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United States Western District Court of Arkansas research guide

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Resources listed below were chosen because of relation to Judge Isaac C. Parker’s court in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Books

- Anderson, Dan. *100 Oklahoma outlaws, gangsters, and lawmen, 1839-1939*, 2007. [HV6793.O5 A63 2007]
- Boulden, Ben. *Hidden History of Fort Smith*, 2012. [F419.F7 B68 2012]
- Brodhead, Michael J. *Isaac C. Parker, federal justice on the frontier*, 2003 [KF368.P32 B76 2003]
- Burton, Arthur T. *Black gun, silver star: the life and legend of frontier marshal Bass Reeves*, 2006. [F697.R44 B87 2006]
- Gibson, Arrell Morgan. *The Oklahoma Story*, 1978. [F694.G523 1978]
- Hicks, Edwin P. *The Fort Smith story: Fort Smith National Historic Site*, 1975. [F419.F74 H5 1975]
- Samuelson, Nancy B. *Shoot from the lip: the lives, legends and lies of the three guardsmen of Oklahoma and U.S. Marshal Nix*, 1998. [F698 .S25 1998]
- Shirley, Glenn. *Heck Thomas, frontier marshal: the story of a real gunfighter*, 1962. [F698 .S48 1962]
- Stanley, Mack. *Hanging Judge and His Desperadoes*, 1983. [HV6793.A8 S83 1983]

Images

(similar or duplicate titles show buildings over time)

United States Western District Court of Arkansas research guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Old Fort Built in [1839], Destroyed during the Civil War, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2271.1]

Old Fort Built in [1839], Destroyed during the Civil War, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, 2271.2]

Old Fort, Fort Smith, Arkansas, built [1839], Destroyed During Civil War [ASA postcard collection, G2271.3]

Old Commissary Building, Fort Smith, Arkansas, erected 1840 [ASA postcard collection, G2271.4]; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/7/>

Commissary Building, erected 1840 [ASA postcard collection, G2271.5]

Old Commissary Building, Fort Smith, Arkansas, "On the Frisco" [ASA postcard collection, G2271.6]

Old Commissary Building, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2271.7]

Old U.S. Jail, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2271.11 and G3986 (duplicates)] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/8/>

Old Commissary Building, erected 1839, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2271.12]

Arkansas Invites You, Commissary Building of Old Fort Smith [ASA postcard collection, G2281.3]

Old Commissary, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2281.4]

Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1897 [ASA postcard collection, G2282.2 and G2282.3 (duplicates)] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/9/>

The Historical Federal Court of Judge Isaac Charles Parker, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2284.1] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/10/>

Reproduction of the Old 1886 Gallows of the Federal Court, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2284.2] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/11/>

U.S. Jail, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G2289] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/12/>

Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1870 [ASA postcard collection, G2292 and G3985 (duplicates)]

Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1870 [ASA postcard collection, G2292.2]; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/13/>

Old Commissary Building, Fort Smith, Arkansas, erected 1839 [ASA postcard collection, G3016.15]

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Old Commissary Building, erected 1839, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G3980]

Garrison Avenue at Night, "The Great White Way", Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G3983]

Old Commissary Building, Fort Smith, Arkansas, erected 1840 [ASA postcard collection, G3987] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/14/>

Old Commissary Building, Fort Smith, Arkansas, erected 1840 [ASA postcard collection, G4848 and G5025.38 (duplicates)]

Old Commissary, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G5070]

Old Fort Built in [1839], Destroyed during the Civil War, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G5236.1a]

Old Federal Building, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G5236.1c]

Old Commissary Building, erected 1839, Fort Smith, Arkansas [ASA postcard collection, G5236.1d]

Manuscripts

United States Western District Court of Arkansas records

Call Number: MS.000962

Dates: 1839-1908

Summary: This collection contains vouchers, receipts, and abstracts reporting various expenses for maintenance and supplies needed at the federal courthouse and jail in Fort Smith, jury and witness compensation, payroll for workers, ads in local newspapers, travel expenses collected by lawmen while working on court cases, and other miscellaneous costs. It also contains jail manifests, jury summons lists, bonds of surety, court testimonies, letters to and from court officials, arrest warrants, witness subpoenas, guard and posse men certificates of employment, and other documents from Judge Isaac C. Parker's court.

Clerk of United States District Court, Fort Smith papers

Call Number: SMC.40.3

Dates: 1866-1903

Summary: This collection contains letters received by the Clerk of the United States District Court in Fort Smith, Arkansas between 1866 and 1903.

United States District Court order

Call Number: SMC.32.21

Date: 1866

Summary: This order includes a list of 25 prospective jurors.

United States vs. property of John Frost

Call Number: SMC.55.21

United States Western District Court of Arkansas research guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Date: 1866 November 12

Summary: This collection contains the warrant of arrest in the case of the United States versus the Property of John Frost.

