

**W Obituaries pre-1923, not previously shared
(from Monica Schirmer Eshelman)**

Date of death: 13 Feb 1910
Subject: Charles Wagner
Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 14 Feb 1910, p. 4

Charles Wagner, aged sixty years, died at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon of pulmonary tuberculosis. He was a patient at the county infirmary.

Date of death: 31 Jan 1918
Subject: Charles Wagner (or Waggoner)
Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 1 Feb 1918, p. 6

Charles Waggoner, sixty-seven years old, died yesterday forenoon at a local hospital. He is survived by a brother, William Waggoner.

Date of death: 25 Apr 1909
Subject: Barton Walker*
Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 26 Apr 1909, p. 6

Coroner Byrd was called to 2210 Mulberry street yesterday morning to view the body of Barton Walker, a negro, 50 years old, who died while seated in his home, reading a paper. The coroner believes apoplexy caused death.

Date of death: 11 Jun 1910
Subject: Eugene Lincoln Walker
Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 12 Jun 1910, p. 8

Eugene Lincoln Walker aged five days, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Walker, living at 210 Atchison street, died yesterday morning at the home of his parents. Death resulted from whooping cough.

Date of death: 29 Jan 1902
Subject: Mayhew Walker*
Source: *St. Joseph Daily News*, 30 Jan 1902, p. 6

Mayhew Walker, colored, aged five years, died at the family home, 213 South Second street, of smallpox yesterday afternoon. Though there has been a number of cases of the dreaded disease in St. Joseph this winter this is the first death that has been reported as due to it. The body was buried last night, every precaution being taken to avoid the spread of the disease.

Date of death: 22 May 1903
Subject: Laura Wallace*
Source: *St. Joseph Daily News*, 23 May 1903, p. 6

Laura Wallace, colored, twenty-four years of age, died at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, at her home, 507 North Second street. The body will be taken to Leavenworth at 8:30 o'clock this evening.

Date of death: 11 May 1915

Subject: William Wallace

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 12 May 1915, p. 2

William Wallace, fifty years old, a laborer, committed suicide at 8 o'clock last night at his home, 4803 Lake avenue, South End, by drinking carbolic acid. His wife found her husband lying on the bed shortly before 8 o'clock, suffering from pains in the stomach, and summoned Dr. F. H. Ladd, but Wallace died before the physician came. Dr. Thomas J. Lynch, coroner, found the vial which had contained the poison.

Wallace and his wife had been having trouble, it is said, and this may have caused him to kill himself. Besides the wife, five children, none of them living at the parents' home, survive.

The family had formerly lived at St. Charles, Mo., and removed to St. Joseph two years ago. The body is at the Rock undertaking establishment.

Date of death: 18 Aug 1903

Subject: Thornton Walters*

Source: *St. Joseph Daily News*, 21 Aug 1903, p. 6

The funeral of Thornton Walters, the negro porter who was drowned at Lake Contrary Tuesday night, will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Date of death: 23 Jan 1891

Subject: Mrs. Mary Warburton

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 24 Jan 1891, p. 5

Mrs. Mary Warburton died at her residence, corner of Robidoux and Levee streets, yesterday, at the age of 80 years. She has resided in St. Joseph since 1856, and is the widow of Thomas Warburton, who died in this sick while home on a sick furlough. She leaves three children, John, Peter and Mrs. M. A. Duncan, all of this city. Her death was the indirect result of a fall sustained on December 4, last, when she dislocated her left hip. She was out last Sunday for the first time and took cold, resulting in her death.

Date of death: 19 Jan 1908

Subject: Mollie Rebecca "Maude" Ward*

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 20 Jan 1908, p. 7

In a fire which destroyed a one-story frame residence at 1216 North Third street about 12 o'clock last night Mollie Rebecca Ward, known to the police as Maude Ward, a negro girl, was burned to death. As far as can be learned, the girl was in the house alone at the time of the fire.

Until last Saturday the house was occupied by George Crockett, a negro employed as a porter at Shafer's saloon on St. Joseph avenue. When it was found by the firemen that the girl had been burned to death in the house, Coroner Byrd was notified and he had the body removed to Heaton's morgue. He ordered that Crockett be arrested and held for investigation.

Crockett says he left the house Saturday and turned it over to Harrison Westfield and his son, Miles Westfield, who have since occupied it. Crockett owned the furniture in the little house.

No one knows how the fire started, but it may have been started by the girl herself, who was a police character and was known to be addicted to the use of cocaine. Crockett says she had ... been allowed to go into ... Miles Westfield, who is tw... old, but the police ... Westfield as ... girl's presence there.

Crockett has told police ... he knew the Ward girl ... with her ... another woman... Saturday.

