to the effect that his death was due to design on his part, and as is usual in such cases the glib tongue of the gossip wagged in furtherance of the report.

Mrs. Zerboni said yesterday that her husband complained of a pain in his heart and asked her to get some liniment and rub on him. She got the liniment. By that time, he had gotten out of bed and was standing up. She sat down on the side of the preparatory to rubbing his breast when, when he toppled over, falling into her lap and dying instantly. Thursday night he was taken with pain in his side and his wife worked with him half the night before relief came.

Dr. Kelleam, the family physician, said yesterday

afternoon that he had been summoned, but was not at home when the call came, and when he did get home he learned that his services were not needed, as death had resulted.

"Zerboni has long been troubled with an affection of the heart," said the Doctor yesterday. "He at one time was a great smoker and went to excess in that. I warned him that he would have to avoid all excesses if he would live and he finally did break away from all of them and got better. He has had a number of severe heart attacks, and in several of the instances he himself thought he would not recover. To attribute his death to anything but heart disease is both cruel and unjust."

About a month ago he was taken with a pain in his heart while standing on one of the street corners. He then expressed the he did not have long to live.

Mr. Zerboni has been a resident of this city for about twelve years. He came here from Pierce City, and at once entered into the butchering business. Prior to coming here

he was on the road for a St. Louis Hardware firm. He was of a most charitable Disposition and there are many poor families who will remember him with great kindness. He leaves a wife and two children, a boy and girl, in this city. His mother, two sisters and a brother reside in Dallas, Texas, and a married sister is a resident of Little Rock. The funeral will take place from the late residence of the deceased on North Fifth Street, and the interment will take place in the Catholic cemetery, Father Smyth officiating. The cemetery is known as Calvary Cemetery today.

\*\*\*



*Mary Jeanne Black, Journal Inquiry Coordinator writes the regular department, Who Knew? Material in her article are highlights from research requests and emailed exchanges to the Fort Smith Historical Society.*

## RESOURCES

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.fortsmithhistory.org](http://www.fortsmithhistory.org)**

**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 perseverance, 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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country's struggle with itself.

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY AND CULTURE:** The Encyclopedia of Arkansas project is proud to present its 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 proves 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 Natural Historic Landmark with more than 152 years of history is home to the burial sites of outlaws hand by order of Judge Isaac C. Parker, marshals, deputy marshals, and 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 capital west of the Mississippi River, 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.

# 1919 Newspapers

By Al Whitson

July-December 2019

The last half of the year 1919 found life in Fort Smith quickly returning to its pre-war pace. Real estate transactions were big business, with many prominent properties changing hands and home building booming. The Fort Smith Free Fair took over a heavily festooned Garrison Avenue with tents set up along its length on both sides and a giant midway set up where the Convention Center sits today. We lost two of the city's most prominent jurists and established many of the laws and regulations that would become fixtures for years to come. It also brought human pathos of every variety as the jazz age came into its own and Fort Smith regained its footing in a fast changing and prosperous America.

\*\*\*

Wednesday, July 2, 1919

## Dr. Holt Named Division Surgeon

Dr. Charles S. Holt has been appointed division surgeon for this division of the Missouri Pacific and St. John's hospital has been accredited as railroad hospital by that railroad. Advices to that effect reached this city yesterday.

\*\*\*

Thursday, July 3, 1919

## Foltz Reappointed Division Surgeon

Dr. J. A. Foltz was reappointed as the division surgeon for the Missouri Pacific-Iron Mountain railroad, for the central division; as was also his entire staff of five

members and Sparks Memorial hospital retained as an official hospital.

Dr. M. S. Dibrell was also reappointed as local and shop surgeon at Van Buren. This makes a total of eight specialists and physicians in the hospital service at Fort Smith and Van Buren.

\*\*\*

Sunday, July 6, 1919

## College Removes to New Quarters

The Fort Smith Commercial College, which institution has occupied the Masonic temple for a period of twenty-five years, has moved into their new headquarters on the third story of the Kenney buildings at the corner of Sixth street and Rogers avenue. The college will occupy the entire third floor and has excellent arrangements and facilities. B. A. Griswold is president of the college.

## Local Boys Are With Famous Band

A very interesting souvenir in the way of a program announcing "The Arkansas Travelers" in seven acts of syncopated jazzy vodvil [sic] staged by boys of the 143 field artillery while in service in France has been brought from overseas by a member of the 142 field artillery.


The program in addition to announcing various other numbers by Arkansas boys, announces the Original Arkansas band in a comedy program of harmony and jazz. This band, made up entirely of Arkansas boys, played twice at Marseilles and three times at Paris, and once in the presence of President Wilson. The program shows that "Jew" Leard and "Coots" Leard, both of Fort Smith, are members of the band. The band however did not return with the 142 field artillery.

\*\*\*

Wednesday, July 9, 1919

## Glauner Family Is Appreciative Of Kindly Acts

Henry Glauner foreman of the Elkan Construction company, whose son Henry Jr. was drowned in the Arkansas river on the bridge site May 1, yesterday in a



Manufacturers of Iron and Steel Beds and Cribbs. A modern plant turning out a large range of finishes in all Enamels, any combination in Oxidizes, Quartered Oak, Mahogany, Circassian Walnut, or any finish to match any Bed Room Furniture. Members of Fort Smith Furniture Association.

**Fort Smith Metal Products Company**  
F. R. Baumgardner, Sec'y-Treas. and Manager



conversation with a representative of the *Southwest American* spoke most feelingly of the expressions and acts of helpful sympathy of which he and his family have been the recipients since the tragic death of the boy. He was especially grateful for the messages which have been sent by many in Fort Smith to the boy's aged grandmother, Mrs I. F. Glauner at the family home in Lynchburg Virginia.

So many people of this city had sent sympathetic condolences that Mrs. Glauner felt unable to reply personally to all and she has written and requested the *Southwest American* to publish the subjoined thanks in her name.

Mr. Glauner stated yesterday that his son had passed much of his life in the home of his grandmother until four years ago, since which time he has been with his father on construction work in various parts of the country. The son was a fireman on the big dredge engine up to the day of the tragedy when he was drowned when the dredge skiff overturned. With a total of \$350 in rewards offered a continuous search has been made but the body has never been found. Following is the card.

To the citizens of Fort Smith

It is a gratification to express through the *Southwest American* the deep feeling of appreciation I have for the kind consideration extended to me by the citizens of Fort Smith during my recent bereavement in the loss of my grandson Henry who was drowned in the Arkansas river on May 1. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who so kindly aided and consoled me.

MRS. I. F. GLAUNER  
Lynchburg Virginia

### **Guaranty Purity Of City's Water By Using Chlorinator**

As a result of the recent contamination of Fort Smith's water supply the city commission, at a special meeting Tuesday, purchased a manual control solution feed chlorinator to be used as a permanent means for the purification of water. The chlorinator, which was purchased from a New York concern at a cost \$650, will be installed some time the later part of next week, according to

Commissioner Smith, and will go a long way towards preventing future contamination.

It is said the process of chlorination by the application of liquid chlorine is the best means for water sterilization. While this process has been used for a number of



years, yet it has only recently come to be used on a large scale. That the use of liquid chlorine is an evolution of the process of chlorination, which is said to have started with the use of various chlorine compounds such as sodium hypochlorite and calcium hypochlorite (chloride of lime,) has already been demonstrated in many cities. According to Commissioner Smith it will require but little trouble to install the new apparatus.

