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### "Newspaper Notes: Gleaning Smith County Happenings from Area Newspapers: Agriculture, Religion." *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas* 27 no. 1 (Summer 1988): 45-58.

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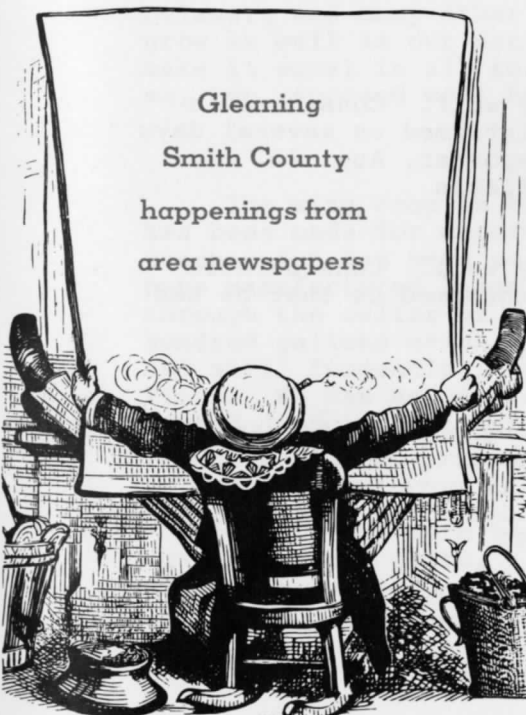
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# Newspaper Notes

The loss of the backfiles of the Tyler newspapers to fire in the early twentieth century left a serious gap in primary sources for the Smith County historian. Fortunately, however, other area papers often quoted excerpts or entire articles from the Reporter, States Rights Sentinel, and other local publications, and a lively exchange between editors added to the flavor of the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

While conducting research for Smith County, Texas, in the Civil War, I compiled a file of articles from 1860 through 1865 (later expanded to 1875) which mentioned Tyler or Smith County. Sometimes tragic, often funny, and always informative, this file has proven to be a valuable source of information for one of the most interesting periods of our history. Clips on two topics, agriculture and religion, are printed here as they appeared over one hundred years ago. Locations of microfilm copies of the newspapers consulted are listed below.



Gleaning  
Smith County  
happenings from  
area newspapers

Austin Democratic Statesman	University of Texas at Tyler
Austin State Gazette	North Texas State University
Daily Austin Republican	East Texas State University
Dallas Herald	East Texas State University
Galveston Daily News	East Texas State University
Galveston Flake's Bulletin	East Texas State University
Galveston Tri-Weekly News	East Texas State University
Galveston Weekly News	East Texas State University
Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph	Texas A & M University
Marshall Harrison Flag	East Texas State University
Marshall Texas Republican	East Texas State University
San Antonio Daily Herald	North Texas State University
Texas Baptist	Texas A & M University

by Vicki Betts

## AGRICULTURE

Corn is selling at \$1.50 per bushel.

Austin State Gazette  
October 13, 1860

(letter from Jamestown, Smith County, Nov. 20, 1860)

Considerable quantities of rain have fallen within the last few weeks. On the morning of 14th October, we had frost and some ice; and for six successive mornings we had frost. Our cotton crop has been sufficiently killed to stop its rapid growth. Most of the potato vines killed; also the pea crop considerably injured. In portions of our country we have been signally blessed with a good pea crop, and kind Providence has caused the frost to bring forth an abundant mast, most of which is generally termed the bitter casts. This, with a short crop of corn, will benefit us very materially.

There are various speculations relative to the second growth of cotton, which is, this season in many places quite heavy . . .

Galveston Tri-Weekly News  
November 22, 1860

Meal is sold at \$1.25; oats at 60 cents per bushel.

Austin State Gazette  
April 20, 1861

The Tyler Reporter on the 26th May says: "Many of our farmers are now beginning to cut their wheat, and from all we can learn the yield promises to be very good. We hear of rust in some places, where the wheat is backward, but do not think it general enough to materially injure the crop. The corn crops are doing well, and with the amount planted, there can scarcely fail to be an abundance made.