Coroner Byrd ... of ... earlier in the night ...ing, and that the ... mat... thrown ... turned lamp. Crockett ... the home. Andy Mi... Second street ... and ... He told the police ... as ten persons were... that they all saw him ... house is on ... district ... house in which ... by death.

Crockett says ... the firemen ... from Mil... short time ... where she was to begin work cleaning the ... says he made ... sight ... get away...

When the fire was extinguished the firemen did not know that anybody had been in the house at the time. One of the firemen stumbled over the body of the girl. She had been in the midst of the fire and the body was badly burned when it was found.

The house was owned by R. Sige... was damaged to the extent of \$75... fire. The damage to the ... \$30. Coroner Byrd will ... on the body of the Ward girl this afternoon.

Suspicion is growing ... was killed before the ... burned body was ... Coroner Byrd ... body of the ... and will ...

Miles Westfall ... is said to have ... the Ward girl ... arrested this ... Louis streets ... is now in the ... tion, where no one ... Westfield is said ... about the place earlier ... the fire broke out.

George Crockett is still held ... police and will be kept until ... inquest. He told the police that ... Westfield was in the house before the fire, but his statements have not yet been verified. Westfield denies all knowledge of the fire.

The autopsy that is being held by the coroner this afternoon is expected to reveal any injuries that may have been inflicted on the girl before she was burned, if she had been rendered unconscious before the house was set on fire.

Westfield is a police character, having been arrested a number of times. He was released from the county jail a short time ago.

Westfield told the police this forenoon that he was in the house with the Ward girl when the fire started. He says he awoke and was nearly smothered by the smoke. He managed to get out of the house, but did not think of trying to save the girl.

The negro's hands are burned and this leads the police to believe, when taken in connection with his flight from the house, that he knows more than he has told about the origin of the fire and the death of the girl.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 21 Jan 1908, p. 2

Miles Westfield and George Crockett, the negroes held for investigation in the case of Mollie Rebecca Ward, the negro girl burned to death Sunday night in the house on North Third street, were released from Central police station this morning and told to appear this afternoon at [sic] witnesses at the coroner's inquest.

Coroner Byrd performed an autopsy on the body of the dead girl last night, assisted by Dr. S. F. Kessler and Dr. H. S. Forgrave. They found no indication of violence and decided that the girl had died from inhaling the flames. The origin of the fire still is unknown.

Westfield says he went to bed in the back room of the house at 8 o'clock Sunday night, and did not know the Ward girl was in the building. Some time in the night he awoke, almost overcome by the smoke, and seizing his overcoat, went out at the back door. He ran down the alley, he said, where he met people running to the fire. As he had no clothing on except the overcoat, he went to his grandfather's house and found some garments. He did not go back to the fire. He accounts for his hands being burned by saying they were scorched as he was trying to get out of the building.

After the autopsy last night Prosecuting Attorney Keller said that he would not issue a warrant for any of the negroes held by the police. There is no evidence that the girl was murdered.

Westfield says when he went to sleep Sunday night he left a candle burning in his room. He thinks the fire may have started from it. The police do not believe he has told the truth about not knowing the girl was in the house, but there is no evidence that he injured the young woman intentionally.

George Crockett told the officers that he owed Westfield and was allowing the father and son to use his furniture to pay the debt. He said he had not seen the Ward girl for several days.

Coroner Byrd held an inquest this afternoon and a large number of witnesses were [sic] called.

Date of death: 21 Mar 1905

Subject: George Washington*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 22 Mar 1905, p. 3

Insane from several weeks of serious illness from pneumonia, George Washington, a negro of 510 North Third street, was taken to the Central police station Monday afternoon and died there yesterday morning.

Doctor L. F. Bode attended the raving madman several times during the latter part of Monday night. His death was not discovered for about a half hour after it occurred.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 21 Mar 1905, p. 6

George Washington, a negro porter who was removed from a boardinghouse at 510 North Third street to Central police station at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon by Assistant County Physician J... a cell at the station between 4:30 and ... o'clock this morning. The body was taken to Meierhoffer's morgue where an inquest was held by Coroner Bansbach this afternoon.

Washington suffered from a severe attack of pneumonia. When Doctor Bode was summoned yesterday afternoon he found the negro wil...

Bareheaded and barefooted, the negro escaped from those who were standing guard over him at his boardinghouse and it was some time before he was caught and restrained. The doctor called at the station twice last night ...

When ... man Wright ... cells at 4:30 ... was asleep. [*Most of the last paragraph illegible.*]

Date of death: 15 Jul 1901

Subject: Sarah (Washington) Bundy*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette-Herald*, 16 Jul 1901, p. 5

Sarah Washington Bunty [sic], ninety years old, died Monday at the home of her grand-daughter, Mary Bundy, 1716 Messanie street, of typhoid-pneumonia fever. She was over ninety years old and had been a slave in Buchanan County many years. She came to this county before St. Joseph was more than a small village and lived here over sixty years.

same

Source: *St. Joseph Daily News*, 17 Jul 1901, p. 6

Sarah Washington, aged ninety years, who died Monday at 1716 Messanie street, was buried today in the city cemetery.