\*\*\*

**Thursday, July 10, 1919**

### **Start Erection Of Incinerator**

Work on the new incinerator to be installed at North J street for use in burning garbage was started Wednesday morning. The stack, which will be fifty feet in height, is being erected. The incinerator will cover a space of 10x20 feet and will be nine feet in height.

The incinerator will be located on the Arkansas river at the mouth of the old sewer and will be constructed as to permit wagons to dump garbage directly into it. Much of the disagreeable odor caused by the burning of garbage at the old dump will be eliminated by the new incinerator.

\*\*\*

**Sunday, July 13, 1919**

### **Band Concert**

Municipal band, court house lawn, Sunday 5:30 o'clock p.m.

1. March "Yankee Notions" Senglear.
2. Overture "Sky Pilot" Laurins.
3. Characteristic "Chong" Weeks.
4. Waltz selection "Desdemona" King.
5. Trombone "Toddy Trombone" Fillmore.
6. Reverie "When Shadows Fall" Keithly.
7. Medely selection "The Surprise" O'Hare.
8. March "Old Billy Boy" Chenette.

## WANTED

## 50 MEN 50

To Handle Cotton. \$3.25 to \$3.50 Per Day.  
Report this morning 7:00 o'clock. Take Eleventh  
St. car, get off at Car Barn and walk quarter  
mile west. Come on time ready to work.

### Fort Smith Compress Co.

### **Dr. Kelton Puts Paste On Market**

Dr. T. W. Kelton, practicing dentist of Van Buren, announced yesterday that he had retired from the practice of his profession, and had arranged to place on the market, for general use by the public, his "Universal Tooth Paste," which already can be obtained from all druggists in this section.

Dr. Kelton has been at work perfecting this tooth paste the past two years, during which time he has placed it in the hands of the leading dentists of the state, from whom he has received high praise of the preparation. The paste comes in soft-metal tubes, and Dr. Kelton is now in correspondence with a Cleveland man who has just patented an improved sanitary tube. As soon as he returns from a vacation to be spent on his place in North Arkansas, Dr. Kelton will establish a manufacturing plant either in Fort Smith or Van Buren.

\*\*\*

## **Monday, July 14, 1919**

### **Ask Court Order To Close Local Smelter Plants**

Suit, in which certain property owners living in the vicinity of the Athletic Mining & Smelting company and the Forth Smith Smelter company at South Fort Smith seek to enjoin those companies from operating on account of alleged poisonous gases, sulphur, arsenic and mineral particles being carried through the air, was filed Monday in the chancery court.

The plaintiffs are Fred Schleuter, W. H. Eeds, J. W. Maness, W. H. Walton, Henry Schleuter, Paul Maness, W. R. Hatley, Cal Whitson, C. M. Vanderberg, W. B. Rogers, Jane Stromberg and Fred Wibbing.

It is alleged by plaintiffs that in consequence of the operation of these plants in close proximity to land used for agricultural purposes, they have suffered extensive damages. It is claimed that shade and fruit trees and animal life have been killed. In addition to an injunction the plaintiffs also seek damages up to the time the case is heard.

\*\*\*

## **Wednesday, July 16, 1919**

### **Geo. Rye To Sing At Eureka Springs**

Fort Smith's own George Rye also combines the business of being "Some Florist," with the pleasure of being, by popular acclaim, accorded the title of being an ace in song comedy, Tuesday received a long distance

message which will take him to Eureka Springs for the weekend.

The message was from Grady Manning, manager of the Basin Park hotel of the city. It announced that there is to be a society bop at the hotel Saturday night. Mr. Rye was invited—and he accepted the invitation—to give a repertoire of song hits Saturday night and Sunday for the guests of the hotel. He will leave this city early Saturday morning in response.

Nearly everybody in this city will be especially interested in one brand new song which he will sing. Its title is "Ah'm Goin' to Jazz Mah Way Straight into Paradise." It is the latest song hit of its author, Will Skidmore, of New York, formerly of this city, just now for the first time put on the market.

### **'Junk' Barker Is Dead At Rudy**

J. A. Barker, better known here as "Junk" Barker, and familiar on the streets of Fort Smith for years, is reported to have died last week near Rudy, where he was found in a tent, at the point of death from starvation.

Barker and a woman known as "Molly" devoted most of their time here for some years to collecting junk, driving a diminutive team, in a rickety wagon. Some weeks ago they left the city, with an old soldier named Weist, but the latter returned to the city some days later declaring they were "starving" him. The whereabouts of "Molly" are not known here.

\*\*\*

## **Thursday, July 17, 1919**

### **Women Are Placed Under Quarantine**

Pearl Bowers and Vera Hagan have been arrested and confined under quarantine in the city jail as the result of orders from the city board of health. Their arrest followed their visit to one of the swimming pools of the city. As soon as their presence was discovered all swimmers were ordered out of the pool and the place was drained and scrubbed.

It is stated by city officials that the women are afflicted with disease, and that an ordinance

### **Harley-Davidson Machines**

are sold in this territory by us.  
Repairing and selling of Motrcycles is our specialty.  
We have a number of good second-hand machines.  
The joy and convenience of owning a Harley-Davidson cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

**Come in and See the New Machine  
Let Us Demonstrate.**

**W. F. PENNEY**

102 North 6th St.

General Repairing

gives the city board of health the power to hold them in quarantine until they have been cured.

\*\*\*

## Friday, July 18, 1919

### Fort Smith Beach Attracts Swimmers

The people of Fort Smith are rapidly awakening to the fact that this city has a bathing beach such as few inland cities can boast. Thursday evening bathers began gathering at the beach an hour or more before sunset, and within two hours, the beach was dotted with swimming parties from the Gould bridge to a point far below the tramway. Superintendent Smith of the bridge construction company had directed bridge construction to re-plank the tramway, and last night the planking nearly from rail to rail made a broad, safe walk from the foot of Garrison avenue to the big river sand bar on the west side of which the bathing grounds extend over 600 feet across the west channel.

Bathing parties in couples and squads passed in a stream for an hour or more over the tramway, and they made the Oklahoma side of the river ring with their merriment. At no point, until nearly to the big sand dredge on the west side was there water more than five feet deep. And the Fort Smith boys in droves were having the time of their young lives. Bathing parties largely donned their bathing suits and wraps on this side before crossing the tramway, but many utilized the heavy fringe of willows on the bar as bath houses. It is probable that before the week is out the newly-found beach will draw thousands of bathers every evening.

\*\*\*

## Sunday, July 20, 1919

### Al Hagan Drains Bottle Of Iodine

Al Hagan, husband of Vera Hagan, one of the two women confined under quarantine in the city jail because of alleged contagious disease, made an effort late Saturday night to commit suicide by drinking iodine. He is at St. Edwards infirmary in a critical condition.

The attempt was made at 11:30 o'clock last night between Issacson's and Louie's Place on South Ninth street. He was discovered lying in the alley with the empty iodine bottle gripped in his hand. An ambulance was called from the Fentress undertaking establishment and he was rushed to the infirmary.

### Boy Rangers Meet

Company D of the Boy Rangers of America held a meeting at their headquarters Sunday, July 13. After the

meeting refreshments were served, then the boys enjoyed themselves, having boxing matches, playing ball and blazing trails. Those present were Willie Lottedale, Carl Blythe, Lee Bittle, Sergeant Marshall Thompson, Louis Carson, Hyrol Carson, Corporal Ray Carson, Binsol Whitney, Robert Schleiff, Bugler Earl Schleiff, Willie Cox, Assistant Leader Melile Clayborne, and Captain Willard Furr.