United States vs. James M. Coulter

Call Number: SMC.55.20

Dates: 1865 November 5; 1866 May

Summary: This collection contains the records of a court case against James Madison Coulter and his reply between November 5, 1865, and the May term of 1866, in the Western District of Arkansas. In November 1865 federal officers seized the property under the Libel of Information Act of July 17, 1862. James M. Coulter (1815-1892) was born December 6, 1815, in Jones County, Georgia to John M. Coulter and Nancy Reddick Coulter. The Coulter family moved to Sevier County, Arkansas in 1836. Coulter married Brunetta Wilkerson Burton January 14, 1841, in Sevier County, Arkansas. He died March 16, 1892.

A.B. Ward United States Deputy Marshal record

Call Number: SMC.44.3

Date: 1890 May 27

Summary: This collection contains the signed oath of office for A.B. Ward.

Richard and Anna Fool federal court memorandum

Call Number: SMC.26.1

Date: 1851 January 5

Summary: This collection contains one federal court memorandum of Richard and Anna Fool testifying for the state in the case against Dick Benge for murder. Benge was convicted of murder, sentenced to death by hanging, and was later granted a stay of execution in this case. The murder was committed in the Cherokee Nation, and it is not clear if he was ever executed.

William H.H. Clayton letter

Call Number: SMC.83.17

Date: 1889 March 6

Summary: This collection contains one letter from William H.H. Clayton of Fort Smith, Arkansas, to A.W. Baker of Springdale, Arkansas. This short thank-you note is typewritten on stationery with letterhead from Clayton and Brizzolara, Attorneys at Law, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Charles Milor letter

Call Number: SMC.53.25

Digital Location: <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/15/>

Date: 1861 February 25

Summary: Charles Milor was born October 4, 1818, to James Milor and Martha Boles Milor in Floyd County, Kentucky. Milor moved to Arkansas in 1838 and went on to serve as justice of the peace and was a county and probate judge of Sebastian County. In 1864 he was elected to the state senate. This collection contains one letter written by Charles Milor, of Milor, Arkansas, to

United States Western District Court of Arkansas research guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

President Abraham Lincoln recommending Holleman for U.S. marshal of the Western District Court of Arkansas.

Knox-Faber family papers

Call Number: MG00112, only available on microfilm

Dates: 1828-1948

Summary: This collection contains correspondence, envelopes, deeds, business records, tax receipts, estate papers, plat maps, abstracts of property, legal documents, and genealogical data collected by several generations of the Knox–Faber family of Sebastian and Crawford counties, Arkansas. The collection also includes documents related to the estates and heirs of Hugh Knox and Horace B. Rose. George Washington Knox (1811-1854), the first United States Marshal of the Western District of Arkansas, came to Arkansas Territory with his father, Hugh Knox, about 1825. The family settled at Barling, just southeast of Fort Smith, where the younger Knox became a businessman and trader. George Washington Knox served as United States Marshal, 1851-1853.

Maps

Map showing the Land Grants in Arkansas, including St. Louis, Iron Mountain, Southern, Little Rock, and Fort Smith Railways, circa 1895 [Map0101]

Map of Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, circa 1871 [Map0202] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/2/>

Survey Plat of Fort Smith, S. 9, T. 8 N, R. 32 W, circa 1890 [Map1242Q]

Survey Plat of Fort Smith, S. 16 & 17, T. 8 N, R. 32 W, circa 1890 [Map1242R]

Survey Plat of Fort Smith, S. 8, T. 8 N, R. 32 W, circa 1890 [Map1242S]

Map of Fort Smith, Arkansas, showing its surrounding fortifications, circa 1865 [Map1360]

Map of Fort Smith, Arkansas, showing its new fortifications, circa 1864 [Map1361]

Map of Fort Smith and vicinity, showing fortifications, 1865-11-07 [Map1370]

Map of Fort Smith, circa 1900 [Map2196]

Map of Fort Smith, 1898 [Map3831] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/6/>

Map of Arkansas and portion of Indian Territory including names of river ports, 1870 [Map0085] ; also found <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/1/>

United States Western District Court of Arkansas research guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Map of the Indian Territory, 1898 [Map0350] ; also found
<https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/3/>

Map of Arkansas including part of Indian Territory, 1872-1873 [Map1315] ; also found
<https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/4/>

Post route map of Arkansas, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma Territory, 1891 (copy of map from NARA) [Map1453]

Map of post routes in Arkansas and Indian Territory, 1879 [Map1813] ; also found
<https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-western-district-court/5/>

Sanborn map of Fort Smith, Arkansas (digital copy at Library of Congress) [Map1807]

Newspapers

Fort Smith Republican: Sebastian County
April 17 – May 29, 1890 [MFILM NEWS 000167]

Fort Smith Elevator: Sebastian County
November 5, 1880 – June 20, 1884 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 01]
June 27, 1884 - October 28, 1887 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 01A]
November 4, 1887 - February 27, 1891 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 01B]
September 23, 1881 - June 26, 1885 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 02]
July 3, 1885 - February 3, 1888 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 03]
February 10, 1888 - July 10, 1891 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 04]
July 10, 1891 - October 26, 1894 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 05]
January 3, 1896 - December 31, 1897 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 06]
November 3, 1893 - May 28, 1909 [MFILM NEWS 000191 Roll 12]
November 5, 1880 - September 23, 1881 [MFILM NEWS 000201]
November 8, 1881. October 16, 1885. [MFILM NEWS 000866]