Galveston Weekly News  
June 8, 1864

We clip from the Tyler Journal of the 15th: "We notice almost daily large droves of Beef Cattle passing through this place en route for Shreveport. Another fine shower blessed us this week. The prospect for an abundant harvest never was finer. We understand that several lots of corn were sold at 15 cents per bushel, this, however was sold by persons who wished to leave the State and return to their homes.--From all that we can learn, corn will not be worth more than 25 cents per bushel.

Galveston Daily News  
July 27, 1865

The grape crop of this section is turning out very well. Considerable quantities have been sold in our market. Mr. Woldert informed us several days ago that he had made over 33 gallons of wine.--Tyler Reporter, Aug. 22.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
August 28, 1866

The grape crop of this section is turning out very well. Considerable quantities have been sold in our market. Mr. Woldert informed us that he had made over 300 gallons of wine--Tyler Reporter.

Marshall Harrison Flagg  
August 30, 1866

The Tyler Journal of the 29th ult., says that throughout the Eastern portion of Smith county will not be more than half a cotton crop made. In the Western part of the county, and in Van Zandt, the crop is more promising.

Marshall Texas Republican  
September 1 or 8, 1866

The publisher of the Tyler Index has discovered a potato "in his own patch," which measures between nine and ten inches in circumference, which will weigh not less than two pounds.

Marshall Texas Republican  
September 8, 1866

The Tyler Journal of the 29th ult., says that throughout the Eastern portion of Smith county there will not be more than a half a cotton crop made. In the western part of the county, and in Van Zandt, the crop is more promising.

Daily Austin Republican  
September 22, 1866

The Tyler Republican of Sept. 19th says: "We hear from all parts of this county that the caterpillars have completely destroyed all prospects of late cotton.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
September 30, 1866

The editor of the Trinity News, has recently passed over the country from Palestine to Tyler. He found corn very scarce on the road; very few farmers have enough to last them until the present crop is made. He states that a larger crop of corn has been planted this spring than ever before.

Dallas Herald  
June 1, 1867

DECLINE IN CORN.—Two weeks ago, corn could not be bought in this market for less than \$2.25 per bushel. We are informed that new corn can be engaged at 25 cents per bushel.—Tyler Index, July 10.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
July 23, 1867

The Tyler Reporter is out in quite a lengthy article, showing clearly the advantages Eastern Texas has over the older States, and advocating its claims to those who design emigrating this fall. Read the following:

People of the older States, instead of risking everything in emigrating to distant regions, should come directly to Eastern Texas. Here we have homes for all. Here plenty of smiles on every side. Here enterprise and industry have their sure reward. Fortunes can and will be made here within the next few years. Our soil is productive and easy of cultivation. Our climate is salubrious and genial. Timber and water are abundant and excellent. Corn, cotton, wheat, oats, rice, barley, tobacco, sugar cane, potatoes, and almost, every kind of garden vegetables, grow side by side on the same farm. Fruits of many kinds, apples, peaches, etc., grow luxuriantly. It is a country remarkably adapted to the culture of the grape. The Cataba, Scupernong, El Paso, Delaware and many other varieties being now successfully cultivated, which all grow as well as our native grape, which only needs a little cultivation to make it equal in all respects to any other grape in this country. Most grasses, too, succeed well here, but have received but little attention as yet.

Marshall Harrison Flag  
August 15, 1867

The wine crop in this county has been large. We know not what quantity has been made for export. It is certain that much more than a supply for home consumption has been secured. We observe that other counties in eastern Texas have manufactured large quantities also, from the native grape. We were shown through the cellar of our friend Col. Yarbrough, and find that he has several hundred gallons which bids fair to be excellent. Although his wine is now and still fermenting, we were able to detect the difference in the several kinds. He has seven distinct manipulations for manufacturing, producing a marked difference in the flavor, color, aroma, &c.—Tyler Reporter.