\*\*\*

## Tuesday, July 22, 1919

### Ground Broken For Fine Homes

In this good year 1919, it is an off day in which no one breaks ground for one or more new residences. Monday of this week was especially notable in the fact that on South Twenty-sixth street in one block, ground was broken by two owners for two fine residences each of which is estimated will cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Both houses will be located on spacious grounds which will make them notable among the fine homes in that part of the city.

Excavation forces commenced Monday for a residence to be erected by Monte Johnson on his 125-foot frontage between H and I streets on South Twenty-sixth. Work was also commenced on the foundations for a new residence to be erected by Gordon Richardson on his 160 foot frontage corner South I and Twenty sixth street. Both residences are planned for homes built on handsome architectural lines, adding much to the more than ordinary attractiveness of that neighborhood.

### Municipal Beach Attracting Crowds

On Sunday several thousand people visited the west channel bathing beach, going and coming all day long. Monday night there were fully 500 bathers, frequently whole families, including the little tots, enjoying the fine bathing. Monday the bridge tramway was closed to the public and during the day, foot paths were arranged from just west of the Missouri Pacific station, across the sand in the east

Residence Phone 516 Office Phone 1583	CLEANING, PRESSING, MENDING, DYEING
<b>Dr. S. W. Harrison</b>	We are equipped to do them all with promptness and skill. No work too difficult, no job too small for our best consideration. Quick delivery, reasonable charges.
OFFICE HOURS 10:30 to 12:00 M. 2:30 to 5:30 P. M.	<b>Byrd THE Tailor</b> "SUITS MADE TO YOUR MEASURE" N. 9th and G St. Phone 490



channel, with a safe footbridge across the narrow stream made by the Poteau current just east of the big sand bar.

Before the close of the week there will be one or more booths with bath suits and refreshments. The movement is also gaining headway for lighting the route to the beach with a chain of electric lights along 300 feet of the beach front.

### **Victor Ellig Post American Legion Is Formally Organized**

The first meeting in Sebastian county of the American Legion of ex-soldiers and ex-sailors was held last night at the county court house. It was attended by a very representative body of former servicemen, one-time "buck privates," "gobs" and officers, and it assumed a comrade-in-arms spirit from the outset. There was no distinction in rank—colonels and privates rubbed shoulders and argued to their heart's content.

The matter of a name for the new post proved to be a source of much discussion, but it was unanimously voted that it be christened "Victor Ellig," in honor of the first local boy to make the supreme sacrifice in France.

\*\*\*

**Wednesday, July 23, 1919**

### **Employer Fined On Labor Charge**

As a penalty for violating the state labor act, Nick Sofios, proprietor of the Fort Smith Candy Kitchen, 1013 Garrison avenue, yesterday was fined \$25 and costs, totaling \$43.50. The law violated was the act prohibiting the employment of females seven days a week.

\*\*\*

**Friday, July 25, 1919**

### **Canning Company Starts Operations**

Starting with a force of about 100 employees and with favorable prospects, the Good Canning company which only a short time ago purchased the plant of the Holland American Fruit Products company, have started canning peaches. According to Will Fray, general manager, the plant is far from working full capacity. But it is thought by Monday the concern will have enough raw materials on hand to insure continuous operation through the season.

### **Echols Building Going Up Fast**

The contractors on the W. J. Echols Wholesale Grocery building, Rogers avenue and Second street are making rapid progress with the construction. It is of fireproof construction; rock foundations, Carthage stone trimmed

brick walls and re-enforced concrete. The foundations are completed, first floor forms laid and re-enforcing steel placed for pouring the concrete first floor. In addition the first story walls are progressing, nearly to the second floor level. The work has so far advanced as to demonstrate that the building, when completed, will be without doubt the most substantial fire proof commercial structure in the city.

\*\*\*

**Sunday, July 27, 1919**

### **Delightful Moonlight Picnic**

One of the delightful events of the week participated in by members of the younger set, was the moonlight picnic to Cliff Drive Friday evening. The guests assembled at the Frisco station at eight o'clock and a picnic lunch was spread. The guests were chaperoned by Mrs. Jack Lemley, and numbered forty.

### **Six-Story Office Building In Heart Of Fort Smith Is Bought By Nakdimen**

A deal was completed yesterday which resulted in the purchase by I. H. Nakdimen, president of the City National bank, of the 6-story Nakdimen Building, formerly the Arkansas Valley bank building, in Garrison avenue, adjoining the Merchants bank building, the property being sold by the Bailey estate, through J. Mayne Bailey.

\*\*\*

**Wednesday, July 30, 1919**

### **Playground For Fort Smith? LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE WHEN NEW BRIDGE IS BUILT**

What is going to happen on the west bank of the Arkansas river at the farther end of the Garrison bridge, when the bridge is completed?

 <p>We bake our own Cakes and Pies and Make special orders.</p>	<p><b>HOT WEATHER</b></p> <p>Why not call on us, refreshments served at all hours of the day. Whether you want something to eat or something to drink we are ready to serve you.</p> <p>If you are planning a picnic or party of any kind see us about the refreshments. Nothing better than some good home made ICE CREAM and CAKE.</p>	 <p>We make our own Ice Cream and are prepared to fill any order.</p>
<p>UP-TO-DATE FOUNTAIN SERVICE</p>	<p><b>S. H. Chavous</b></p>	<p>CLEAN SANITARY FOUNTAIN</p>
<p>No. 9th and G Sts.</p>	<p>WHOLESALE AND RETAIL</p>	<p>Phone 1548</p>

What changes, if any, will be made in the topography of the country there, and what improvements, if any, will follow the construction of the big bridge?

These questions have not been given much attention in public circles apparently, but there has been much desultory discussion and considerable individual speculation, the opinions concerning the probable developments being many and varied.

#### BASEBALL FANS OPTIMISTIC

Lovers of baseball and kindred sports are firmly of the opinion that almost coincident with the completion of the bridge there will come [text unreadable] league baseball to be provided there for the fans of this city and its immediate territory.

There is, in all likelihood, strong probability that a baseball park is to be established across the river in Oklahoma territory, where Sunday baseball will give the fans opportunity to witness their favorite sport. Men who have in the past held active interest in organizing baseball here are known to have considered such proposition seriously and at some length, and it is known also that some of them, at least, have taken steps to protect their interests so far as organized baseball is concerned.

#### MORE THAN BASEBALL

But there are others who hold to the opinion that merely a baseball park would not be enough—and will not be all. These more optimistic folk are of the opinion that a big pleasure park will be established at or near the west end of the bridge within a short time after the bridge is completed. Some even hold to the opinion that this pleasure park will be on a rather large scale—the grounds amply large for holding of a big annual fair and providing race track, grandstands, exhibit buildings and plenty of space for concessions of the larger kind, there being room also for an aeroplane landing space, baseball and football games and track and field events.

#### “COHNY” ISLAND PROPOSED

The pleasure park proponents include in their plans the establishment of a sure-enough “Cohny” Island where the municipal beach is now located—this depending of course, upon the gracious will of the independent Arkansas river—which, up to now, has shown little disposition to stay where the folk hereabouts want it. Fort Smith has a fine natural bathing beach now, thanks to one of the whims of the fairies which rule the stream, but where will that bathing beach be next summer or the summer after?

With any reason to believe the beach will stay put, it is admitted it could be made one of the most popular resorts in all this section of the country, especially if it formed a part of a modern pleasure park. But it is hardly likely any one can be found who would be willing to make a heavy investment in a “Cohny” Island, with nothing for a

foundation except the present apparently ephemeral bathing beach.