Fort Smith Evening New: Sebastian County
May 22, 1884 - June 25, 1884 [MFILM NEWS 000193]

Fort Smith Herald Weekly: Sebastian County
December 22, 1847. February 21, 1852 - March 1, 1856. March 24, 1860. [MFILM NEWS 000194 Roll 01]
July 6, 1867 - April 22, 1871 [MFILM NEWS 000194 Roll 02]

Fort Smith Herald: Sebastian County
April 22, 1871 - September 19, 1874 [MFILM NEWS 000194 Roll 03]
September 26, 1874 - December 24, 1881 [MFILM NEWS 000194 Roll 04]

Tri-Weekly Herald: Sebastian County

United States Western District Court of Arkansas research guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

December 7, 1865 - June 20, 1867 [MFILM NEWS 000195 Roll 01]

October 7, 1871 - March 20, 1873 [MFILM NEWS 000195 Roll 02]

September 19, 1871. [MFILM NEWS 000744]

Fort Smith Tribune: Sebastian County

January 22, 1884 - February 27, 1885 [MFILM NEWS 000196 Roll 01]

February 28, 1885 - June 26, 1888 [MFILM NEWS 000196 Roll 02]

Fort Smith Tri-Weekly New Era: Sebastian County

April 3, 1871 - December 18, 1872 [MFILM NEWS 000197]

Fort Smith News Record: Sebastian County

October 1893 - February 2, 1909 [MFILM NEWS 000198]

Fort Smith Weekly New Era: Sebastian County

October 8, 1863 - December 13, 1876 [MFILM NEWS 000200 Roll 01]

January 10, 1877 - September 3, 1885 [MFILM NEWS 000200 Roll 02]

Evening Call: Sebastian County

January 15, 1891 - February 27, 1891 [MFILM NEWS 000201]

Fort Smith Daily Herald: Sebastian County

November 21, 1877 - April 25, 1878 [MFILM NEWS 000202 Roll 01]

April 26, 1878 - January 14, 1882 [MFILM NEWS 000202 Roll 02]

June 26, 1878 - September 21, 1881 [MFILM NEWS 000744]

Fort Smith Times: Sebastian County

April 21, 1858 - November 24, 1858 [MFILM NEWS 000203 Roll 01]

December 16, 1894 - August 5, 1907 [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Western Independent (w): Sebastian County

January 11, 1872 - September 10, 1874 [MFILM NEWS 000205 Roll 01]

September 17, 1874 - December 27, 1876 [MFILM NEWS 000205 Roll 02]

January 3, 1877 - October 8, 1879 [MFILM NEWS 000205 Roll 03]

February 8, 1872 - August 15, 1877 [MFILM NEWS 000205 Roll 04]

May 22, 1873. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Wheeler's Independent: Sebastian County

January 2, 1878 - October 8, 1879 [MFILM NEWS 000206 Roll 01]

October 22, 1879 - June 6, 1883 [MFILM NEWS 000206 Roll 02]

February 12, 1879 - November 22, 1882 [MFILM NEWS 000206 Roll 03]

February 12, 1879 - March 17, 1880 [MFILM NEWS 000706]

October 30, 1880. [MFILM NEWS 000866]

Independent-True Democrat: Sebastian County

June 13, 1883 - February 17, 1885 [MFILM NEWS 000207]

United States Western District Court of Arkansas research guide, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Fort Smith Times Record: Sebastian County

June 11, 1894 - September 29, 1896 [MFILM NEWS 000209 Roll 001]

October 1, 1896 - April 30, 1897 [MFILM NEWS 000209 Roll 002]

Fort Smith Daily Journal: Sebastian County

November 25, 1888. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

March 10, 1888 - March 12, 1888, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000743]

Daily News Record: Sebastian County

October 16, 1893 - November 5, 1900, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Democrat: Sebastian County

March 22, 1895. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Diocese Of Arkansas: Sebastian County

November 1888. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Evening Times: Sebastian County

June 25, 1891. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Arkansas Developer: Sebastian County

April 13, 1895. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Fort Smith Daily Times: Sebastian County

April 16, 1886 - July 22, 1892, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Alliance Patriot

May 28, 1891 - February 11, 1892, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Weekly News

May 17, 1884. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

New Era

October 8, 1863 - January 21, 1880, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Fort Smith Democrat

November 2, 1895. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Fort Smith Standard

January 7, 1868. [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Fort Smith Weekly Journal

July 19, 1888 - August 15, 1889, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000706]

Arkansas Patriot

September 2, 1871 - January 2, 1872, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000706]

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Tri Weekly New Era

April 24, 1872 - November 6, 1872, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000743]

Weekly New Era

February 22, 1883. [MFILM NEWS 000743]

Weekly Herald

March 27, 1869 - July 12, 1873, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000744]

December 6, 1848 - September 29, 1877, scattered issues [MFILM NEWS 000745]

Fort Smith Bulletin

November 1, 1862. [MFILM NEWS 000746]