

**University of Oklahoma Libraries**  
**Western History Collections**

**Arrell M. Gibson Collection**

**Gibson, Arrell Morgan (1921–1987). Papers, 1817–1871. .66 foot.**

Historian. A collection of research materials (1817–1871) gathered for use in writing projects. Most of the material deals with Fort Smith, Arkansas, and the Civil War in Indian Territory.

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**Location: G-32**

**Box 1**

Folder 1:

- Roster of Bradford's Company, Rifle Regiment, December 31, 1817. Summary of the condition of the company.
- Return of ordnance and ordnance stores at Forth Belle Point, March 31, 1818.
- Roster of Captain Cross' Company, Seventh United States Infantry, June 20, 1820, Forth Smith, Arkansas.
- Monthly return of the troops stationed at Forth Smith, November 1820, commanding officer, Major William Bradford.

Folder 2:

- Inspection return for Company B, Seventh U.S. Infantry, February 28, 1822. Commanded by Captain G. Leftwich.
- Inspection return for Company C, Seventh U.S. Infantry, February 28, 1822. Commanded by Captain Daniel E. Burch.

Folder 3:

- Inspection return for Company G, Seventh U.S. Infantry, February 28, 1822. Commanded by Captain Nathaniel Young.

Folder 4:

- Inspection return for Company H, Seventh U.S. Infantry, February 28, 1822. Commanded by Captain William L. Davenport.
- Inspection return for Company K, Seventh U.S. Infantry, February 28, 1822. Commanded by Captain Freeman Cross.

Folder 5:

- Garrison list by company, Forth Smith, Arkansas, July 27, 1838 to November 10, 1871. List does not include Confederate occupation.
- List of commanding officers of Forth Smith, Arkansas, July 27, 1838 to November 10, 1871. List does not include Confederate commanders.

Folder 6:

- List of individuals at Fort Smith, having an account with the post sutlers, John Nicks and John Rogers, 1821 to 1822.
- Sample of account with post sutlers.

Folder 7:

- Accounts of receipts and expenditures made by Major Charles Thomas at Fort Smith, July 1 to September 30, 1839. Includes vouchers.
- Abstract of disbursements on accounts of transportation, and repairs by Major Charles Thomas, Quarter Master, U.S. Army at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in the quarter ending on 30 September, 1839. Includes vouchers.

Folder 8:

- Estimate of cost of the cantonment built near Fort Smith, in the years, 1838, 1839, and 1840.
- Nature and extent of work done at Fort Smith, 1839 to 1840.
- Cost of military road from Missouri to the Red River.
- Major Thomas' comparisons and comments regarding the bonding agreement signed by John Rogers on April 12, 1838 and his deed of trust as recorded in the Crawford County deed book.
- Court finding on Captain Alexander, 1842.
- Statement of the new work, at Fort Smith, with and estimate for its completion. (1848ca)
- Estimate of funds required for improvement, alterations, and repairs, 30 June, 1852.

Folder 9:

- 1849 report of fire and destruction of soldiers quarters.
- Estimate of cost of material and of erection of hospital building and kitchen, 1851.
- Estimated cost of material and work required for building officers quarters which were destroyed by fire. (1850ca)
- Estimate of funds required for repairs and erection of public buildings at Fort Smith. (1850ca)
- Contract with A.A. Blumenthal for converting the foundations of blockhouse No. 2 into a storehouse and the building of a two story warehouse. (1850ca)

Folder 10:

- Special requisition for Quarter Master's stores, for issue to the garrison. (1838ca)
- Estimate of expenditures in the Quarter Master's Department for fiscal year commencing July 1, 1857.
- Estimate of Quarter Master's stores for Fort Smith depot and its dependencies, November 4, 1859.
- Ordnance stores of expenditures. (1859ca)
- List of Quarter Master's stores required at the depot at Fort Smith, for the supply of the troops at Fort Smith, Fort Arbuckle, and Fort Washita. (1859ca)

- List of outstanding debts in the Quarter Master's Department at Fort Smith, 31 October, 1856.

Folder 11:

- Appropriations for Fort Smith, 1836, 1838, 1839, and 1840.
- 1840 account of Major Charles Thomas, Quarter Master.
- Abstract of purchases and expenditures made by Captain A. Montgomery, Assistant Quarter Master U.S. Army, Fort Smith, March 1859.
- Abstract of purchases and expenditures made by Captain A. Montgomery, Assistant Quarter Master U.S. Army, Fort Smith, June 1859.

