

Bollinger County, Missouri
Miscellaneous News Articles: "Old Bollinger Files"

Notes: There were a lot of newspaper articles in jpg format, Those were reformatted so that the name of the person or location and date are included in the name of the file. Additionally, we wish to thank all past contributors for their willingness to share these great tidbits of Family data.

[Rose Townsend, Pat Chitty, Lavonda F Durham, April Rhodes]

Marble Hill Press
Marble Hill, MO
Submitted by Helen L. Smith Hoke

"The Marble Hill Press" Local News

Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO February 2, 1905

MARRIED: Friday evening, January 27, at the home of the bride's parents in this city, Mr. John O. Cavanaugh of Diehlstadt and Miss Nora King. (Lutesville News)

Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO February 2, 1905

DIED: January 20, Fred Bruns, who resided in the north part of town, of pneumonia. The remains were interred in the Slaybaugh cemetery. (Lutesville News)

Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO February 2, 1905

Mrs. Rachael Rhine died in St. Louis Monday and was brought down and buried here Wednesday. Mrs. Rhine was an aunt to our Circuit clerk, G. B. Cook. (Fredericktown Tribune).

Mrs. Rhine was a native of Bollinger and has many relatives in the north part of the county, where she was born and reared, who will be sorry to learn of her death. (Local News).

Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO February 2, 1905

"Uncle" Tom Henley, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of this vicinity, died Saturday morning, aged about 84 years. (Huskey Area)

Ben McCullough came down from Farmington last Sunday to attend the funeral of his grandfather, Thomas Henley, but he arrived too late. (Local News)

Mr. McCullough and family attended the funeral of Mrs. McCullough's father, Thomas Henley, at Gravel Hill Sunday.

Thomas Henly died at his home near Gravel Hill January 28, aged about 84 years. He had been in feeble health several years. "Uncle" Tom as he was familiarly known, was a good old man who leaves many relatives and friends to mourn his departure. His remains were land to rest in the Gravel Hill Cemetery Sunday.

January 26, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Miss Lulu, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gibbs of near Glen Allen died January 22, of consumption, aged 20 years. Her funeral was conducted by Rev. Wm. Lowe from the Methodist church at Glen Allen Tuesday. (Local News)

January 26, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

A little son of Constable A. P. Crader died Sunday, January 15, and was interred in the Hahn Chapel Cemetery on Monday. The little one, aged about 18 months, was only ill a short time as it took sick with a chill the day before it died. (Local News)

January 26, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Seabaugh are the happy parents of a bouncing big girl, born January 17, 1905. (Sedgewickville.)

January 26, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Jonas Fish celebrated his 48th birthday January 15, by entertaining a number of his friends. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Hovis, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Gilliland, Messrs. V.S. Fox and Henry Harty, Mrs. Flora Hinkle and several young people. After partaking of a splendid dinner the afternoon was spent very pleasantly by all in various ways. (Gipsy.)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Died: Mrs. Day, nee Liley, January 5, wife of William Day who resides south of town. She leaves a babe only a few days old, a loving husband and many friends to mourn her untimely demise. Mr. Day is a son of our townsman, M. M. Day. (Lutesville News)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Mrs. Mary B. Smith of Smithland, KY, attended the funeral of Dr. E. P. Biggs, and returned home the day after the funeral. (Lutesville--local news item)

January 5, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

BORN--December 28, to Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hahns, a fine boy. Sedgewickville.

January 5, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Major J. S. Hill was three score and fifteen, Wednesday, January 5, and is the youngest man, age considered, that we know of and is enjoying good health. (Local News)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Mr. Keplinger of Johnstown, Tenn., died at the home of his father-in-law, L. D. Hickum, 3 miles west of Lutesville, (Bollinger Co.) last Monday, of a complication of diseases. He was a young man, about 24 years old and had been in this section of the country only about three weeks but had he lived, expected to make this state his home. He leaves a devoted wife and other relatives and friends to mourn his departure. The funeral services were conducted by Revs. T. H. Jenkins and Wm. Lowe Wednesday, after which the body was interred in the Point Pleasant Cemetery. (Local News)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Jacob Smith of Lutesville and Miss Columbia Hooe of Oran were married at the Methodist parsonage in Marble Hill, January 12, Rev. Wm. Lowe officiating. (Local News)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

G. A. Garner of Sikeston and Mrs. Belle Hall were united in marriage at the home of the bride in Lutesville January 12, Rev. Wm. Lowe officiating. (Local News)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO

Married---Thursday, January 12, Mr. George A. Garner to Mrs. Belle P. Hall, at the residence of the bride in this city. Mr. Garner is a traveling salesman for the Kimbal Piano and Organ Co., and the bride is one of our most accomplished ladies. Lutesville News.