Date of death: 25 Apr 1909

Subject: Darton Watkins*

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 26 Apr 1909, p. 4

Darton Watkins, a negro, sixty years old, died very suddenly Sunday morning at his home, 2210 Mulberry street. He apparently was in good health when he left the house about 8:30 to get a paper but when he returned a half hour later he fell over on a couch and expired. Coroner C. F. Byrd views the body and said that death was due to apoplexy.

Date of death: 29 Apr 1904

Subject: George W. Watson

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 30 Apr 1904, p. 2

A man who registered at the Laclede hotel, 305 Jule street, a few days ago under the name of George W. Watson, Chicago, died yesterday afternoon at the hostelry of pneumonia, after an illness of a few days.

Watson was a traveling salesman and it is thought he sold goods for two Chicago houses, but neither the firms nor any of the man's friends could be located last night. Proprietor Beeler telegraphed the chief of police at Chicago for information concerning Watson, who is about 50 years of age.

The body is temporarily at Heaton's morgue.

same

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 17 May 1905, p. 4

The body of George W. Watson, the traveling salesman who died in the Laclede hotel about a month ago, was buried in the city cemetery yesterday afternoon, the funeral taking place from Heaton's undertaking rooms. Although it was known that Watson lived in Chicago, all efforts to locate his relatives failed.

Date of death: 21 Jul 1904

Subject: Hezekiah B. Watson

Source: *St. Joseph News & Press*, 22 Jul 1904, p. 5

Rosendale, Mo., July 23 [sic].—Hezekiah Watson, vice-president of the Bank of Rosendale and a pioneer of Andrew County, died at his home at 7 o'clock this morning, aged seventy-seven years. The funeral will be held Sunday at the Christian Church in Rosendale, the Rev. W. A. Chapman officiating, and the interment will be at Savannah at 2 o'clock p.m. the same day. The services at the grave will be conducted by Rosendale Lodge No. 400, A.F. & A.M., of which Mr. Watson was a member.

Hezekiah Watson was prominent in the affairs of Andrew County for many years. He was a Republican and a veteran of the Civil War, having espoused the cause of the union. He was for several years a member of the Andrew County Court.

Mr. Watson is survived by his wife and eight children—six daughters and two sons. His sons are James H. Watson, formerly with Hirsch Brothers, St. Joseph, and Charles N. Watson, with the Standard Oil Company, St. Joseph. One daughter, Mrs. G. F. Kellogg, is employed by Hirsch Brothers, St. Joseph.

Date of death: 29 Mar 1913

Subject: Lula (Watson) Page

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 31 Mar 1913, p. 5

Lola [sic] Page, ... years old, of Lincoln, Neb., died after a short illness Saturday night at the home of friends, 704 North Fourth street. A post mortem examination conducted by Coroner T. J. Lynch yesterday afternoon revealed the fact that death was due to natural causes.

Date of death: 11/12 Apr 1912

Subject: Sarah E. (Watts) Weber

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 13 Apr 1912, p. 6

Funeral Notices. Sarah E. Weber, died at St. Joseph's Hospital April 11th, aged 84 years. Funeral services will be held at H. O. Sidenfaden's Chapel, Monday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Friends invited.

Date of death: 2 Feb 1908

Subject: Charles Webber

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 3 Feb 1908, p. 4

Charles Webber, eighty-six years old, died of pneumonia at a local hospital at 2:15 yesterday afternoon. He and his wife lived at 615 Monroe street, and as both have been sick for several days and were dependent on the charity of their neighbors, Humane Officer Ziemendorff sent them to the hospital. The widow is very ill. The dead man was a day laborer.

Date of death: 31 Jan 1918

Subject: infant daughter of Thomas Weir

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 31 Jan 1918, p. 6

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Weir died this morning at 4 o'clock at the family home in Kirschner's Addition.

Date of death: 12 Aug 1914

Subject: Benjamin West

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 13 Aug 1914, p. 6

The body of a man identified by a Missouri Pacific identification ... as Ben West of Atchison, a track laborer for the railroad company, was found on the Burlington right of way, a short distance south of the south end station on Illinois avenue about 6 o'clock yesterday morning.

West is thought to have been struck by a train during the night. His body was badly mangled.

The body was removed to the undertaking rooms of William Fleeman after it was viewed by Dr. T. J. Lynch, coroner. An inquest will be held. The body was discovered by a ... West was about 25 years old. He was fairly well dressed.