Folder 12:

- Additions, alterations, and repairs required for the officer and enlisted housing, July 14, 1853.
- Report of the capacity and condition of the barracks, quarters, hospital and other public buildings at Fort Smith, and the alterations, and repairs needed during the year ending June 30, 1853.
- Report of the capacity and condition of the barracks, quarters, hospital, and other public buildings at Fort Smith, and the additions, alterations, and repairs needed during the year ending 30 June 1854.
- Report of the capacity and condition of the barracks, quarters, hospital, and other public buildings at Fort Smith. List of alterations and repairs made during the year ending June 30, 1857.
- List of buildings, dimensions and construction material, use of building, condition, and value. (1866ca)
- List of buildings, dimensions and construction material, changes and remarks, use and occupants, 1868.
- List of buildings, dimensions, material and condition, at Fort Smith, 1869.
- List of buildings dimensions, use, material, and condition, at Fort Smith. (1874ca)

Folder 13:

- essay entitled "Southwestern Camp Society"
- paper re: Capt. Albert Fountain
- 3 drawings of Ft. Smith
- "Memories of George R. Beeler"
- essay entitled "An Indian Territory United Nations, The Creek Council of 1845"
- several papers re: Twenty Four Years A Cowboy by Will Hale
- essay re: Horne family
- 1 page listing archival holdings

Folder 14:

- several letters and maps re: Kickapoo manuscript of AMG
- paper by Col. CC. Craig on "The Indians of Knox County"
- paper by Jennie H. McKenney on "The Indians of Knox County"

## Box 2

### Folder

1. **Captain Stuart struggles with Forth Smith Bootleggers:** Cephas Washburn's fight against liquor going into the Cherokee Nation. Captain John Clark, Third U.S. Infantry, 1830ca ordered to Ft. Smith to repair the buildings. Arrival of the Choctaws from the East. Development of the town of Forth Smith. Captain John Stuar's efforts to keep liquor from the Indians of the Nations. Captain Stuart and John Rogers conflict.

**The Army of the West Abandons Forth Smith:** Van Dorn takes command of Confederate forces in Northwest Arkansas. General Curtis moves his Federal forces into Northwest Arkansas. Confederate Indian's supply problems. Conflict between Confederate Indians and CSA quartermasters.

2. **Forth Smith serves General McCulloch as a supply depot:** Supply problems for CSA General McCulloch. Arrival of the Third Louisiana at Forth Smith. CSA negotiations with the Cherokees. Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. CSA supply problems.

**The Federals raid Van Buren and threaten Forth Smith:** 1862, CSA Boston Mountains defense line threatened by Federal forces. Gen. Blunt's Federal force defeat Gen. Copper's CSA brigade near Old Fort Wayne, Indian Territory. Gen. Hindman's CSA forces defeated at Prairie Grove, Indian Territory. Federal troops raid Van Buren, Arkansas.

3. **Blunt invades the Choctaw Nation and captures Forth Smith:** Scattered skirmishing between Federal and CSA forces in 1863 in the Indian Territory and Western Arkansas. CSA Gen. Steele's heavy desertion problems. CSA preparations to defend Forth Smith. Blunt's Federal army of the Frontier moves towards the Canadian. North Fork Town captured by Federal forces. Blunt pressures CSA forces in the Indian Territory. Capture of Perryville by Federals. Gen. Blunt's Federal forces capture Forth Smith.

**General Steele fights to hold onto Northwest Arkansas:** Union irregulars activity in Western Arkansas. Federal raid to Van Buren and Ozark, Ark. Operations of Col. Phillips Union Indian Brigade. CSA raid to Fayetteville, Arkansas. Col. Phillips' Federals breakup CSA Cherokee Legislature at Webber's Falls. Gen. Copper's CSA troops demonstrate against Fort Gibson. First Battle of Cabin Creek.

4. **The Indian Territory Confederates Recover the Initiative:** 1863 Dardanelle, Ark. skirmish. Actions between irregulars of CSA and Union in Northwest Arkansas. Gen. Blunt escapes capture by Quantrill. CSA forces of Gen. Steele and Copper demonstrate against Forth Smith.

**General Cooper and the Indian Territory Confederates Threaten Fort Smith:** Condition of Ft. Smith's defenses. Skirmish near Negro Hills, Ft. Smith. June 1864, Massard Prairie Fight. CSA demonstration against Ft. Smith. Harassment of Ft. Smith Federal defenders by CSA Indians from across the Poteau River.

5. **The Confederates put the squeeze on Fort Smith:** Spring 1864, condition of Fort Smith's defenses. Activities of CSA and Union home guards, rangers and irregulars. Activity of the Ninth Kansas. CSA forces of Gen. Maxey demonstration against Ft. Smith. Gen. Shelby's CSA forces capture Dardanelle, Ark. Gen. Cooper's CSA forces demonstrate against Ft. Smith. Stand Watie captures the Federal steamer J.R. Williams on the Arkansas River.

**The Great Cabin Creek Raid:** 1864 supply problems of CSA Indians. Gunter Prairie fight. Activity of CSA small units. Watie and Gano's operations. Skirmish at Flat Rock and Hay Camp, Indian Territory. Second Battle of Cabin Creek and the capture of the Federal supply train.

6. **General Bussey takes over at Fort Smith:** Spring 1865, problems of Federal forces in dealing with CSA guerrillas, Union refugees, and loyal Union families in the area. Condition of Fort Smith's defenses. Supply problems for Federal forces at Ft. Gibson and Ft. Smith. Arkansas River navigation.

**Forth Smith is a bone of contention between the Federal Generals:** Conflict over area of command by General's Curtis, Thayer and Blunt. Federal supply problems. Actions of Federal patrols against CSA guerrillas. Second Kansas Colored Infantry.

### Sound Recordings Collection

92. Gibson, Arrell M. Collection:

Speech at the Oklahoma Heritage Institute on "The Canadians:  
Highway of History." 1340

Session at history conference re. hiking trails along the  
Cimarron River. 1341