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
Married January 1, 1905, Kirby Strong and Ursa Molenhour, W. H. Brown, J.P., officiating.
(Whitewater Area News)

January 5, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
Married--Mr. Fred Funke and Miss Amelia Schrock on last Sunday at the home of the bride's parents.
(Glen Allen Area)

January 5, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
Married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Deck, near this place, Sunday, December 25, Mr. Adam Lincoln and Miss Dora Deck. They departed for the Cape last Thursday, where they will make their future home. (Glen Allen Area)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
2nd News Item
Sandford Hawn, who arrived here from Colorado two weeks ago, died at the residence of his parents Monday evening of a complication of diseases, aged 24 years. (Marquand Item in Fredericktown Democrat-News)

Mr. Hawn was the only son of Samuel Hawn, a good citizen of Crooked Creek township and he leaves a widow and babe. Mrs. Hawn is the eldest daughter of ex-collector Moses Limbaugh, now of Grand Junction, Colo. (Local News)

Janury 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
Mrs. Sarah Barks, wife of David Barks, was buried January 10, 1905. Her death resulted from a sore hand. (Lixville Area News Item)

January 19, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
Died--At his home near Crump, January 11, of paralysis, Richard J. Welch. He was a sufferer for about 16 months and was perfectly helpless. He was a son of the late Judge Welch of Bollinger County and while his death was not entirely unexpected, it was a shock to our community to fully realize that we had lost one of our best citizens. (Whitewater Area News Item)

January 5, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Winchester died December 21. She passed away rejoicing in the Christian's hope. A father, mother, three sisters, two brothers and a host of friends mourn her departure. (Dongola News Area)

January 5, 1905, Marble Hill Press, Marble Hill, MO
James Shell and Miss Willie Drum were united in marriage in the church here last Sunday. (Dongola News Item)

January 5, 1905, Banner Press, Marble Hill, MO
Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Stratton are the proud parents of a little girl. The mother is not yet 15 years of age. (Huskey area)



The Devenport Family

The people of this county were stunned Thursday morning when it became known that Oliver Devenport, age 39, a farmer who had apparently become crazed by financial worries, had killed five of his children with a claw hammer, seriously wounded his wife and another daughter with the same weapon, and then ended his own life by placing the muzzle of a single barrel shotgun to the side of his head, blowing the top of his head off. The scene of this awful slaying was the Devenport farm home on Highway 51, four miles south of Patton. Those dead are Oliver A. Devenport, the father, aged 39; Verda, aged 10, and twin sister of Virgie, who is in the Cape hospital; Clara Fay, aged 7; Raymond, aged 5; Louise, age 3; and Vaughnita, aged 10 months. The injured the wife, Mrs. Clara Devenport, who is in the Cape hospital, and Vergie, aged 10, who is also in the Cape hospital. Wooster Devenport, aged 12, was the only one of the family to escape unharmed. The slaying happened as near as can be ascertained between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning.

According to Mrs. Devenport, her husband waked her up and told her that he could see no other thing but starvation facing them and that she was the cause of his financial difficulties, and if she hadn't been so extravagant, he would have a home to move to and that he was going to kill them all and pile them up together. The crazed husband first hit his wife with the hammer and she begged for mercy telling him that she did not want to die. He struck Mrs. Devenport several times with the hammer with which he killed the five children. The little boy Wooster, and his sister Verda, hearing the cries and commotion, had rushed into the room with the other children, but escaped, but Verda was hit with the hammer before she ran out into the yard and the father struck at Wooster as he ran out, but missed him. The two children ran out into the yard between the barn and the chicken house in their nightclothes and barefooted, where they stopped. Verda told Wooster that she was going back and Wooster told her not to go back into the house, to wait there but not to go back to the house, that he was going for help. Wooster ran on for help, but the little girl went back into the house and was killed by her father.

Wooster ran to the home of Fred Stone about one quarter mile to spread the alarm. He was sent on with a lantern to Polly Sitzes home for help. The little lad made the trip over the cold frosty ground barefoot. Mr. Sitzes, who was awakened by Wooster, heard screaming at the Devenport home, and also the report of a gun. He did not go to the Devenport home at that time but went after help to the home of Mr. J. I. R. Devenport, who lives in that community and is a half brother of Oliver, who was told of the tragedy. He went to the home, but did not go in immediately, but went up on the porch and heard someone groaning. He called to Mrs. Devenport, who answered "Oh, Uncle Roy, he has killed us all. Come in quick." He asked her where Oliver was and she replied that he was in there dead.