Date of death: Mar 1907

Subject: Samuel Weston*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 23 Mar 1907, p. 6

A slight dispute which arose between Petry & Rock, undertakers, and I. F. Ramsey, negro undertaker, Thursday afternoon over the burial of the body of Samuel West [sic], an aged negro, was amiably settled. Relatives of the dead man ordered the negro undertaker and friends called in Petry & Rock. The negro, however, buried the body, after going to the trouble to redress and place it in a casket provided to him after it had been dressed and laid out in a casket supplied by Petry & Rock.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 21 Mar 1907, p. 7

An attempt was made in South St. Joseph yesterday afternoon to conduct two funerals with only one corpse. It was not a success, and resulted in the central figure having practically no funeral at all.

Two undertakers, two graves, two hearses, two coffins, two trains of carriages, two preachers, two sets of pallbearers and a request for the presence of two policemen, characterized the arrangements for the burial of Samuel Weston, a negro, sixty-one years old, who finally was interred in one grave in Oakland Cemetery, without any funeral service.

The unusual circumstances were due, first, to a misunderstanding between the friends and relatives of the dead man, rival undertakers having been employed by them, and the unwillingness of either undertaker to retire from the case.

Weston, who worked on the farm of A. W. Robinson, south of the city, for many years, died Tuesday evening at the home of Eliza Clark, colored, at 129 Division street, South St. Joseph. She at once called in Isaac F. Ramsey, a negro undertaker, to take charge of the funeral arrangements.

Wednesday morning A. W. Robinson and Rufus H. Coy authorized Rock & Co., undertakers, to direct the funeral and bury the old negro. Weston had left in trust money for that purpose with Coy.

Ramsey had embalmed the body when Rock reached the house and a dispute followed. Ramsey put the body in a coffin furnished from his establishment, Wednesday morning, and Rock took a coffin to the house and transferred the body to it, Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday evening Ramsey shifted the corpse back into his coffin and the next morning Rock again transferred it.

Yesterday afternoon Ramsey appealed to the police, and asked that two policemen be sent to the Clark woman's house while he made another juggle of the corpse, as he feared Rock would undertake to prevent, by force, its further handling by him. No policemen were furnished. However, Ramsey again took possession of the body and placed it in the original burial receptacle. Rock made no effort to restrain him.

Then, owing to the confusion that had existed and a fear of more trouble, Ramsey had the body driven hurriedly to Oakland Cemetery, where it was interred, with a simple prayer. The negro

preacher engaged by Rock was informed by the mourners, all of whom sided with the colored undertaker, that his services would not be needed, and he retired, as the white undertaker's hearse and carriages drove away empty and returned to the barn. The grave in Oakland Cemetery dug by order of Rock was filled up later in the day and Weston's body at last accounts reposed in peace.

Weston is reported to have left considerable money when he died. He was a sort of hermit and for a number of years he lived alone in a cabin on the banks of Lake Contrary. His acquaintances, especially the negroes, say he was a miser and that for many years he had hoarded his earnings. He had some money in the Bank of Commerce, which recently suspended.

C. F. Rock, who knew the old man well, does not believe he had as much money as others appear to believe he had. Rock says Weston had kept several thousand dollars in bills hidden in a cigar box and that the money had been destroyed by mice.

Nettie Crowley, who claims to be a niece of the dead man, lives at 622 South Sixteenth street, and she asserts that she is sole heir to Weston's estate.

According to Undertaker Rock, Weston had left instructions for his funeral and had deposited with Rufus Coy, cashier of the Citizen's Bank of St. Joseph, money with which to defray the expenses.

Ramsey told the old negro's friends that he would bury Weston and take chances on getting his pay.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 23 Mar 1907, p. 2

City warrants were issued this morning for the arrest of Isaac F. Ramsey, a negro undertaker, and James L. Donly, sexton at Oakland cemetery, on a charge of failing to procure a permit from the board of health for the interment of the body of Samuel Weston, the aged negro who died several days ago and over whose burial Ramsey and C. F. Rock, a white undertaker, had a spirited controversy. W. H. Hartigan, clerk of the board of health, swore to the information upon which the warrant was issued.

In the wrangle over the right to conduct Weston's funeral, the necessary burial permit was not applied for by the undertakers, or there possibly would have been two of the documents, inasmuch as there was double provision for everything else in connection with the obsequies.

When Ramsey, who had hurried the body away from the house in South St. Joseph when Weston died, reached Oakland, Sexton Donly called for the burial permit. Ramsey didn't have it and there was a halt in the proceedings until he called the board of health office by telephone. Nobody responded, and rather than place the body in the receiving vault, Donly buried it, Ramsey, according to the sexton, having assured him that he would "fix it up" with the health department today.