Marshall Texas Republican  
September 21, 1867

The cotton worm has about run its course in this county, having swept nearly, if not quite, all the fields. It is thought that a full half crop of cotton is made.—Tyler Reporter, Sept. 18.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
September 29, 1867

J. G. WOLDERT,  
 —DEALER IN—  
**FURNITURE**  
 — AND MANUFACTURER OF —  
**WINES AND CIDER,**  
 South-east Corner of Square.  
**TYLER, TEXAS.**

An advertisement for J. G. Woldert's store which appeared in an 1882 city directory of Tyler. Mr. Woldert was a vintner of some renown in the state. (Archives, SCHS)

The wine crop in this county has been large. We know not what quantity has been made for export. It is certain that more than a supply for home consumption has been secured. We observe that other counties in the Eastern portion of Texas have manufactured large quantities also from the native grape.—Tyler Reporter.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
 November 1, 1867

It is said that Mr. J. G. Woldart, (sic) of Tyler, Texas, will ship this season thirty barrels of wine to New Orleans. It is said that he receives for it five dollars a gallon. Some idea of the profit of wine culture may be formed from the experience of the Germans around Cincinnati. They sell grape juice to the wine manufacturers at from eighty cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents per gallon. From two to five hundred gallons is the usual yield per acre, six and seven hundred gallons are sometimes made, and there are reports of still greater crops.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
 December 17, 1867

A very fine specimen of native claret was presented to us by Mr. J. T. Waldert, (sic) of Tyler, Texas. Mr. Waldert has on hand also large quantities of Catawba and other native wine manufactured by himself from the different vintages since 1864.—Dallas Herald, March 7.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
 March 20, 1868

It is said that the prospect for a wheat crop in the interior is very poor. This should admonish farmers of the necessity of making every possible effort to secure a large yield of corn, so that corn bread at least may be abundant and cheap. Peas, potatoes, and other provision crops should also receive proper attention.—Tyler Reporter.

Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
 May 8, 1868

The cotton worm, which made its appearance in our county a few weeks ago, has not spread beyond a few farms, some of which are badly injured. The dry weather of the past six weeks has kept back the worm, but has cut off the cotton in many places very considerably, by causing it to shed most of its squares. There is almost a drought prevailing at this time.—Tyler Reporter.

Marshall Texas Republican  
 August 28, 1868

NOTICE

Tyler, Smith County, Texas  
October 4th, 1868

G. A. Kelly, Esq.: Dear sir.--I promised when I bought my cane mill to let you know how it performed. I have now tried it on the sorghum cane, and can say to you that it is all that you recommended it to be. I have made up thirteen hundred and sixty-four (1364) gallons of syrup. The mill is as good as when I commenced, except the pinion that works in the driving wheel. The cogs are worn, but the fault was in not being geared deep enough. I think the mill worked better every day I used it. My force was too weak to give it a fair trial. I had five little boys and one grown hand to attend to both the mill and kettles. Our average was from 60 to 65 gallons of syrup per day. We always stopped grinding from 1 1/2 to 2 hours by sun in the evening. One day we made an early start and made eighty-five (85) gallons of syrup. I am satisfied with a strong force I could average 100 gallons per day.

Mr. Starr's mill is also doing good work. Mr. Shelton who went with Mr. Starr to your Foundry, and didn't buy a mill, has been standing over a wooden mill and making ten gallons a day.

I have had the pleasure of seeing the celebrated Victor Mill, made by Norton, Blymer, & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, at work and would not exchange your mill for the "Victor" by one half.

In short, your mill is just good enough, and I am ready to give any recommendation you want from me.

(Signed)

M. J. Dean

The Cotton Crop.—We are gratified to learn from the planters of Smith county that the cotton crop is turning out beyond their calculations. The crop will be much larger and better than last season, and at the price now being realized, will render money very plentiful hereabouts. We anticipate flush times in Eastern Texas.—Tyler Reporter.

Marshall Texas Republican  
October 23, 1868

From every quarter we hear that the roads are crowded with wagons, taking cotton to market. The fact begins to demonstrate itself that the crop of East Texas, and especially of Smith county, is much larger than was supposed a few weeks ago. The rivalry between Marshall, Jefferson and Shreveport, as cotton markets, will become quite interesting in a week or two more. A kingdom for a railroad to some point.--Tyler Reporter.