When Mr. Devenport and others went into the house the wife asked him if he thought the Good Lord would forgive her for not answering her husband when he called to her. Before he shot himself, he called to his wife three times, but Mrs. Devenport, although badly wounded from the hammer blows, had the presence of mind enough not to answer him. Her husband, thinking her dead, placed the muzzle of a single shot shotgun to the side of his head and fired.

After Mr. Devenport killed himself with the shotgun, Mrs. Devenport got up and although seriously hurt, went among the bodies of her children, who had been felled by the hammer blows. When they came in, she was lying on the bed. She had placed Clara Fay on the bed to the left of her, the baby was up against her right side, the 3 year old girl was next to the baby and Virgie, was in the bed next to the wall. Clara Fay was still living when help came but expired about fifteen minutes after their arrival.

Dr. Vaughn, who lived about one half mile from the Devenport home, was the first physician to arrive and he was quickly followed by Dr. O'Kelly of Patton. The Cape ambulance was called by the two doctors and the mother and Virgie were taken to the Cape hospital as soon as it was possible. Dr. VanAmburg,

County Coroner of Lutesville, and undertaker A. J. Baker of Lutesville, were sent for and arrived on the scene.

When those who first arrived went into the room from the kitchen, the body of Verda was lying about two feet from the east door that leads into the kitchen and at the foot of the bed little Raymond was lying in about the center of the house, with his head nearly against one leg of the stove. Mr Devenport was lying with his head against the door frame of the partition door of the west side. Mrs. Devenport and the other children were on the bed.

The gun, which was a single barrel 12 gauge shotgun, would always break down when shot., we are informed, and this gun, broken down, and the claw hammer, (a regular carpenters claw hammer) was under his body. The gun was gripped in his left hand and the hammer was gripped in his right hand. He had pulled his boots off and placed them neatly where his body was found. The children and mother had been struck with the hammer on the top of the back of their heads. Mrs. Devenport was hit nine times with the hammer.

Oliver Devenport was a son of the late J.W. Devenport and was reared in the community thirteen miles northwest of Marble Hill. Besides his own family, he is survived by three half-brothers. The wife is a daughter of the late Jack Fulbright, who lived in the Bessville community. A brother still lives in that section.

The family had lived at Elvins for about six or seven years. The father purchased the Tom Pulliam place where the tragedy occurred about two years ago when they moved there. He sold the place to Fred Stone about ten months ago, and planned to move the same day as the tragedy to the Ben Tinnin farm near Yount's store. He had even engaged men and teams to help him move.

Friday and Saturday, as the news of the terrible tragedy spread, hundreds came from all sections of southern Mo. Such a tragedy is unknown in the history of this county.

The Devenport people are all highly respected citizens of that community and as a result, they are left grief stricken and dazed. The father, Oliver, was not so well known in the two towns, but was well known in the Patton section.

Funeral services were held Sunday morning at 1000 o'clock. The funeral procession headed by two hearses moving from the Baker Funeral home in Lutesville to the Plainview Church. The bodies had been placed beside the church building according to their ages and Rev. J. M. Trentham, Baptist Minister, stood in a back side door, with the body of the father on his right and the bodies of the children on his left, and preached a short funeral sermon. He told of the good reputation the father had always borne, his acquaintance with him and of his great love of his children. The silent and solemn file of people moved past the casket, in single file for an hour and a half. The bodies were then lowered to their final resting place, the body of the father in one grave and the bodies of the children in another large grave nearby.

Bollinger County has never before witnessed an assemblage as large as this one at a funeral. Conservative estimates place the number present at 3500 people.

The boy, Wooster, is now with his aunt, Mrs. Minnie Criddle, who lives near Oak Ridge. The young lad went home with his aunt and family and will make his home with them for a while.

Relatives moved the household goods away from the home Monday to a building belonging to J.N. Sitzes and put it under lock. Sunday afternoon relatives informed us the house was broken into by the curious and it is estimated that several hundred visited the scene of the killing. Relatives of the family went to the

house, got the people out and nailed the house up. They had to threaten to nail some of them in before they could get them out of the house.

