

## Early Law Enforcement in Bryan – 1875-1877

Compiled by Bill Page

Bryan ... The city election passed off quietly. The following are the officers elect: J. R. EVANS, Mayor; W.H. BOWMAN, Marshal, W.V. WALDROP, D.T. WILLIAMSON, Geo. CHAMBERLAIN, W.H. HARMON, W.C. PADGETT, Aldermen. Galveston Daily News, 6 Jan. 1875, p. 1.

The police of Bryan, contrary to the rules and by-laws and habits of the class, endeavor to serve the public. They see that back yards are kept clean, watch the drains of taverns and back yards of stores, and, best of all, kill all the loose dogs engaged in the pleasing business of distributing fleas all over town. Most policemen love to scratch, and if it wasn't for the fleas they would have nothing to do. Therefore, they spare the loafing curs. (Austin) Daily Democratic Statesman, 12 June 1875, p.1, col.7

Bryan has had a city election, and Dr. L. ERWIN was elected Mayor and A.L. CARR City Marshal. Galveston Daily News, 11 Jan. 1876, p. 2.

*Bryan Appeal:* At the election of city officers the following were duly elected, viz: For Mayor, J.M. ROBINSON, by a majority of 95 votes; for Marshal, A.B. CARR, by 197 votes. The old Board of Aldermen were re-elected, and are as follows: A.C.L. HILL, W.V. WALDROP, J.W. TABOR, Guy M. BRYAN, Jr., and M.D. COLE. Galveston Daily News, 11 Jan. 1877, p. 2.

Bryan is enforcing the street law. Citizens have to pay the tax or give ten days work on the streets. Galveston Daily News, 18 Jan. 1877, p. 2.

Bryan Pilot – On last Friday evening a man from the first section house north of Bryan, came into town on a hand car, and informed Policeman DICKENSON that two tramps had got their dinners at the section house from the women there and paid them with counterfeit money. He gave the policeman a description of the men, and told him to be on the lookout for them. Policeman DICKENSON, in company with Deputy Sheriff WHEAT, kept a sharp watch for the tramps and arrested them on their arrival. One of them had \$7.50 in coin half dollar pieces of the basest counterfeit, and the other had \$6.50 of the same kind. Between them they had fifty-five cents of good money. Letters were found in the pockets of one addressed to James O'BRIEN, and he said the same was his name, and that the letters were from his father. The other said his name was Robert A. DISMAN, and that he was a native of New York city. They said they had obtained the money from a regular counterfeiter – they had been with him several days, and had left him in Hearne, that they first met him at an old beef factory this side of Calvert, where he was making the money; saw him make it; helped him to make some – or tried to. They said the counterfeiter also had plates for printing greenbacks, and promised them if they would go with him to Palestine he would supply them with counterfeit paper money. Dallas Weekly Herald, 17 November 1877, p.3