\*\*\*

Thursday, July 31, 1919


#### Test Is Made Of City's New Garbage Plant

Wednesday afternoon the city commission, engineer's and health department made a first test of the city's new plant for burning dry garbage. It would be putting it too strong to call it a city garbage incinerating plant, for such a plant will reduce all city waste to ashes. The present plant is yet in the nature of an experiment in disposal of dry garbage, and yesterday's tests developed suggested changes


**ANNOUNCING**

The **1920 Buick** Models (K Series)


QUALITY has been the foremost consideration in the construction of the 1920 Buick K Series. An established standard of Buick construction that for years has given to the Buick Valve-in-Head Motor Car a reputation of superiority. Upon such a foundation of strength, durability, and value has the 1920 Buick Series been designed and manufactured. An inspection of the new line will reveal improvements and refinements that are sure to please the most exacting purchaser.




The Buick Model K-4000, Four-Door Sedan  
Price \$4800.00 F. O. B. Fort Smith




The Buick Model K-4000, Four-Door Sedan  
Price \$4800.00 F. O. B. Fort Smith




The Buick Model K-4000, Four-Door Sedan  
Price \$4800.00 F. O. B. Fort Smith



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The Buick Model K-4000, Four-Door Sedan  
Price \$4800.00 F. O. B. Fort Smith



The Buick Model K-4000, Four-Door Sedan  
Price \$4800.00 F. O. B. Fort Smith

Make your requisition to the nearest Buick dealer or write direct to the Buick Motor Company, Flint, Michigan, for one of the new 1920 catalogues covering all improvements and specifications.

**CREEKMORE MOTOR CO.**

PHONE 1636
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS
8-10-12 NORTH EIGHTH STREET

**Greetings**

—YOU'LL BE AS WELCOME TO THE  
BIG FREE FAIR AS WORTZ PRO-  
DUCTS ARE IN YOUR HOME—COME!

**Wortz Biscuit Co.**  
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO INSPECT OUR PLANT

which should fit the plant to do that thing.

The new incinerator is located on the Arkansas river bank at the foot of North J street, almost directly over the discharge apron of the old sanitary sewer system. It consists of a massive re-enforced brick furnace, 12 by 20 feet, with a fire grate composed of railroad rails; furnace doors at the front and flue at rear leading to a steel stack forty feet high. No means has yet been devised for controlling or directing the draft and the test was for the purpose of devising means to that end. A wagonload of dry garbage was burned in making the test in the presence of the officials and representatives of many large industrial interests.

#### **BAD CONDITIONS NOTED**

The official trip to that section brought into highlight conditions along the river bank which called out sharp comment. At several points along the river front in that neighborhood, large quantities of factory and mercantile refuse had been dumped among the trees which line the river bank and then set on fire. It was pointed out that these fires not only contained a possible menace to the long lines of factories, but that the fires were destroying the trees which have protected the bank from river encroachment. One especially large dump had apparently been hauled from the site of a recent business district fire. It was burning fiercely and had destroyed the trees near it. Not only that, but the loaded wagons had spilled the waste along the line of road leading to that section.

Mayor Monro and the commission stated that the dumping of garbage indiscriminately carried on would be stopped along the river front. The investigation brought out the fact that the problem of disposal of the city's increasingly large volume of waste is a large and growing problem.

\*\*\*

**Saturday, August 2, 1919**

#### **Woman Abandons Child At Station**

A young woman giving her name as Mrs. Sara Adelaide Graham, of R. F. D. No. 2 Greenwood, Sunday afternoon

### **To Chevrolet Owners**

We are especially equipped to handle all Chevrolet repair work and our mechanics are first class. When in trouble bring your car to the "Home of the Chevrolet" and have it fixed right.

---

### **BLOCKER & BOURLAND**

Distributors Nash and Chevrolet.  
1206-8 Garrison Ave. Phone 2226

abandoned her one-month old baby boy at the Missouri Pacific station, and the child is now in the care of Mrs. Jennie Stevens, matron.

According to Mrs. Stevens, when she arrived at the station Sunday afternoon she noticed in the station a young woman poorly dressed and apparently about 17 years old, with the child. When the Van Buren-Russellville and Greenwood junction train was called the mother left the child on one of the seats and started for the train. She held a ticket to Greenwood and mistook the train for the one going there. Mrs. Stevens quickly overtook the girl and questioned her.

She declared that a woman in the depot had promised she would adopt the child and that she had left it there for her. Upon investigation it was found that a certain woman had assured the mother that she would adopt the baby. The baby was therefore left with this woman and the mother promised to return Monday morning and make out the necessary papers of adoption.

However, Monday morning she failed to show up and the woman who had taken charge of the infant brought it to Mrs. Stevens with the information that her people objected to her adopting it. Mrs. Stevens took charge of the child and it is now in her custody waiting for someone to take it who can give it a good home.

An investigation has brought out that there is no Mrs. Sara Adelaide Graham residing on R. F. D. No. 2 Greenwood. It is understood that the girl formerly resided at Jenny Lind.

\*\*\*


## **Buy Furniture Made in Fort Smith**

### **Fort Smith Chair Company**

Manufacturers of

### **Chairs and Rockers**

Fort Smith, Ark.





**Tuesday, August 5, 1919**

**Former Marshals To Stage Reunion  
During Fall Fair**

Former United States deputy marshals who were instrumental in running down and driving out bandits and train robbers from Indian Territory in the old days have decided to hold a reunion in Fort Smith during the fair according to an announcement made Monday.

At this time memorial services will be held for those who died in active service and for those who have since passed on. Through his intimate knowledge of the times and places and of the men who rode the trails, W. H. H. Clayton of Muskogee, will likely be selected to deliver addresses at this time. He was for many years U. S. district attorney at Fort Smith and later a judge in Oklahoma.

A committee of thirteen has assumed charge of the arrangements. This committee consists of M. C. Wallace, Tobe Pinson, Jim Cole, C. B. Rhodes, Hugh Simpson, Bob Barling, J. T. Hansler, Mitch Ellis, Sam Minor, B. C. Chriswell, John T. Priest, Dave Lee, Bud Ledbetter and Sam F. Lawrence.

The Elks hall has been tendered the ex-marshals for their reunion.

**Little Chap Hit By Automobile**

Eugene Dennis, about three years of age, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Dennis of 2207 North Thirteenth street, was struck and knocked down by an automobile driven by A. C. Harding of the Harding Glass company, yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Harding, it is said, was driving very slowly and as he approached a retail ice wagon standing in the street, the child ran from behind the ice wagon and directly in front of Mr. Harding's car. The boy evidently did not know a car was coming and Mr. Harding could not see him until it was too late to stop. Mr. Harding took the child into his car and rushed him to St. Edward's Infirmary, where it was learned

that he was not seriously injured, when Mr. Harding took the little fellow home.

\*\*\*

**Sunday, August 10, 1919**

**Quicksand Near Bathing Beach**

During the latter part of last week the channel of the river at the municipal bathing beach became clear and the hundreds of bathers for the last two or three evenings have found splendid beach conditions. The beach is over 100 ft. wide without deep water and suitable for children's sport.

Bathers are warned however, not to go down across the bar where the channel formerly cut across the foot of the big mid-channel bar. There is quicksand there. Friday a sand team undertook to drive across the bar. The wagon is there yet, with only the box and wagon stakes in sight. The driver, assisted by workmen, had a strenuous time rescuing the team.