Clark Hartigan said to a News-Press reporter today that neither Rock nor Ramsey had applied for a burial permit, and that he had not been in communication with either of the undertakers. He said he did not cause the arrest at the instigation of any business rival of Ramsey.

The case will come up in police court Monday morning, and City Attorney Mosman will summon all persons who had a part in the funeral arrangements, as witnesses.

Ramsey said to a News-Press reporter today that Dr. J. R. A. Crossland, the negro physician, who attended Weston, refused to sign the death certificate, necessary to secure a burial permit, because he was not sure which undertaker had the right to bury the man. Ramsey said he telephoned this information to the board of health office Thursday.

J. H. Kelley, the negro lawyer, was appointed administrator of Weston's estate, by the probate court, yesterday. Weston's negro friends claim that, besides the money he had on deposit in the Citizens' Bank in South St. Joseph, he claimed to have about \$600 in case of a South End saloonkeeper. The name of the saloonkeeper is said to be unknown, but an effort will be made to locate the money.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 3 Apr 1907, p. 6

The sequel to the wrangle between Undertakers C. F. Rock and Isaac F. Ramsay over the body of Samuel Weston, an aged negro, who died March 19, occurred in police court this morning when Ramsay, who is a negro and who won out in the original controversy with Rock, was convicted of failing to procure a permit for the burial of Weston's body and was fined \$5.

James F. Donly, sexton at Oakland Cemetery where Weston was buried, who was jointly accused with Ramsay, was convicted, but he was granted a stay of execution.

W. T. Hartigan, clerk of the board of health, who caused the arrests, testified that a burial permit in the case has not yet been issued, because no death certificate has been filed.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 8 May 1907, p. 7

The probate court, yesterday afternoon, gave some of its attention to proving claims against the estate of Sam West [sic], the negro miser, who died at 127 Division street, March 19, last, and was given two funerals. From the statement of J. H. Kelly, administrator, it was evident that West's affairs are in a badly confused state.

"He was superstitious about banks," said Kelly, "and I can find no record of his having deposited more than \$221.50, and that was in the late Bank of Commerce. Most of his money was loaned out, but I can't find any notes or other evidence of such loans. His relatives believe that at least \$900 of his money is now in the hands of certain white men.

"West used to keep his money lying around in odd corners. Once he had a cigar box nearly full of greenbacks in the garret, and the rats got in and ate the money."

For many years West worked on the Robertson farm, near Lake Contrary.

Date of death: Nov 1909

Subject: John F. Wheeler

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 29 Nov 1909, p. 4

Savannah, Mo., Nov. 29.—The body of John Wheeler, who was accidentally killed at Rivington, Wyoming, will arrive here tomorrow or Wednesday for burial. Mr. Wheeler, who had a ranch near Rivington, had built a house on his ranch, then returned here, and shipped his stock and household goods to Rivington. It was in hauling his goods to the ranch that he met his death. He fell from the top of a load, breaking his neck, dying instantly.

Mr. Wheeler was at one time in the furniture and undertaking business here and had been a well-known farmer and stockman in this vicinity and at Bethany, Mo.

Mrs. Wheeler and her son, Charles, were visiting Mrs. Wheeler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Hurst, of this city, and were to have left here tomorrow for their new home. Mrs. Wheeler's brother, J. A. Hurst, was with Mr. Wheeler at the time of the accident, and will accompany the body here for burial.

Date of death: 28 Nov 1904

Subject: Emily (Whidbey?) Ewing*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 29 Nov 1904, p. 6

Emily Wh...ey Ewing, colored, aged 64 years, widow of Henry ? Ewing, died yesterday at her home in Dalton, Mo. The body was brought to St. Joseph. The funeral will be at 2 o'clock this afternoon from the New Hope Baptist church.

Date of death: 14 Oct 1904

Subject: Robert Whitacre*

Source: *St. Joseph News & Press*, 15 Oct 1904, p. 6

Robert Whitacre, the negro jockey who was ... being thrown from his ... the last race Thursday at Lake Contrary, died at ... o'clock last night at St. Joseph Hospital. Whitacre did not regain consciousness after he was picked up from the race track. He was thirty years of age ... woman who claimed to be his wife accompanied him to the hospital Thursday night. She has not been seen since then at the hospital and has not appeared at Heaton's morgue where the body now lies.

Despite the many ... of rough riding there is no doubt in the minds of those who saw the mishap that it was purely accidental. Whitacre was called to the judges' stand ... and was cautioned against using ugly tactics. He was allowed to ride without paying his entry fee. As his horse was the last one in the field it would have been impossible for him to do any rough riding had he so desired. Coroner Doyle will hold an inquest Monday.