Daily Austin Republican  
November 17, 1868

We return our thanks to Mr. J. G. Woldert, of Tyler, for a bottle of nice "Schiller," wine received through our friend W. H. Andrews, Esq., who recently returned from Tyler Court. We want our neighbor of the Dallas Herald to make a note of this, as he appears to have no faith whatever in any Attorney's honesty, when bridal cake, wine, &c., are entrusted to their care for editors. Mr. Andrews informs us that Mr. Woldert has about forty barrels of fine wine, of various kinds made out of the native Texas grape.—Ib.

McKinney Messenger  
(Daily Austin Republican  
January 28, 1869)

The Tyler Reporter is of opinion that next season a larger breadth of ground will be planted in that region than in any year since the close of the war, induced by the present high prices of the great staple.

Dallas Herald  
February 6, 1869

We return our thanks to Mr. J. G. Woldert, of Tyler, for a bottle of nice "Schiller" Wine received through our friend W. H. Andrews, Esq., who recently returned from Tyler Court. . . Mr. Andrews informs us that Mr. Woldert has about 40 barrels of fine wine of various kinds made out of the native Texas grape.—McKinney Enquirer.

Dallas Herald  
February 13, 1869

CROPS.—This season, up to this time, has been an unfavorable one for crops. Late frosts, protracted and washing rains, cut worms, and other drawbacks, have placed the crop in a bad condition. Corn is backward, cotton is sickly, with a bad stand, and still in the grass.--A few weeks of good weather will probably put a different phase on things, but it is time the change were taking place, if a good crop is made. Tyler Reporter, 15th.

Dallas Herald  
May 22, 1869

We don't race against you in cattle, mustangs and grass, but in cotton bags and pretty girls we claim the premium.—Tyler Index.

Dallas Herald  
August 21, 1869

New corn is offering at Tyler for 15 cents specie per bushel.

Daily Austin Republican  
September 25, 1869

We have had some rain again this week, but not as much as for several weeks past. Our information is that the cotton prospect is not as favorable as could be wished, the plant having been somewhat injured by wet weather and cold nights. It is improving rapidly, now, however. There is likely to be plenty of corn everywhere, and that is one good thing at least.—Tyler Republican, July 3,.

Daily Austin Republican  
July 16, 1870

Nothing new or strange down this way, only crops are inferior, and great complaint of "grass worms" destroying cotton. Its ravages are fearful, it is said, on many plantations. Hence business is comparatively dull—people generally waiting to see what a day may bring forth.

W. H. SCALES.  
Dallas Herald  
August 20, 1870

The Tyler Index states that the cotton crop does not readily seek a market on account of the low price. Whether it rises or not it must sooner or later be disposed of. A good crop has been made in Smith county, and planters have had a favorable time, so far, for gathering.

Daily Austin Republican  
November 4, 1870

The Tyler Index complains about the drouth and extreme heat, and says the crops are greatly injured in Smith County.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 19, 1871

The people of the Garden Valley and Flora sections of this county are blessed with good corn crops. In fact, the crops are much better generally in the western than in the eastern half of the county.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
Sept. 23, 1871

The Tyler Reporter says "there is good post oak and hickory mast throughout this section." Corn is selling in Tyler at 75 cents per bushel. Good sugar cane has been raised there this season.

October 21, 1871

The Tyler Index estimates the corn crop of Smith county at 2,800,000 bushels—150 bushels to every soul in the county.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
Sept. 19, 1872

Cotton-picking race.—The other day two little sons of Mr. Scarbrough, near Garden Valley, tried their hands at cotton-picking, and did some tall grabbing after the fleecy staple, worthy of note. Orrin, aged 12 years, pick-

ed 309 pounds and Judge Yell, age 15, picked 301—in all 610 pounds. Tell us that Southern boys can't work. Fill the country full of such boys, with parents to teach them to be some account, and we have a basis of prosperity which reverses can hardly check.—Tyler Reporter.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
Sept. 28, 1872

The Tyler Index says the weather in that section still continues cool and very dry, accompanied by a very disagreeable wind, causing vegetation of every kind to look yellow and lifeless. In an acquaintance of twenty-six years in Texas, it claims to have never known a more unfavorable spring and one in which there was so little of promise to the farmers. There is comparatively little or none of the cotton crop up, and where it has made its appearance above ground it has more of the evidence of dying out than living or growing, and (the) ground has become very hard. It is almost impossible to do good plowing, and the prospect generally is discouraging.

