

Early Law Enforcement in Bryan – 1883-1886

Compiled by Bill Page

Bryan...The city election took place on New Year day, and owing to the extremely bad weather, only an average vote was polled. Major J.W. TABOR was elected mayor by a large majority. The following aldermen were elected: T.J. McQUINN [McQUEEN], W.F. HOOPER, W.W. HANWAY, J.L. GARTH and M. GOLDSTEIN. A.B. COHN [CARR] was again elected city marshal without any opposition. Galveston Daily News, 3 January 1883, p.1

Bryan ... A policeman attempted to arrest a man today for indecent exposure of person. He fired at the officer, who returned the fire. He was then jailed. Fort Worth Gazette, 16 November 1883, page 2.

Bryan, October 29 -- Investigation into the shooting of Jack JONES, colored, by Levi NEAL, policeman, shows that it was entirely accidental, caused by JONES endeavoring to seize hold of NEAL's pistol, which was discharged. Galveston Daily News, 30 October 1884, p.2, col.4

Bryan ... The city election resulted in the re-election of Major J.W. TABOR mayor, A.B. CARR city marshal, and H.C. ROBINSON, H.B. STODDARD, T.E. ARMSTRONG, W.B. SANDERS, and J.W. JOHNSON as aldermen. The newly elected officials are among the best men of the city, whose election will guarantee progressive good government. Galveston Daily News, 8 January 1885, p. 2.

Bryan ... Some time ago the city fathers passed an ordinance against cows running at large in the city. Several of the aldermen's cows were found in the pound, and now the ordinance is modified to include only Main Street. Galveston Daily News, 9 March 1885, p. 3.

*SMITH, L.P., Jr., Mr.; shot & killed by escaped convicts; left a wife & children; was a law officer; buried "from Wixon church." Galveston Daily News, 17 May 1885, p.2, col.5; 24 May 1885, p.2, col.2; 30 May 1885, p.5, col.4; 12 Sept.1885, p.2, col.1.

Albert Brewer v. The State.

No. 3601

Court of Appeals of Texas

18 Tex. Ct. App. 456; 1885 Tex. Crim. App. Lexis 130

June 13, 1885, Delivered

Appeal from the District Court of Brazos. Tried below before the Hon. W. E. Collard.

The conviction in this case was for the theft of two watches, the property of ___ BOWLES (whose christian name was to the grand jurors unknown), in Brazos County, Texas, on the 5th day of March, 1877. A term of five years in the penitentiary was the punishment assessed by the jury against the appellant. Mrs. Willie BOWLES testified, for the State, that, seven or eight years prior to this trial, she lived in Bryan, Brazos

Ccounty, Texas. The defendant, who was her cousin, spent much of his time at the witness's house, and was there regarded pretty much as a member of the family. Witness's husband was not at home on the night that the witness's two watches were stolen, and witness, her mother and Mrs. BREWER slept in the north room of the house. The defendant was at the house that night, and went to bed in the south room, which adjoined the room in which the witness's two watches were. Defendant knew the watches were there, and had free access to them. Witness heard the defendant leave the house during the night of the theft, but did not hear him return. When she missed him next morning she concluded that he had gone to market. Shortly after she missed the defendant she missed her two gold watches, worth \$75 each, and a chain and cross worth about \$5. Defendant not returning, the witness went down town during the day and learned that defendant had left Bryan on the previous night's train. She then informed City Marshal CARR of her loss, and recovered her watches a few days afterwards through him. Witness could not recall the exact year when this all occurred, but it was some seven or eight years previous to 1885. The watches, chain and cross belonged to witness, and were taken without her consent. Defendant had never worn either of these watches, nor had had either of them in his possession, except on one occasion, when he took one to town for repairs.

J. M. BOWLES, the husband of the prosecutrix, testified that he was not at home on the night of the theft, some seven or eight years ago. The watches belonged to witness's wife, and were taken without the witness's consent.