Date of death: 18 Apr 1908

Subject: Bert White*

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 20 Apr 1908, p. 4

Bert White, about forty years old, was fatally shot Saturday afternoon by George Easter with whom he quarreled over a crap game. White died a few hours after having been removed to St. Joseph's Hospital. Both are negroes.

The shooting occurred at White's home on King Hill avenue near Division street. Easter fled, but was captured by Deputy Sheriff Rogan, who heard the shot and jumped off a street car to chase the fleeing man, whom he soon overtook.

According to Easter, who was locked up at central police station, he had returned from a ... expedition, when he met White... in the railroad yards. A crap game was started and White lost \$15. White accused Easter of cheating, knocked him down and kicked him in the face. They parted, and a few minutes later as Easter was passing White's house, White again attacked him. Easter then raised the shotgun he was carrying and discharged the contents in White's face. White's eyes were shot out and his face was riddled with the shot. He barely lived to reach the hospital.

Easter talks freely of the killing and insists that he was justified. He says it was a case of kill or get killed. He has a wife, but his victim was unmarried. Easter has been working at the Phoenix brick plant on King Hill avenue. Easter will be delivered to the state authorities today on a warrant charging first degree murder.

White's body was removed to Heaton's morgue Saturday night, where an inquest will be conducted this afternoon.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 22 Apr 1908, p. 10

George W. Easter, colored, charged with murder in the first degree, was arraigned in Justice Burke's court ... today. His preliminary hearing was set for 10 a.m. tomorrow, and he was committed to jail without bond to await the hearing.

He is charged with having shot and killed Bert White, another negro, at the door of his (White's) home in South St. Joseph last Saturday evening, as a result of a crap game.

It was learned yesterday that White was, at the time of his death, a member of the Swift Employees' Benefit Association, in which his life was insured. He became a member of the association April 2, just sixteen days before his death. There seems to be some question of the amount of the insurance on White's life, though other members say it is ...

James A. Gibson, public administrator, and Jerry Grider, the negro politician, appeared before Judge Imel of the probate court yesterday, both demanding to be appointed administrator of the

man's estate. Grider argued that he should be named, as the dead man was his ..., but Gibson was appointed.

Mr. Gibson said that if White has relatives living, he does not know them. In the certificate of membership in the association no beneficiaries were named.

same

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 7 May 1909, p. 4

George W. Easter, colored, charged with murder in the first degree, was permitted to plead guilty to first degree manslaughter in the criminal court this morning, and was sentenced to eight years in the penitentiary.

Easter, on Easter eve, 1908, shot and killed Bert White, another negro. The homicide followed a game of craps in which the negroes had quarreled and fought, when Easter was worsted by White. Easter procured a shotgun, followed White to his boarding house and shot him as he stood in the doorway. A single shot, about the size of a pinhead, entered the brain through the eyeball, causing instant death, the doctors said.

Date of death: 6 Jun 1909

Subject: Fifine White

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 7 Jun 1909, p. 3

Fifine White, aged 15 years, died at a local hospital. The remains were sent to Bolckow yesterday for interment. Her parents, four brothers and four sisters survive her.

Date of death: 10 Dec 1908

Subject: Harry White

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 11 Dec 1908, p. 8

Failing to get off the tracks in time, Harry White, 35 years old, section hand on the Burlington near Helena, Mo., was run down by a passenger train and instantly killed. The body, horribly mangled and almost unrecognizable, was brought to St. Joseph, White was unmarried and no relatives are known. He will be buried in the city cemetery.

Date of death: 6 Jun 1904

Subject: Edith Matilda (Whitman) Moser

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 7 Jun 1904, p. 9

Edith T. Moser, aged 31 years, wife of Wm. J. Moser, died Monday morning at ... home five miles east of cit. She was [sister] of Mrs. George Tolson and Mrs. H. B. Shale of this city. Funeral from residence on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Interment at Ashland.

Date of death: 13 May 1920

Subject: Charles Whitmore

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 13 May 1920, p. 1

Charles Whitmore, thirty-four years old, a Burlington fireman, was killed at 2:45 o'clock this morning when he fell from the cab of an engine into Platte River, three miles south of Union Star, Mo. The body was recovered. Whitmore, who was married, lived in St. Joseph at the National Hotel. He had been on a freight run between here and Albany, Mo. His parents live at Amazonia, Mo., and the body will reach St. Joseph late this afternoon and be taken to Amazonia for burial.

Henry J. Morin, engineer of the train, did not miss Whitmore until the train was two miles this side of the bridge, through which the fireman fell. Torches were used and the body was discovered floating in an eddy. It was taken to Union Star, where the DeKalb County coroner viewed it.

It is not known how Whitmore happened to fall from the cab, but one theory is that he was leaning from the window and was struck by a beam of the bridge. Besides his widow and parents, a brother, who is a station agent for the Burlington at Watson, Mo., survives him.