Dallas Herald  
May 10, 1873

The Tyler Reporter of June fourteenth speaks of large ripe peaches, but they are scarce in that vicinity. The apple crop is said to be heavy, and the plums plentiful.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
June 17, 1873

The Tyler Reporter represents the corn crop of that immediate region as not good. Not more than half a crop is expected. The cotton is looking well.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
July 9, 1873

At Tyler, they are putting up apples in barrels to ship to Galveston, where, it is said, they sell for ten to twelve dollars a barrel.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
July 16, 1873

Good ordinary cotton is selling at Tyler at 12 1/1 cents per pound; low middling at 12 cents coin. The editor of the Democrat has been shown a twig of oak, not a foot long, containing seventy-five full grown acorns. The hogs there will have a happy time this fall.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
October 16, 1873

We are told by the Tyler Reporter that large droves of horses and mules are passing almost daily through that town, going--the editor does not know where. There was some good stock among them.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
November 12, 1873

The Tyler Democrat says the cotton is selling at that place at the rate of a thousand bales a week.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
December 24, 1873

The hearts of the farmers in Smith county are made glad by the prospects for crops. Old reliable farmers tell us that they are now better than they (have) been for several years. We look to the harvest with great pleasure, and expect lively times when the cotton, corn and other products begin to come in. Such news as we get from the country is very gratifying.—Tyler Reporter.

Dallas Herald  
August 1, 1874

From the Tyler Democrat we learn that an effort is being made to establish a male university there. The Democrat has such an apple item we give it entire to show the doubters that apples will grow in Texas: "First, we had handed to us by our friend, J. P. Beard, a bunch of eight large, fine apples,



growing on about two inches length of limb. They grew in the orchard of our friend, Dan Jones, of this city. Then Mr. B. B. Ray brought us a limb about eight inches long, containing twenty-four well matured apples, grown by himself in this county. Then Professor Kayser exhibited to us four apples, so grown together that they formed a perfect pyramid turn them which way you would. Is this an apple country?"

Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 4, 1874

A severe storm of wind and rain occurred on the twenty-eighth ult., twelve miles southeast of Tyler, blowing down fences, corn, cotton, etc.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 4, 1874

TYLER, July 31.—Fine rain during the week, which makes the prospect for heavy crops very flattering. No appearance of the cotton worm yet. Tyler still continues to ship from two to three hundred boxes of fruit daily.

Dallas Herald  
August 8, 1874

Farmers in Smith county are much discouraged on account of the drouth.

Dallas Herald  
August 22, 1874

The Tyler Democrat states that just seven thousand five hundred pounds of fruit were shipped from Tyler by express last Tuesday. Who can beat it?

Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 25, 1874

The Tyler Democrat says that "after waiting a long time for it, we were blessed with a good rain last Sunday evening. It came too late to do cotton much good, but it has helped peas, potatoes, etc., and furnished a capital opportunity for sowing turnips."

Austin Democratic Statesman  
September 1, 1874

The livery stable men of Tyler are getting corn delivered to them at 60 cents per bushel.

Tyler merchants pay specie for cotton. On the 19th it was commanding 12 1/2 @ 13 3/8c.

Dallas Herald  
September 26, 1874

Crops are backward, though all the girls are not, up at Tyler.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
April 15, 1875

The fruit shipments from Tyler this season will be large. The crops are doing remarkably well.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
May 23, 1875

The Reporter says such a mast crop was never known.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
June 22, 1875

The fruit growers of Smith county propose to hold a convention for the advancement of their interests.