S. T. DICKERSON testified that he was on the police force of Bryan when the watches were stolen, and was sent by City Marshal CARR to Calvert in pursuit of defendant. He found defendant in a saloon in Calvert. He was wearing one of the watches, and had the other behind the bar. Witness took him in custody back to Bryan, and turned him and the two watches over to Carr.

Ex-Marshal CARR, of Bryan, corroborated Mrs. BOWLES as to the report to him of the loss of the watches, and DICKERSON as to the latter's mission to Calvert and its results. This case had been a long time in court. It was the impression of the witness that the defendant escaped from custody at a general jail delivery, but it was quite possible that he was released on bail and his bond subsequently forfeited. He was arrested in Calvert by DICKERSON, and brought back to Bryan two or three days after the theft.

Ex-Justice of the Peace CEARNEL testified that, in May, 1877, he presided over the examining trial of the defendant, and committed him to custody upon this charge. The State then introduced the judgment forfeiting the defendant's bail bond.

Sheriff DAWSON testified that during his three years of incumbency of the office of sheriff of Brazos County, he had kept a lookout for the defendant, and accomplished his arrest in Cass county, Texas, in August, 1884.

J. R. OVERALL, proprietor of a Calvert hotel in the spring of 1877, testified for the defense that the defendant, stopping at his house, gave him a gold watch with the request

that he take good care of it. A day or two afterwards defendant, in charge of policeman DICKERSON of Bryan, came to the hotel, asked for and got the watch.

The motion for new trial presented the question discussed in the opinion. Reversed and remanded.

Bryan ... A.B. CARR, city marshal, arrested last night a hard customer, who was drunk and disorderly, in the shape of a woman. She had in her possession a gold stem-winding watch, Waltham make, with filled case. She also had a clock, with the name of Robert BURKE on the back. The city authorities are enforcing the vagrant act. Policeman BISHOP arrested four white men on the charge of vagrancy, and they are now in the city jail. Galveston Daily News, 11 February 1886, p.3

Bryan ... The watch reported in *The News* as found in the possession of the woman arrested by City Marshal CARR was stolen from the A. and M. College. Dallas Morning News, 12 February 1886, p.3

Bryan, July 27 -- Windom McGILL, a freedman, was shot and instantly killed last night, about 10 o'clock, near the Roman Catholic church. His heart was torn all to pieces. The gun used was a shotgun. The police are working up the case, but have no clue yet who did the killing. Galveston Daily News, 28 July 1886, p.2, col.2

Bryan ... Marshal A.B. CARR has under arrest a suspicious Mexican by the name of John CARNAGAS, alias OBENCHAIN. He speaks English, claims to be from Weatherford, where he has a sister; also claims that he has an uncle living in Dallas. He is about 27 years old, about 5' 8" high, weighs 150 lbs., has black hair and mustache, also black eyes; has scar on cheek about 1 1/2" long, and one under his chin which looks like a burn. He is acquainted in San Antonio...Galveston Daily News, 12 Sept. 1886, p.3, col.3

Bryan ... Last night one William DANSBY, a stout farmer, was in town, and, becoming intoxicated, got into a row and knocked down a farmer named WYATT, and was doing up most anyone that came in his way, when City Marshal CARR attempted to arrest him. He refused to be arrested, and was getting the better of CARR, when CARR attempted to use his revolver, but was disarmed by some one in the crowd. Policeman BISHOP then came to his assistance, and the two, with the assistance of several others, succeeded in managing him, not, however, before both CARR and BISHOP had been severely bruised about the head and face. Fort Worth Daily Gazette, 22 Aug. 1886, p.4, col.4

Bryan, Dec. 4 – The saloon of T.C. NUNN was entered last night, the safe blown open and burglarized of \$200. Officers have a clue to the parties, and no doubt arrests will be made in a few days ... Dallas Morning News, 5 December 1886, p.11.