Date of death: 4 Aug 1909

Subject: Fred John Wiedman

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 6 Aug 1909, p. 7

Fred John Wiedmann [sic], aged 50, died at a local hospital at 9 p.m. Wednesday. He lived at 714 South Eighth street. He is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Henry Stuber, Mrs. Chas. F. Slitter, Mrs. Ida E. Ewing and Mrs. Maude Davis, all of this city.

Date of death: 28 Jun 1900

Subject: Charles Williams*

Source: *St. Joseph Herald*, 29 Jun 1900, p. 5

Charles, Williams, colored, living at 603 South Eighteenth street, died yesterday afternoon at his residence. Deceased had for many years been a teamster for the Studebaker company of this city, and was well known by many citizens.

Date of death: 6 Jun 1912

Subject: James Williams

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 7 Jun 1912, p. 5

James Williams, fifty years old, died yesterday evening at 6 o'clock at a local hospital where he had been sent yesterday from Central Police Station. Williams was picked up yesterday morning by a street car crew on the lake line. He was unable to walk and said he had been lying where he was found for two days. The body is at H. O. Sidenfaden's.

Date of death: 16 Apr 1902

Subject: John J. Williams*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 17 Apr 1902, p. 2

John J. Williams, colored, janitor at the German-American bank building, died Wednesday morning at his home, 1505 Olive street. The funeral will take place Friday afternoon with interment in Oakland cemetery.

Date of death: 2 Jun 1920

Subject: Lucy Williams

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 3 Jun 1920, p. 6

Miss Lucy Williams, seventeen years old, died at 9 o'clock last night at the home of her father, James E. Williams, 1405 South Fifth street. Besides her father, she is survived by six brothers and one sister, as follows: Walter Williams, Hale, Mo.; Bell Williams, Chillicothe, Mo., and Oscar, Clay, Russell, Virgil and Anna May Williams of St. Joseph. The body will be taken to Utica, Mo., for burial.

Date of death: 18 May 1906

Subject: Mellissa A. (Williams) Denney

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 19 May 1906, p. 11

Mrs. Melissa [sic] A. Denney, wife of J. P. Denney, a retired farmer at Rosendale, Mo., died at a local hospital, at 6 o'clock last night, as the result of an operation. She was fifty-eight years of age. The body was forwarded to Rosendale this morning.

Date of death: Jun 1900

Subject: Thomas Williams*

Source: *St. Joseph Herald*, 13 Jun 1900, p. 5

An inquest was held yesterday on the body of Thomas Williams, the negro boy drowned in a pond three miles northeast of the city, near the farm of John S. Lemon. The verdict was that the boy had come to his death by drowning, and his companions were held blameless. Several boys were with him at the time. The Williams boy was 15 years old, and lived with his mother, Mrs. Anna Williams, at No. 4, Bean Row. The burial will take place at the city cemetery today.

Date of death: 5 Jan 1913

Subject: William Williams*

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 6 Jan 1913, p. 4

William Williams, a negro driver for the Parrish-Erickson Hardware Company, whose spine was seriously injured Christmas eve when he fell from his wagon at Sixth and Hall streets, died last night at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Date of death: 22 May 1904

Subject: Frank Wilson*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 23 May 1904, p. 1

Frank Wilson, a negro, aged 38, employed at the street railway power house, was shot and instantly killed by Will Ferman, a porter employed at Whitaker and Crites' saloon, Fourth and

Messanie streets, at Andy Brown's rooming house, 812 South Sixth street, at 11 o'clock last night.

Ferman surrendered to Andy Brown, who went with him to the police station giving him into custody of Sergeant Kelly.

Ferman told the police that the shooting was accidental.

Patrolmen Campbell and Smith hurried to the scene and investigated the matter, being ... followed by Patrolman Moore.

According to the story told by Eddie Brown, who occupied the same room with Ferman and Wilson, the two who were ... mates had quarreled.

Ferman last night entered the room. Eddie Brown says that he was in bed at the time, but heard Ferman say:

"I'm going to kill you."

"Quit fooling with that gun; it might go off," Wilson replied.

"You ..., you think I won't shoot," young Brown says was Ferman's next remark. This was followed by a shot, says the boy, and Ferman then came toward Brown's bed.

Brown feigned sleep and Ferman went down stairs and gave himself up.

His victim fell over on the floor, dead. The bullet had passed through his heart.

Wilson was a quiet and industrious negro, and in the two years he had been in St. Joseph had not been in trouble.

Ferman had been before the police before, having stabbed Charley Willis, another negro, almost to death last winter.

Same

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 24 May 1904, p. 5

William Ferman, the negro who shot and killed his room-mate, Frank Wilson, in Andy Brown's boarding house Sunday night, protests that he is innocent of murder and that the killing was purely accidental.