*From the Banner Press
January 14, 1932, Submitted by: Laura Vonk



*From the Banner Press June 23, 1932
Charles Edward Walk

- One of the largest crowds ever gathered in that community for a funeral service was present Tuesday afternoon at the McGee Cemetery over the final rites of Charles Edward Walk, Thursday, who had met his death in a most horrible manner early Monday evening.

Mr. Walk left his home Monday morning and went to the Fred Stephens farm a distance of about three miles, where he was renting and share cropping. Following the days work, at about 800 and near dark, Mr. Walk started to his home and was riding one of his mules. The mule became frightened from some object and threw Mr. Walk to the ground with the right foot catching in the trace chain. The chain bound about the foot above the ankle and gradually tightened. The man was dragged a distance of two or three miles, with the body beaten against the ground and striking rocks and other objects. It is supposed that Mr. Walk was thrown from his mule in front of the Oliver Charles place as his hat was found at that point. Tracing of the route showed that the mule had traveled in a semicircle. After traveling until 900 o'clock the animal came to the home of Lee Dickenson and stopped in front of the gate. Mrs. Dickenson heard the animal and called her husband. On going outside and investigating, Mr. Dickenson called Mr. Stephens and the two loosened the chain and carried the body to the porch. Neighbors were called and the body taken to the Walk home. Relatives thought it advisable to call County Coroner Lamb to hold an inquest.

Examination of the body showed that the entire head had been scalped, as if with a knife or other sharp instrument. The left leg, which had been dragging against the ground was broken and crushed at the knee, and almost torn off at the hip, while the right leg was badly cut and bruised. The entire body was crushed and all ribs believed broken. The body was an entire mass of bruises. The mans clothing was completely torn off with the single exception of a small piece of the overall on the right leg. The Coroners jury found the deceased came to his death by being thrown from a mule, his foot caught in a trace and dragged on the ground for a distance of about two miles.

Charles Edward Walk, aged 49 years, 1 month and 19 days, was born in the state of Indiana, the son of Isaac and Katie Walk and had lived in the McGee community practically all of his life, where he was known and respected. He was a member of the Brights Prospect General Baptist Church. Surviving is the wife, Etta and eight children; Beulah Walk, Mrs. Mary Hefner, Milford, Winford, Thelma, Audrey, Ruby and Avery Walk. Beulah the oldest, is aged 21 years and Avery, the youngest, aged 3 years. One brother, Alonzo, Zalma, two sisters, Mrs. Bessie Cato of Zalma, Mrs. Chole Buggy of St. Louis also survive.

From the Banner Press
June 23, 1932, Laura Vonk



"THE BANNER PRESS" January 25, 1940

TWO YOUTHS LOSE LIVES WHEN FARM HOME BURNS

One of the saddest tragedies to happen in this county in several years occurred early Friday morning, when the farm home of Mrs. Gertrude McGregor, on Perkins Creek near Grassy burned, and Archie Forrest McGregor 13-year old son of Mrs. McGregor perished in the flames, and another son Maxwell McGregor, 20 years old was burned so badly all over the body that he died at the Southeast Missouri Hospital, Cape Girardeau, the following day, Saturday, at 10:25 A.M.

The family was aroused by the fire at about 4:30 Friday morning, the coldest here in years, and Maxwell, who was brought to Lutesville by Dale Porter and Henry Liley, where he was transferred to the Baker Ambulance, could talk but briefly, but told Mr. Baker of seeing his brother, Archie, at the head of the stairway, as they were trying to escape from the upstairs of the burning building. The fire had started near the stairway, which was a mass of flames as the youths attempted to escape. He said he did not know just where his brother was in the upstairs part of the building, or just how he himself had gotten out. Archie was apparently overcome by the smoke and heat at the head of the stairs. Maxwell's night clothes were practically burned from his body and when the burning clothing was torn from him by his grandmother, Mrs. Louise Billington and others, he was entirely nude. He then went to their car and got into it. When neighbors arrived a pair of overalls, which were hanging on the clothes line in the yard, were put on him and some of the men wrapped their overcoats about him. He was then rushed to Lutesville where he was placed in the ambulance and taken to the hospital.

Mrs. Billington, Mrs. McGregor's mother, who ran to the home of a neighbor, Louis Brown, about one-fourth of a mile away, barefooted and clad only in her night clothes, was in a serious condition from exposure, but is reported to be improved. Mrs. Billington is 75 years old. Her feet were frozen and also cut by the rocks and her hands were burned when she helped to pull the burning night clothes off of her grandson Max. Mrs. McGregor and daughter Charlotte escaped without burns, but Mrs. McGregor was reported to be ill as a result of the shock and exposure to the bitter cold Friday morning. It was 12 degrees below zero that morning. Members of the family have been cared for by the neighbors.