\*\*\*

**Wednesday, August 13, 1919**

**Former Marshals To Celebrate Here**

Former United States deputy marshals who rode for Judge Parker's court in the early days of Indian Territory, and who helped to rid the county of its outlaws, will hold their convention in Fort Smith during the fair. And according to arrangements that are being made, this convention will be a great event. Letters are being received from former marshals in many western states saying that they will be present and also giving the names of others who may be expected to attend.

The former marshals will be furnished an exhibit tent 30x50 to be placed on Garrison avenue during the fair. In this tent will be dis- [line of type omitted from text] with the driving out of the bad men from the west. Rest tents will also be supplied.

\*\*\*

**Friday, August 15, 1919**

**Gets Alligator Gar**

N. C. Meals of the Fort Smith Machinery company was exhibiting to his many friends yesterday the head of an alligator gar that he had caught on a trotline in the Poteau river a few nights ago. The jaws of the gar measure ten inches in length and the head is eight inches at the base of

<p><b>Look!</b> <b>OLD SHOES</b> <b>MADE LIKE</b> <b>NEW</b></p>  <p>With the present high cost of shoes it will pay you to have your old shoes <b>MADE LIKE NEW</b> by a competent shoe repair man. Your work solicited, satisfaction guaranteed. Prices reasonable. We have a good line of second hand shoes for sale.</p> <p><b>McCrary</b> Joshenberger Bldg. 621 N. 9th St.</p>	<p><b>HOW CAN I BEST FIND OUT WHAT CHIROPRACTIC 'CAN DO FOR MY SPECIFIC CASE?</b></p> <p>The very best plan you can adopt is to visit a Chiropractic, who will regard it as a privilege to give you the benefit of clinical and practical experience extending over a period of years. A consultation with a Chiropractor costs nothing, but is always welcomed by the practitioner as an opportunity to spread glad tidings of emancipation from slavery to disease. An examination of your spine will reveal the cause of your ailment, and will bring a positive statement as to the possibility of its removal.</p> <p><b>DR. E. COCRELL</b> Joshenberger Hall Phone 1787</p>
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the jaws. Before the head was removed it measured five feet in length. The mouth is well filled with long, sharp teeth.

\*\*\*

## Saturday, August 16, 1919

### Mark Off Spaces For Parked Cars

The city commissioners are having markings painted upon the curbs where cars are parked generally and it is expected that each car will occupy only the space allotted by the markings. To comply with the new regulations it will be necessary for every car to approach the curb at an angle of 45 degrees to avoid encroaching upon the space allotted to others and a violation will subject the driver to arrest.

### Six Cent Car Fares, One-Man Car Crews, Before October First

The state corporation commission yesterday granted an indeterminate permit to the Fort Smith Light & Traction company to operate the transportation, gas and electric utilities here.

The Traction company also filed with the corporation commission the required 30-day notice of its intention to increase the street car fares to 6 cents. Under the restrictions, the increased fare cannot be put into effect much if any before October 1.

\*\*\*

## Tuesday, August 19, 1919

### Building Permit For Floral House

A building permit was issued yesterday in the office of city clerk to Burley Johnson for the erection of a floral establishment at the corner of North Eleventh and A streets, the cost of which is estimated at \$7,000. Mr. Johnson is owner of the Quality Floral Shop on North Ninth street.

According to Mr. Johnson, he intends next season to grow his own flowers instead of having to buy them in



Chicago. It has been claimed that this cannot be done, but Mr. Johnson states that he has been growing flowers for the past three years and that he will grow them on a still larger scale next season.

### Col. Young Talks To Colored People

Colonel Charles Young, highest ranking colored officer in the United States army, spoke last night at Josenberger hall. Colonel Young, in addition to being a soldier, an orator and scholar, is a graduate of West Point military academy. His address last night was delivered before a large audience.

Upon his arrival in Fort Smith, Colonel Young was met by a large delegation of leading colored citizens and yesterday afternoon he reviewed returned colored soldiers who paraded. He spoke under the auspices of the Men's club of Quinn Chapel, A. M. E. church.

*(Editor's Note: The African American communities in Fort Smith supported a business district on North Eighth and North Ninth Streets one hundred years ago. The business and services offered to citizens of Fort Smith evidently were lucrative by show of the number of advertisements that appeared in the local newspapers. Below is a sampling.)*

\*\*\*

## Tuesday, August 23, 1919

### Scotch Foursome At Country Club Today's Feature

In connection with the Scotch foursome dinner match to be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Country Club, it is stated that the captains in choosing sides were unable to get in touch with all the members and that if there are any who desire to participate they are requested to call Mr. Gatherum so that arrangements may be made accordingly.

Also it is requested that should any of the members be unable to participate that they inform Mr. Gatherum as early as possible in order that he may make substitutes to complete the game.

Scotch foursomes are very popular over the country from the fact that each side plays the same ball alternate strokes, thereby giving each partner a grand opportunity to praise or raise and with the other. The following is the lineup:

Monte Johnson and Capt. Lick against D. C. Green and B. Johnson, Graham Williams and R. Mechum against W. R. Martin and J. E. Reynolds, J. M. Sparks and Herenden against Dorset Crane and A. G. Williams, W. E. Willshear and Chas. Eads against Jno. Andrews and Lester Hunt, G. S. Gilbertson and John F. [unreadable] against Claud

Thompson and H. B. Carmichael, F. A. Handlin and C. A. Lick against Judge Hill and C. F. Reynolds, B. D. Crane and A. L. Mills against Dr. H. Moulton and Dr. Sexton, R. Bollinger and Buck Williams against Dr. Hunt and A. Y. Berry, Park Walker and Cecil Warner against W. E. Porter and Eugene Eberle, V. M. Miles and R. F. Dickins against J. S. Miller and Bill Speer.

\*\*\*

## Sunday, August 24, 1919

### Garrison Paving Buckling Again

It has taken the frequent rains of the past week to again remind Fort Smithians what a firm of Little Rock contractors "did" to this city in the matter of "guaranteed" wood block paving on Garrison avenue.

Saturday morning's rain accelerated the buckling of the avenue paving in numerous places, giving it the appearance of waves in a storm. In some places the pressure of the swollen wood blocks actually threw sections of the paving into the air, creating unnavigable[sic] holes. One such place was on the Ninth street crossing where more than a square yard of block was thrown out.

\*\*\*

## Wednesday, August 27, 1919

### Clerk Making Plat Of Cemetery Lots

It is now estimated by city authorities that the city still has not less than \$15,000 worth of unsold lots and grave spaces in Oak cemetery. Eight or ten years ago the city administration announced that all burial space in the cemetery had been disposed of and bought an adjoining tract of land for cemetery purposes. No accurate records had been kept and the cemetery so administered that there was no reliable plat.

**Groceries**  
**Meats**

**Quality**  
**Service**

We have found that a successful firm must carry a complete line of the highest quality merchandise obtainable and that all customers must be given the best service possible, so today we offer a most complete line of first class GROCERIES and fresh and cured MEATS and in addition are maintaining an up-to-date, to the minute delivery system. That's why our business is good.

**Hiram Grocery Co.**

1601 North 11th St. Phone 531

City Clerk Frank Blocker, for a year or more has devoted as much time as possible to platting the lots and graves and searching records of lots and graves sold. Some time ago he completed an accurate map of the cemetery and since then has been checking from the map lots and graves to which little has been purchased since the original charter of the cemetery. This work is progressing as rapidly as other duties will permit. Yesterday Mr. Blocker spent two hours in the cemetery checking lots and added to the map lots and grave spaces to which the city still has title; locating and making record of an additional \$3,442.50 worth of space. While he was at the work he sold \$117.50 worth of ground to private purchasers.