"Wilson and I were pals," he said yesterday, "and I wouldn't kill him. The gun just went off before I knew it, that's all. Wilson was lying on the bed and I was sitting beside him. I pulled out the revolver and we got to fooling with it. I had my thumb on the hammer and I must have pulled it back, but I didn't mean to. It went off and Wilson jumped off the bed and fell down dead.

"Wilson and I didn't have any trouble. We didn't have a cross word and anybody that says we did don't know what they are talking about.

"Ed Brown was in the room at the time of the shooting and if he says I said I would kill Wilson he don't know what he's talking about. I never made any threat and there was no talking about shooting anybody. If Wilson hadn't died instantly he would have told that the shooting was an accident."

Ferman was a porter in the employ of Frank Whitacre, whose saloon was wrecked by dynamite early yesterday morning, and he says the revolver with which he shot Wilson belongs to R. L. Crites, one of the bartenders in the saloon who is being held for investigation in connection with the safe blowing affair.

He says he slipped the revolver in his pocket when he left the saloon Sunday night as a protection against footpads.

Ferman is still locked up.

Date of death: 11 Aug 1902

Subject: Mrs. Lillie Ann Wilson

Source: *St. Joseph Daily News*, 12 Aug 1902, p. 6

Mrs. Lillie Ann Wilson, aged thirty-four years, wife of William N. Wilson, died yesterday at the family home, 412 Middleton street.

Deceased was a native of Indiana, but had lived in St. Joseph since childhood. Her surviving relatives are a sister, Mrs. Cora L. Pierce of Kansas City, and an aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Murnan of St. Joseph. She was a member of Olive council, No. 300, Knights and Ladies of Security; Modern Brotherhood of America, and Zenobia Hive, No. 9, L.O.T.M.

The body will be taken to Bolckow for burial.

Date of death: 7 Sep 1918

Subject: Samuel H. Winders

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 8 Sep 1918, p. 6

Samuel H. Winders, 52 years old, of Nevada, Mo., died yesterday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Scott, 727 South Ninth street. He had been in failing health, and while sitting in a chair yesterday fell dead of heart disease. The body will be taken to Nevada for burial.

Date of death: 11 Nov 1908

Subject: Mrs. Katrina Winter

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 12 Nov 1908, p. 3

The death of Mrs. Katherine Wenter [sic], 61 years old, occurred yesterday at a local hospital. The body will be taken to Savannah for burial today.

Date of death: Jul 1902

Subject: John Wintersmith*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 15 Jul 1902, p. 4

Negro Dies from Excessive Heat

John ... [*much of article is illegible*] ... Frank ... Felix street ... morning. He ... 211 South Second ... at ... o'clock... ness.

Wintersmith ... for many ... called 'Ral... H... pairing a ... saloon. He ... fifteen minutes ... prostrated. It ... heat was ... is the first ...

Coroner De... inquest over....

Date of death: 9 Jan 1918

Subject: William Witcher

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 10 Jan 1918, p. 8

William, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Witcher, 1311 South Fourth street, died this [sic] morning at 3:15 o'clock at the family home.

Date of death: 18 Nov 1905

Subject: Lyom (or Leon) W. Wolfers

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 19 Nov 1905, p. 1

Hopkins, Mo., Nov. 18.—While hunting rabbits in the orchard on his father's property this afternoon, Leon Wolfers, the fourteen year old son of E. C. Wolfers, a banker here, was instantly killed by a shot from the rifle of a comrade, Harvey Lindsay.

Lindsay, who was of the same aged as the dead boy, hurriedly summoned medical assistance, but young Wolfers had died instantly, the bullet entering the base of his brain.

The shooting occurred at 3:45 o'clock and a coroner's inquest was held soon afterward. The jury brought in a verdict of accidental death and Lindsay was not held by the authorities.

Young Lindsay and his parents are greatly broken up over the sad termination of the afternoon's pleasure.

Date of death: 4 Jan 1917

Subject: Samuel Wood

Source: *St. Joseph News-Press*, 5 Jan 1917, p. 6

Samuel Wood, sixty years old, died last night at a local hospital. He had no known relatives.

Date of death: 14 Nov 1902

Subject: Mrs. Katie H. Woodson*

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 15 Nov 1902, p. 6

Katie Woodson, colored, aged 48 years, died at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning at her home 1611 South Eighth street. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon from the Third street A.M.E. church.

Date of death: 22 Jul 1904

Subject: Charles Wyatt

Source: *St. Joseph Gazette*, 1 Aug 1904, p. 8

Savannah, Mo., July 31.—Charles Wyatt of Silver City, Idaho, son of Samuel Wyatt of Fontainbleau, died on July 22. His body was brought to Savannah for interment.