Dallas Herald  
July 17, 1875

Col. C. W. Matthews, late Texas immigration agent at Chattanooga, is now a fruit-grower at Tyler.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
July 7, 1875

Crops in Smith county are burning up for want of rain.  
Dallas Herald  
July 24, 1875

Copious showers of last week rescued the corn crop about Tyler from absolute annihilation, and the people will make enough for home consumption.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 4, 1875

The Tyler Reporter prescribes a teaspoonful of calomel, mixed in corn meal dough, for hog cholera.  
Dallas Herald  
August 28, 1875

The country about Tyler "had a regular ground soaking and trash-moving rain, which was good for potatoes, turnips, peas, etc." We spoke for that rain first.

Austin Statesman  
September 16, 1875

The sweet potato crop promises a large yeild in Smith County.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
September 24, 1875

Cotton nine and a half to eleven cents in Tyler.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
September 29, 1875



*Peaches have long been a popular agricultural product in Smith County. This photograph shows a group of workers gathered around a packing shed with their wares on display. (Archives of the Smith County Historical Society)*



M. E. CHURCH, TYLER, TEXAS.

Marvin Methodist Episcopal Church in Smith County. This 1920's vintage post-card pictures the church building erected in 1890. (Archives, SCHS)

## RELIGION

Texas appointments Methodist Church  
 Starrville circuit—C. J. Cocke  
 Garden Valley circuit—W. J. Popham  
 Tyler station—J. W. Fields  
 Circuit—W. K. Masten

Marshall Harrison Flag  
 Jan. 1, 1860

NOTICE.--The executive Board of the B. S. Convention of Eastern Texas is to meet at Tyler on Saturday before the third Sabbath in March next. Members of the Board are requested to attend punctually on that day.

Texas Baptist  
 Jan. 19, 1860

We are much pleased to learn from Br. J. F. Kelly, of Tyler, that our cause is prospering in that community. The Church is increasing and there is good prospect that the new house will be ready for use by the meeting of the Convention in June. We have felt a deep and abiding solicitude for this church, and we rejoice to hear that our brethren there are no longer divided in feelings, but are all harmonious and prosperous. The Female Institute too, we learn, is succeeding well under the direction of President J. T. Hand. He is spoken of as a man eminently qualified for his position. We do sincerely hope that we will be fully sustained by patrons, and be eminently useful in the cause of education in Texas.

Texas Baptist  
 January 19, 1860

From Ash Springs, I came to Tyler on my way home, where I spent last Saturday and Sunday. Here I met with Elder David C. Marlin, late from New Orleans. Brother Marlin is seeking a field of labor as a Baptist minister.

An immense flood of immigration is pouring into Eastern Texas this winter. Our churches are receiving large associations from this source, and it is hoped that among them we shall receive a large reinforcement to our ministry.

D. B. Morrill  
Texas Baptist  
March 8, 1860

The Eastern Baptist State Convention will meet in Tyler, Smith county, on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in June, 1860. A full attendance from all the churches is earnestly desired.

Texas Baptist  
May 17, 1860

SMITH.—The Reporter speaks of the completion of the Baptist Church.

Austin State Gazette  
October 13, 1860

Cherokee Association  
Tyler, October 17, 1860

(Excerpt)

The delegation was much larger than we anticipated. The letters reported a revival spirit in most of the churches, and many of them have received large accessions. The churches in the western part of our bounds are in a languishing condition, but this is owing doubtless--in part--to the fact that, they are nearly all destitute of the regular ministrations of the gospel...

Texas Baptist  
Oct. 18, 1860

Bro. Editors: I have just removed my family to Tyler, the field of my future labors . . . . But little religious interest is manifested in this section of the country at present. The great national storm, which threatens the destruction of every Southern interest, seems to turn every thought, feeling and inquiry in the direction of Southern rights and protection. . . . I greatly fear that our brethren are not sufficiently watchful of their spiritual interests in this time of peculiar trial. . . .