\*\*\*

## Saturday, August 30, 1919

### Woman Arrested In Man's Attire

Mary Jones, alias, May Jenkins, was arrested by Chief of Police Gordon and R. P. Robertson last night, for masquerading in men's clothes. She was taken to jail and a technical charge of breach of the peace was entered opposite her name.

She was dressed in overalls, jumper and man's hat and with close-cropped hair she looked the part. She was found by the officers loafing around a livery stable and her disguise was detected without much difficulty by the policemen who had been advised that she was in the city. Her home is said to be on a farm near Fayetteville, but she is known all over northeastern Oklahoma and has been arrested for dressing in men's attire times without number.

\*\*\*

## Thursday, September 4, 1919

### Colored Churches To Have Joint Picnic

In a picnic that will be held near the fair grounds on the South Fort Smith car line Friday, September 5, members of the Sunday school classes of the various colored churches of Fort Smith and Van Buren will take part, the list being as follows.

First Baptist, Quinn Chapel, Cambell's Chapel, Mount Olive, Mallieu, Ninth Street Baptist, St. James Baptist, New Hope Baptist, Mount Mariah Baptist, Missionary Point Baptist and Derick Chapel.

### Masonic Temple Gutted By Flames

The Fort Smith Masonic Temple was virtually destroyed by fire shortly after 2 o'clock Thursday morning, and which was not put under control for more than an hour,



notwithstanding the full concentration of the fire department exerted in every effort, man and apparatus.

The fire evidently had been smoldering for sometime before it was discovered. When the department reached the scene the flames had reached all sections of the third floor and attic. This section of the tall building being out of reach of streams of water it was not long before the flames burst through the roof and soon afterward the roof fell into the building and firemen thereafter had less trouble reaching the base of the flames.

The building known as the Baer Memorial Temple was erected by the Masonic lodges in 1887 and was of brick three stories in height. B. Baer and Dr. Main, prominent Masons, were active in the movement which led to the erection of the structure. No estimate could be obtained early Thursday morning as to the probable value of the building, but insurance was carried in the amount of \$10,000 on the building by the Mason's who carried also \$5,000 insurance on the fixtures and furniture.

Gene Bly stated that most of the records of the local lodges were destroyed by the fire, all the older records especially, although many of the newer records which were kept in a safe probably were saved. The records were kept in the rear of the third floor of the building where the Masonic lodges held their meetings, as also did the Order of the Eastern Star.

The second floor of the building has been unoccupied since the Fort Smith Commercial College moved its quarters some weeks ago, while the ground floor was occupied by the Fort Smith Ice Cream Cone Company, whose loss through the fire could not be estimated this morning.

\*\*\*

## Friday, September 5, 1919

### Oklahoma Towns Welcome Fort Smith Booster Train

WELEETKA, Okla., Sept. 4.—(Special to the Southwest American)—Fort Smith boosters today descended like a cyclone and took by storm every one of the nineteen towns along the line of the Fort Smith and Western at which stops were made. Great demonstrations occurred at Bokoshe, McCurtain, Kinta, Quinton, Hanna and Dustin. All business houses were closed in McCurtain and the people turned out in mass. Mayor Arch Monro and A. F. Herden, chairman of the fair committee extended invitations to visit the fair.

The band, Ken Metcalf and George Rye, furnished entertainment with music and songs, which scored a big hit at each of the towns. At Leguire, the school was closed and

all the school children met the special. A long line of automobiles were waiting at the station upon arrival at Kinta.

\*\*\*

## Sunday, September 7, 1919

### Buster And Tige At Poe-Herden's

Buster Brown and his famous dog Tige, will visit Fort Smith Monday and will hold a reception at four o'clock in the afternoon at the store of the Poe Herden Shoe company. The store will be attractively decorated for the event with reception committee to look after the wants of callers. Among the decorations many will be interested in, the pictures of the booster train and passengers which made the trip through nineteen Oklahoma towns to Weleetka last week.

\*\*\*

## Tuesday, September 9, 1919

### Negro Duelists Are Held To Grand Jury

Joe Williams and Simon Bass, negroes, were held to answer to the grand jury by Justice Fishback yesterday at the close of their examining trial on a complaint charging the men with a pistol duel on the night of August 16, near the Poteau bridge in a negro settlement known as Red Row.

The preliminary trial of the two men had been continued from time to time waiting for the recovery of Williams who was shot in the breast and unable to attend the trial until yesterday. Bass was uninjured.

Three shots were fired, all of the witnesses agreed, and a number of persons were standing in a group talking at the time the principals pulled their weapons, according to statements of many witnesses, but a wild stampede took place at the first hostile demonstration and no one, so far as the offices can learn, was present when the second shot was fired and the only witness found closer than two blocks when the third shot was fired was a negro woman who had

**"LET PARKER AND BATES COOK FOR YOU"**

Try Our Regular Dinner 35c  
Special Chicken Dinner Every Sunday 50c  
Drop in and eat a Club House, Chicken or  
St. Paul Sandwich

BOX CAKES  
(Whole)  
60c

Parker and Bates are well experienced caterers  
and are capable of filling your orders. Both  
have been "Chefs" in the finest hotels and  
resorts in the country.

PIES  
(Whole)  
40c

GIVE US A TRIAL

North 9th  
622 **Parker & Bates** Phone  
2406

mired down in a mud-hole in her wild flight to get out of the neighborhood which had detained her somewhat.

There was a dance going on in Red Row that night, a crap game and church services, according to the testimony of officers and those attending the several functions. Officers were not far distant when the shooting took place being in the immediate neighborhood looking for the crap shooters, but the game, it is said, was adjourned without formality at the report of the first gun shot.

\*\*\*

## Thursday, September 11, 1919

### Sues For Divorce

Victoria Pinkston alleges that her husband, Tom Pinkston, came to their tent near the Fort Smith wagon factory August 15, 1918, carried off his clothing and removed the tent while she and her baby were in bed sick, leaving her and the child exposed to the hot August sun in her petition for divorce filed in chancery court yesterday. He has never returned, she says, and asks for a divorce on the grounds of abandonment.

\*\*\*

## Saturday, October 4, 1919

### Negroes Organize Legion Post Here

A negro local post of the American Legion is now established in Fort Smith. Charter for this post was received October 1. The post is known as Quinn-Trent Post No. 73.

The following officers have been elected: Post Commander, M. Lafayette Dean; 1st Vice Commander, Buford Coldwell; 2nd Vice Commander, Ben Jones; Post Adjutant, Wyman A. Griffin; Post Finance Officer, L. B. Bolin; Post Historian, Walter Ruffin; Post Surgeon, Oscar Hale; Post Chaplin, Rev. Neal.

At a meeting Oct. 1, Wayman Griffin was elected delegate to represent this post at the state convention at Little Rock, Oct 8 and 9.

\*\*\*

## Friday, October 7, 1919

### Dedication Of Bronze Memorial Tablet At Local High School

Beautiful and impressive ceremonies attending the unveiling of the magnificent memorial tablet erected in honor of the service men of Fort Smith High School, held

in the great auditorium of the high school building Thursday night, is declared by all who were fortunate to be present, the most memorable event in the history of the institution.

