

Early Law Enforcement in Bryan – 1880-1882

Compiled by Bill Page

The 1880 Federal Census for Brazos County, Texas (p.338) lists Jessee ELLIS, an African American man aged 36 years, as being a city policeman in Bryan.

Bryan ... Our city election, yesterday, resulted in the re-election of J.M. ROBINSON, mayor, and A.B. CARR, marshal. A competent Board of Aldermen were chosen ... Capt. John N. HENDERSON, senator-elect, and Capt. AYRES, representative, are arranging to leave for Austin. Galveston Daily News, 5 Jan. 1881, p. 1.

Bryan ... The city election passed off quietly. J.M. ROBINSON was re-elected mayor and A.B. CARR re-elected marshal. Houston Post, 5 Jan. 1881, p. 1.

Mayor of Bryan, J.N. ROBERTSON; councilmen, J.N. COLE, T.J. McQUEEN, J.L. GARTH, W.W. HANWAY, F.E. Hooper; marshal, A.B. Carr; attorney, R.J. SMITH; clerk and treasurer, A.H. HARBERS. Weekly Brazos Pilot, 7 Oct. 1881, as quoted in Bryan Weekly Eagle, 6 Feb. 1930, p. 3.

Bryan ... R.A. DICKINSON, a policeman, was accidentally poisoned yesterday, by eating fish which had been caught with a poisonous bait. Medical treatment prevented serious results. Dallas Weekly Herald, 30 March 1882, p.5

Bryan ... Quite a number of disturbances were committed during the stay of the circus. Among the number was a serious difficulty that took place between three attaches of the circus, two of whom made an assault upon the third, striking him with a slung-shot and a hammer, besides giving him several severe cuts on the head and in the face and neck. Officers being on hand, one of the two who made the assault was immediately arrested and bond fixed at \$500. Being unable to give bail, he was remanded to jail. The other party made his escape, as the officers were unable to trace him in the crowd. Galveston Daily News, 18 October 1882, page 1

Bryan ... Chas. LOVELL, a desperate Negro, was wounded in three different places by Policeman DICKERSON, in resisting arrest, to-day. LOVELL had gone to the residence of Mrs. PAGE, and abused her and cursed her in an outrageous manner for hiring his wife as a cook. The policeman was called in to arrest LOVELL, who resisted, and at last drew his pistol on DICKERSON, whereupon DICKERSON shot him three times before the Negro would succumb. LOVELL is now in jail, and the feeling here is very bitter for his conduct toward the lady. Galveston Daily News, 30 December 1882, p.1, col.6