D. B. Morrill.  
Texas Baptist  
Jan. 24, 1861

. . . After a ride of forty miles next day reached Tyler, found it to be some larger than I expected. After some inquiries found Elder Morrill, staid (sic) all night with him. Brother Morrill is greatly beloved by his church. I felt truly that I was at home with this kind brother.—The Executive Board of the Convention met on Saturday, the 16th inst. The attendance was small. Brother Rainey, Treasurer was absent. But few reports were read. The Board, in view of the hard times, discontinued all her missionaries. I tried to get the Board to walk by faith a few hundred dollars, but the Lord increase their faith and confirm their hope by the time we meet again. I found a noble set of brethren and sisters at this place, enjoying to some extent the Spirit of God and ready to every good work. Tried in my weak manner to preach to them three times, and felt God was there. On Sabbath the church commemorated the death of our once bleeding Savior, at 3 o'clock P.M. Brother Morrill preached to the colored portion of the church a feeling sermon, and administered the sacrament amidst flowing tears and rejoicing hearts. This portion of the church numbers about forty. Our schools at this place are suffering to some extent in consequence of the hard times. . . .

Texas Baptist  
April 4, 1861

Appointments of East Texas Conference, 1861

Garden Valley—Fred C. Dowdy

Tyler—L. R. Dennis, James M. Sutton

Marshall Texas Republican  
Nov. 2, 1861

The Tyler Reporter says:

On last Saturday, Capt. Awall's company, from Upshur county, from Judge Roberts' command, reached this place. Determining not to proceed on the Sabbath day, the company camped in the suburbs of the town. On Sunday morning, directly after the bell had rung for service at the Methodist church, and the congregation of citizens had assembled, the measured tread of the soldier was heard, and the company filled up the aisle until they occupied the seats immediately in front of the pulpit, when the captain, upon invitation, coolly and deliberately took the stand, and delivered a good, practical sermon. The men of the company, during the service, behaved themselves with that reverence and dignity which alone become the sanctuary. After the exercises were over the company marched back to their encampment, and with their preacher captain, are now gone to submit themselves to their country's use.

Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph  
April 16, 1862

The annual meeting of the Eastern Texas Baptist Convention will be held with the Baptist Church in Tyler, commencing Friday before 4th Sabbath in June. Delegates will report themselves at the Drug Store of Felton & Wiggins. J. W. Jones, J. T. Hand, Nat. G. Smith, W. S. Walker, Wm. B. Featherston.  
Marshall Texas Republican  
June 13, 1863

Appointments of preachers in East Texas Conference 1863. Tyler district—  
N. W. Burks, PE, Tyler circuit—J. W. Fields PC, Garden Valley—Wm. Witcher PC.  
Galveston Tri-Weekly News  
Nov. 3, 1863

The Methodists are holding a protracted meeting at Tyler. Many hard cases are reported converted.

Austin Weekly Southern Intelligencer  
October 12, 1865

Appointments of Preachers of East Texas Conference  
Palestine District

Tyler Station, Wm. Witcher  
Tyler Circuit, Wm. K. Masten  
Starrville Female High School—W. G. Williams  
Dallas Herald, Nov. 14, 1860

Appointments of East Texas Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church  
Tyler—W. P. Petty

Dallas Herald, Nov. 18, 1865

The Supper and Fair, on last Tuesday evening given by the ladies to raise money to repair the Baptist Church, is said to have passed off well, and with a pretty heavy collection. It was a magnificent affair, and is quite creditable to those who got it up. We always like to encourage anything religious. The receipts of the evening, we understand, were \$71.50 specie; \$23.00 greenbacks.

Quoted from Tyler Reporter in  
San Antonio Daily Herald  
Dec. 12, 1865

From Tyler.

The Reporter says:

Local sometimes goes to church, and though not much of a christian, is, nevertheless very much in favor of good behavior at such places. He therefore marks, with no little gratification, a considerable change for the better of late in this respect about Tyler, and hopes for an increase. He remarks, independently thus: The man or woman who does not behave well in church, shows bad raising, or a very great disregard for good raising.

The first quarterly meeting of the M. E. Church at this place, was held here, concluding last Saturday.

A series of meetings is now being held in the Baptist Church here. The gifted and eloquent Mr. Bayliss, of Marshall, is present, and has delivered several powerful and impressive sermons. Considerable interest in manifest among the people.