The tablet stands in the spacious hall adjoining the auditorium and is a finely executed creation in bronze, six feet high, nearly four feet in width and centered at the top with the United States coat of arms. On either side, and below, the great seal is to be read:

“Roll of Honor. Country—Honor—Duty, 1917-1919.  
Fort Smith High School.”

### HONOR ROLL

Below follow the names of the 391 men and the one woman, Miss Martha Hill, the school's contribution to the American forces that fought and aided in winning the blood-dyed fields of France and Belgium in the world-wide conflict for liberty and democracy.

\*\*\*

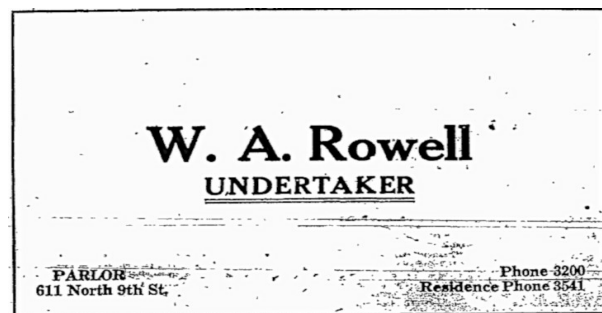
## Sunday, October 26, 1919

### Judge Little May Die—Shot By Guy Williams—Mistaken For Burglar

Circuit Judge Paul C. Little lies in St. Edwards infirmary with an even chance for recovery from a shotgun wound that tore away the lower left portion of his face, and Guy Williams, his court stenographer and his brother-in-law, is at liberty on charges of assault to kill, as the result of a shooting at the Williams home on Alabama avenue about 10 o'clock last night.

Judge Little, unable to talk, declared in writing on the back of an envelope, at the hospital, that he had gone by the Williams home and rattled one of the windows to awaken Williams, when an explosion occurred. He wanted to know what had exploded, and was informed that he had been shot with a shotgun.

Williams told Police Chief Gordon that he was awakened by a noise at one of the windows of his home, and fired his shotgun through the window. Then he telephoned police headquarters, he said, to inform the officers he “had shot a burglar.”



The Fentress ambulance carried Judge Little to St. Edward's infirmary and early Sunday morning the attending surgeons declared he had about an even chance to recover. The lower part of his left jaw, a part of the upper left jaw, and a section of the side of his neck were torn away by the charge. Judge Little is declared to have withstood the shock excellently.

Mrs. Little and their 10-year-old daughter are visiting at Walnut Ridge, and have been informed of the occurrence. Williams was at his home when the police arrived, and the city officers turned him over to Constable Virgil Tumblin. Prosecuting Attorney Earl C. Hardin personally looked into the case and with Sheriff Claude Thompson, approved the bond of \$5,000 posted by Williams for his appearance, after the formal charge had been filed against him. Mr. Williams appeared much broken up over the affair. He declared he had not statement for publication to make at this time. (Eds. note: See full story on this unfortunate killing in Joyce Faulkner, "A Shot in the Dark: Judge Paul Little and Guy E. Williams," the *Journal* (April 1919): 17-22).

\*\*\*

## Thursday, October 30, 1919

### Bury Judge Little Greenwood Today

Tuesday night, while enroute to a hospital at St. Louis from this city, accompanied by his brother, physician and nurse, Judge Paul Little's injuries from the gunshot wound took a sudden fatal turn a short distance this side of Springfield, Mo. His death from heart failure came suddenly.

\*\*\*

## Friday, November 21, 1919

### Find Dead Infant Near Railway Track

A package containing the body of an undeveloped infant, found lying in the weeds at the connection of the Kansas City Southern, Frisco and Iron Mountain tracks, near the Fort Smith Wagon factory Wednesday, put the police searching for a woman who is described as elderly and dressed in black.

A report to the police was made by a switchman of the K. C. Southern who said he saw a woman deposit a package in the weeds and hurry away. Her actions aroused his suspicions and he went to the spot. Finding the package, he opened it, discovered the contents and notified the police.

The police, after an examination of the package called

for Health office A. A. McKelvey, who pronounced the body that of a female child not more than half developed.

Dr. McKelvey said the body was badly decomposed and thinks the child might have been dead at birth. He and Officer Gordon scooped out a grave where the body was found and buried the remains in a coffin improvised of scrap sheet iron.

\*\*\*

## Tuesday, November 25, 1919

### Parents Abandon Baby To Mercies Of Cruel World

A baby boy, not more than four weeks old, was left on the front porch of the A. F. Bird home, 210 South Twelfth street Sunday morning just after midnight. There is no clue to the identity of the child.

The baby was well clothed and wrapped in a blanket. Its crying awakened a small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bird's, who called her parents. The little fellow was at once brought into the house and a call sent to the police. Night Captain Robertson drove to the place and took the child to Miss Ida Moseley, night matron at the union station. Miss Moseley turned it over to officials of the Sparks Memorial hospital and stated that she would assist in securing it a home.

It was said at the hospital Monday that numerous offers to adopt the boy had been made.

It is thought that the infant was left by persons in good financial circumstances. Its clothing was of fine quality. Neighbors of the Bird's say they heard an automobile drive up to the house just after midnight, stop a moment, then hurry away. It is believed the child was brought in this car.

It was learned at the hospital that the baby was adopted Monday night into a wealthy family of the city, one of eight applicants for the child. The name of the family was not divulged.

\*\*\*

<p>Residence Phone 2261</p> <p>Office Phone 3237</p> <p>=====</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS</p> <p>10 a. m. to 12 m.</p> <p>2 p. m. to 6 p. m.</p> <p>=====</p> <p><b>Dr. N. H. Lockhart</b></p> <p>Office 609 1-2 No. 9th Street</p>	<p>At 609 North 9th Street</p> <p>there is a four chair barber shop for the colored people by J. W. Lovelace. This shop is equipped with the following electric appliances—rotating electric fan, electric hair clippers, electric hair dryer, electric massage machine. This shop has a good shine stand, a good shine boy and a first class bathroom where hot and cold water flows freely. In this shop there is a cigar stand filled with good cigars and Lovelace says: "business is good, but why not with a shop as complete as this one."</p> <p><b>Lovelace</b></p> <p>Laundry Agency. Prompt Service</p>
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**Tuesday, December 2, 1919**

**New Drug Store Will Beautify  
Once Famous "Texas Corner"**

The junction of Garrison and Towson avenues, noted "Texas Corner" of other days, which has been so changed and improved in the past few years, is to be further beautified and adorned by the location of one of the best and most modern drug stores in the southwest, it was learned Monday.

The business is to be conducted by R. H. Chowning and W. F. Morehead, both experienced men in the drug business. Chowning is a registered pharmacist and has been employed for some time at the Hawkins Pharmacy. Morehead is a recent arrival in the city from Huntington where he was engaged in the drug business.

\*\*\*

**Wednesday, December 3, 1919**

**Drastic Drug And Auto Laws  
Now In Force In Fort Smith**

At the regular commission Tuesday a proposed ordinance to check the sale of morphine, cocaine, laudanum or other poisonous drugs, was passed unanimously, and takes effect at once.

The bill provides that none of the above drugs or any mixture of preparation shall be sold, except on prescription, that such prescription shall be filled but once and only for the person for whom it is written. A record of all prescriptions and sales shall be kept by the physician and druggist, and a violation of the provisions of the ordinance shall be cause for the revocation of the license of the druggist, dentist or physician convicted of such violation.

