

Early Law Enforcement in Bryan – 1889 – 1892

Compiled by Bill Page

Bryan ... The city election to-day resulted in the election of R.M. HALL [NALL] as marshal, A.B. CARR, secretary; B.F. LANE, treasurer; and the following aldermen: Milton PARKER, A.C.L. HILL, R.L. WEDDINGTON and S.M. DERDEN. Everything passed off quietly, and 506 votes were polled. Galveston Daily News, 3 April 1889.

April 9, 1889: On a motion Levi NEAL elected policeman by a unanimous vote at a salary of twenty five dols. Bryan City Council Minutes, p.3

“Troublesome Coons,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 26 December 1889, p.1, col.3. Mentions “the colored policeman Levi NEAL”

*Mr. NALL and Levi NEAL helped catch convicts. Bryan Eagle, 27 March 1890, p.5, col. 3

*Mr. NALL, city marshal, was visited by his brother W.H. NALL of Kountze, Bryan Eagle, 26 June 1890, p. 5, col. 2

Bryan, Tex., July 31 – M.R. McCALL, a mulatto delivery wagon man of Bryan, who has resided here many years, was arrested to-day by Marshal NALL for burglarizing the house of Mr. W.A. REED and locked up in jail. McCALL is an exceptionally intelligent and energetic Negro and was a general favorite among people who had occasion to use a delivery man. He had accumulated, it is said, a \$1000 bank account and had a very comfortable home and several rented houses. Thievery has been going on in the neighborhood where McCALL lived for a long time, embracing all kinds of food and clothing. When McCALL was arrested this morning the articles stolen from Mr. REED’s, together with fine clothing, both ladies and gentlemen’s, spoons and other articles stolen from Mr. Ty HASWELL’s, John WITTMAN’s and other citizens the past few weeks and months were found in his possession. In order to conceal his identity the burglar used a pair of ladies shoes, which were found in McCALL’s house and corresponded with the tracks made in REED’s yard. A sack of meal with a small hole in it, stolen at REED’s, left a telltale track, which led to McCALL’s house and caused his arrest. Dallas Morning News, 2 August 1892, p.6

Bryan ... Last night burglars broke into Mr. W.C. BOYETT’s store at College Station and made a fine haul. They got about \$50 in cash and a large lot of valuables ... The thieves broke in through a window. Marshal NALL made an arrest today, a Negro, and other arrests will follow. Dallas Morning News, 3 August 1892, p.6

Bryan, Texas, December 4 – Last night officers raided a colored crap game and bagged twenty-nine participants, and it is said some of them were not descendents of Ham. The officers made fast all exits, took bonds from those who could give them, and those who could not give them were locked up. Houston Daily Post, 5 December 1892, p.4, col.6