All household effects, clothing and some money belonging to Mrs. Billington were lost in the blaze, which is thought to have resulted from an overheated stove. Mrs. McGregor had started a fire about 4 o'clock.

The two youths are survived by their mother, three sisters, Mrs. Della Barnes, Gideon; Mrs. Effie Williams of Grassy and Charlotte of the home; four brothers, Hadley of Puxico; Shelby of Keokuk, Iowa; Rexwell and Charles of Grassy, and their grandmother, Mrs. Billington. Their father, Harlan McGregor died several years ago. The body of Archie was taken to the home of Ed Pittman, a neighbor and the body of Maxwell was taken to the Baker Funeral Home, where they remained until taken to McGee Chapel for funeral services.

Funeral services for both youths were held at McGee Chapel church, near Grassy, Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Services were conducted by Rev Willie Liley, who was assisted by Revs John Fowler and Fred DeHoog. The brothers were buried side by side in the chapel cemetery, with boyhood friends of the youths acting as pall bearers. End

Submitted by Kay McGregor



"THE Marble Hill Press" August 30, 1894
Shot by a "friend"

Shot by a "friend"

"The only thing that I regret is that I was killed by a man whom I thought my best friend." These were the words of W. H. Smith as he lay dying at the residence of his brother-in-law, Dr. E. P. Biggs on Union Street, at one o'clock last Sunday morning from the effects of a pistol shot, in the hands of Henry Billings at 930 o'clock Saturday evening.

Smith lived but four hours after receiving the mortal wound. The men each about 22 years old had been about town together for some time during the evening and had been drinking some. To those who saw them they appeared to be on the best of terms, and in fact they had been, apparently, chums, since Smith's arrival from a western trip about a month ago.

They went into Burkett's restaurant about 830 and Smith ordered a lunch, at the same time inviting Billings to eat with him. He declined and also declined an offered glass of cider. Smith ate his lunch and during the meal was called to the door by Billings and a short conversation was had. No one knows what was said, however. They then went to J.H. Lutes' grocery store and restaurant and Smith called for dried beef. When the beef had been secured Billings remarked "You have already eat everthing Burkett had, are you going to eat all that Lutes has?"

"Yes sir, I am man enough to do it" replied Smith.

Several remarks of this nature passed, supposed by the clerk, H. F. Steele, Richard Phelps, Albert Revelle, Andrew Stickler, Charles Hobbs, Sankey Phelps and Harry Wann the only other person in the store, to be good humored joking. Billings then stepped outside for a moment, but soon returned and seated himself by Smith who had in the meantime begun to eat the beef, cutting it from the piece with a barlow knife. Smith put his right arm about Billings' neck, and began moving his hand with the knife in it about his face, making some remark to the effect of "How would you like to be cut?" he had just before done Clerk Steele the same way.

Billings then arose and said "Be careful with that knife, " at the same time carrying his hand toward his hip pocket. Smith said in effect "Pull that thing out here; don't go out in the dark to do it." Billings replied that he had nothing in his pocket to pull out.

Smith then said 'Josh I thought we were good friends.' "I thought so too." replied Billings. Some other words between the two followed, and Billings walked out of the door. Those persons then in the restaurant supposed that the matter was ended and that Billings had gone. Shortly after Billings went out Smith walked towards the door, and leaned against it. At this instant Billings fired and Smith fell, saying, "I am shot!" the ball entering the abdomen and ranging toward the right shoulder.

When Billings shot he said "Now follow me!" he then turned and walked home carrying the pistol in his hand. he was arrested the same night by Constable Slinkard, and waiving preliminary examination was taken to jail Tuesday.

Smith was carried to Dr. Reck's office the rear of Dr. Biggs' drug store and Drs. Biggs, Witmer, Sander, Jacques, Reck and Mayfield of Advance summoned. An examination was made and the would declared fatal. [the end]

Submitted by Helen L. Smith Hoke



Newspapers in Bollinger County:

Glen-Allen

- Communist 1883 thru 1885

Lutesville

- Communist 1879
- Banner 1895 thru 1923

Marble Hill

- Banner 1923 till
- Press 1889 thru 1923
- Bollinger County Times 1896 thru 1902

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