San Antonio Daily Herald  
Dec. 22, 1865

Baptist Associational Meetings in Tyler for 1867.  
Cherokee, October 12th, at Tyler, Smith County  
Galveston Flake's Bulletin  
July 25, 1867

We understand that the different denominations in Tyler have all resolved to allow no meeting, except for religious purposes, to be held in their churches. In the colored church the same resolution has been adopted.—Tyler Reporter.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
September 23, 1871

The Tyler Democrat notes the adjournment of the Sabbath School Convention lately held in that place. It was largely attended by gentlemen and ladies from all parts of the State and it is thought much good was done.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
July 30, 1873

They are endeavoring to raise money in Tyler to build a Presbyterian Church. Randall Hill, a notorious negro preacher in that town, was lately sentenced to the penitentiary for stealing.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
Aug. 13, 1873

A protracted meeting of the Methodists is going on at Tyler. Many conversions have taken place.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
October 23, 1873

A protracted Baptist meeting is going on in Tyler.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
November 20, 1873

A subscription is being raised in Tyler to build an Episcopal Church.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
January 28, 1874

Smith County.—The ladies of the Baptist Church have in course of preparation a fine tragedy which will be presented next Tuesday night, says the Tyler Reporter of the seventh instant.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
March 10, 1874

Smith County.—The Baptist Church in Tyler adopted a resolution inviting the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets at Jefferson in May next, to come there for a visit.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
March 25, 1874

.... Those who attend either the Baptist or Methodist Church in this city tomorrow morning, will have an opportunity of feasting their eyes on a "thing of beauty," in the shape of a magnificent silver pitcher, presented to the church by that prince of whole-souled gentlemen, A. M. Murphy. The two pitchers are precisely alike, and very valuable. We almost envy our friend the thousand kind thanks and wishes that will flow back to him for the generous gifts.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
October 14, 1864

The camp-meeting held five miles west of our city, and which closed last Monday, resulted in about fifty conversions.  
Austin Democratic Statesman  
October 14, 1874

The Tyler Reporter states that the camp meeting ten or twelve miles from our city, on the Starrville road, that has been in progress about two weeks, closed last Monday. The results of the efforts of the Christian people on

that occasion were between sixty and seventy-five conversions and forty or fifty accessions to the church.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
November 3, 1874

Tyler has a lively spelling class. The proceeds go to the Sunday school library.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
March 30, 1875

The clergymen at Tyler are generally indisposed. The Blade says that chicken cholera is the cause of this indisposition.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
May 23, 1875

A lawyer named Penn is running a protracted meeting on his own hook in Tyler. He would succeed more gloriously if his name were stricken from the roll of legum magistri. People can't well see how the devil can properly reprove sin, and however pious a limb of the law, the tree itself is wrongly bent. It is a reversal of the case we were talking about when we said the constitution should prohibit office-holding by preachers.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 4, 1875

The Tyler Index says that "the Baptist meetings which have been going on through a succession of twenty-four days is yet progressing with great interest. There have been thirty-three accessions to the church. The meeting is likely to continue two or three days. Mr. W. E. Penn has labored faithfully for the welfare of our people."

Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 18, 1875

Major W. E. Penn, the preaching lawyer of Jefferson, has accomplished a great and good work at Tyler, and is again at home in Jefferson.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
August 21, 1875

The great Baptist Sunday school convention is in session at Tyler.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
November 9, 1875

The local of the Tyler Democrat is so tickled with the new Presbyterian church bell over there that he is taking a hand in every "ring" in the town. He says its very tones are "rich."

Austin Democratic Statesman  
November 11, 1875

The Tyler papers speak in most eulogistic terms of the eloquence and earnestness of Rev. Jas. Stribling of that city.

Austin Democratic Statesman  
November 21, 1875

*Vicki Betts is a catalog librarian at the University of Texas at Tyler. She is the author of Smith County, Texas, in the Civil War published by the Greer Committee of the Society. She has also written an article for the Southwestern Historical Quarterly and edited the Elbridge Littlejohn letters for Chronicles.*