Another measure passed by the commission makes it necessary for every automobile to carry in the front and rear of the automobile the license number. The number shall be in figures four inches in length and black on a white background. No fictitious number shall be carried by a car.

\*\*\*

**Thursday, December 4, 1919**

**Ben Hackett Dead**

**HACKETT**—Major Benjamin Hackett, founder of the city of Hackett in the south part of Sebastian county, died Wednesday morning in a hospital at McAlester, Okla., at the age of 74 years. Major Hackett was a native of Arkansas and was well known in the western part of the state. He was a musician of unusual ability and a noted violinist.

Major Hackett visited Fort Smith during the last Free Fair and met many old-time friends. He was possessed of considerable educational attainments and was known as a charming conversationalist, welcomed in any assembly.

\*\*\*

**Wednesday, December 17, 1919**

**Beggars Renewing Activities Here;  
Mostly Small Boys**

There were numerous inquiries Monday for an explanation of the influx of street beggars and "handout bracers" infesting the business and some of the residence sections of the city. Not for two years has there been any begging done in Fort Smith. The reports agree that practically all the persons who beg for "coin to get a bite to eat" or similar pleas are made by young men from fifteen to twenty years, who present the appearance of small town street boys.

It is suggested by one man that the Goodfellows club movement might have started the stampede in the city. The stated that in walking four blocks on Garrison avenue he was braced by three different men who presented none of the earmarks of hunger or cold, who told pitiful tales of needing something to eat.



*Al Whitson selects from microfilm archives newsworthy articles from Fort Smith newspapers a hundred years ago to give readers an unusual close-up view of how things have changed and have not changed in our fair city.*

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**GENEALOGICAL LINKS**

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 (---) —For such as title, marital status, degree, etc.  
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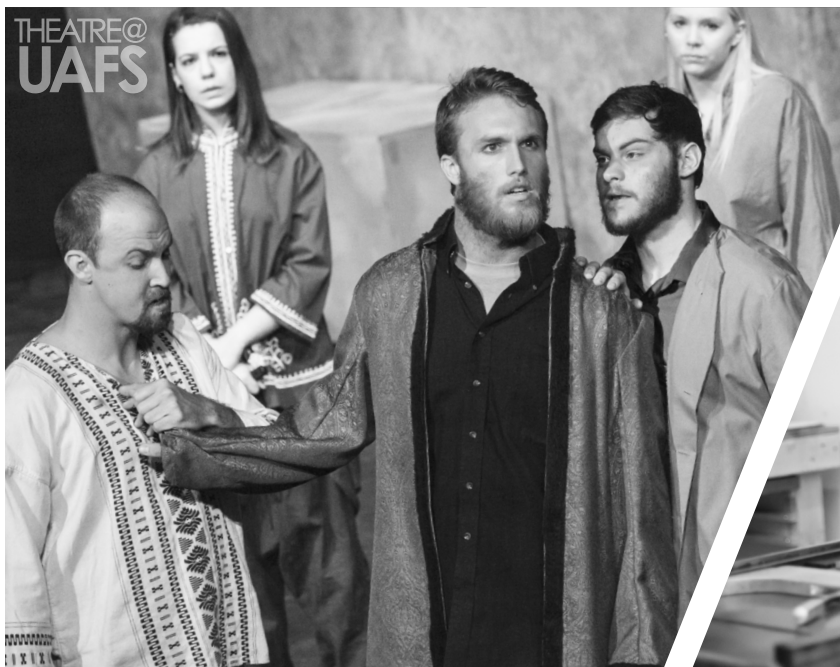
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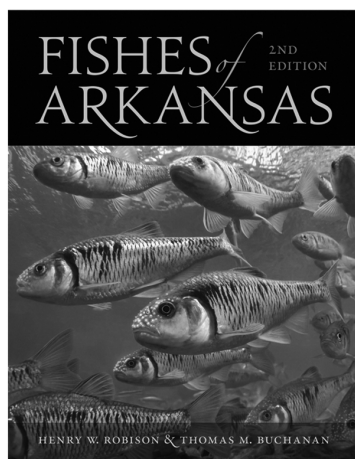
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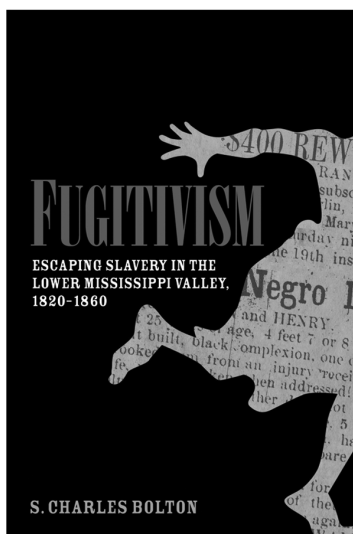
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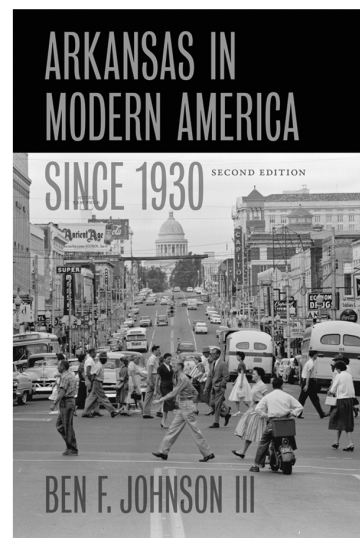
**UAFS** | UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
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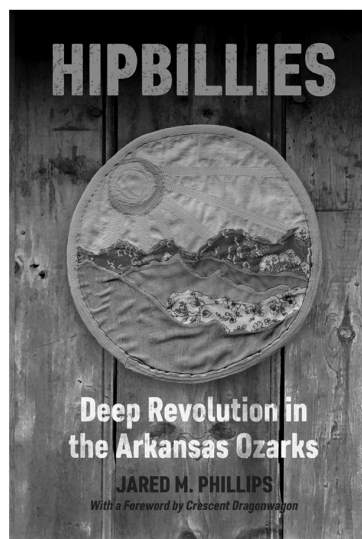
The second edition of *Fishes of Arkansas*, in development for more than a decade, is an extensive revision and expansion of the first edition, including reclassifications, taxonomic changes, and descriptions of more than thirty new species.



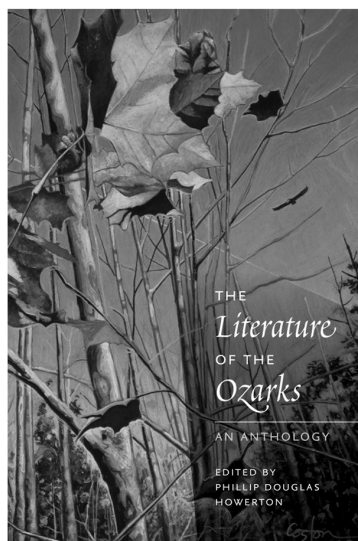
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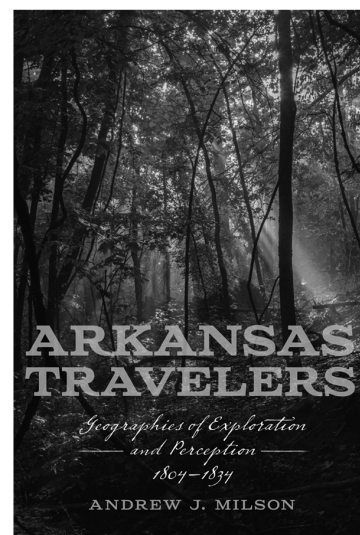
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