

ROOTDIGGER

4th Quarter: October – December 2015

The Rootdigger is a publication of the Marion County Genealogical Society, a division of the non-profit Historic Ocala Preservation Society. Annual membership fee is \$20.00.

The Murder of Edgar Uhl Sr.

By Harriett Uhl McManus

This article was originally published in the UHL CONNECTION in 1999

For eight months the murder of Edgar Uhl Sr. was front page news. Every detail was printed and the details of the actual murder was gone over and over. The jury picking was printed, who was picked and why the ones were not picked. The paper, *Marietta Times*, Marietta, Ohio did a good job in reporting the whole gruesome murder. They didn't leave anything out.

"Time had come for some of us to die. It was either him or other members of the family had to die." Mrs. Uhl told the authorities.

On June 29, 1905, Edgar Uhl Sr. (Babe) was murdered at 8 AM in his bed at his residence and saloon on the corner of Second and Ohio street, Marietta, Ohio. On the morning of the murder, Edgar Uhl Jr. went to the sheriff's office and sat down in a chair and told the sheriff that something out of the ordinary had happened at the saloon. The sheriff called Chief Dye and he went to investigate. He found nothing out of the ordinary so he left.

When the patrolman arrived at the saloon, he asked for Mr. Uhl and was told that Mr. Uhl was in his room, that it was locked, and that Eddy had the keys. He went back to the office and got the keys from Eddy. The patrolman arrived back at the saloon and found the murdered body of Edgar Sr. He had apparently been shot by a shot gun in the face and must have died instantly. The shot gun was found in one of the other bedrooms where Eddy had put it.

Coroner Athey found Uhl had been dead for several hours. Mrs. Edgar (Ida) Uhl said she was not at home at the time of the murder. Mrs. Uhl said that things had come to such a pass that either her husband or the other members of the family had to die.

Her story was that Mr. Uhl during his entire life was extremely cruel to the family. One of the sons, Brady, left home when he was 13 years old because of cruelty. The

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Mrs. Uhl Insane.

Marietta, O., Nov. 13.—Counsel for the defense in the famous Uhl murder case scored a winning point when they convinced a jury of 12 men that Mrs. Ida Uhl is insane, and secured from them a recommendation that the prisoner be committed to the Athens state asylum for treatment. Mrs. Uhl was indicted by the recent grand jury jointly with her son Eddy for the murder of their husband and father, Edgar Uhl, in this city, on June 29.

The Coshocton Tribune, Mon. Nov.13, 1905

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WHO KILLED UHL'S FATHER?

SINCE YOUTH OF MARIETTA
HAS BEEN CLEARED OF GUILT
MYSTERY GROWS DEEPER.

Marietta, Feb. 3.—The jury last night acquitted Edgar Uhl, Jr., of the charge of murdering his father, but the mystery of the latter's death is as deep as on the day he was found with his head blown off. The jury finding Uhl not guilty has, in effect, laid the blame on his dead mother.

The defense in its plea for acquittal for Eddie introduced some evidence to show that his mother had committed the crime. But on her death bed when she knew that a lie would be in vain, she declared: "Neither I nor Eddie is guilty."

It has been argued that at the moment she was passing to higher judgment, if she was guilty, she would confess her guilt in order to clear her son. The necessity of such a statement was impressed upon her by those who stood at the bedside at the last moment.

Who did kill Edgar Uhl, sr? In Marietta there is a story that Uhl met death at the hand of another, but by accident. It is said he attempted to shoot his wife. One of the members of the family not Eddie rushed to her aid. There was a struggle for the gun. It was discharged and Uhl fell dead.

It is said that his story will be told by the living principal in it at a time when death which is said not to be far off, will make further concealment useless. Standing on the sidewalk at the Uhl house its branches almost touching the windows of the room in which Uhl was murdered is a large tree.

It would be possible for any one intent on murder to climb that tree and from it fire into the room. That is another theory that has been advanced in solution of the mystery.

Edgar Uhl, the acquitted, was asleep in his cell when told the jury was ready to return a verdict. He dressed leisurely.

When the crowd cheered and women cried he did not show a trace of emotion. He walked out into the street bareheaded and in the light coat he wore when arrested last June and went to the home of a friend.

(Continued from page 1)

rest of the family was used little better. Mrs. Uhl, it was said, was not really herself since she had found out about Brady's death. Only the night before, Mr. Uhl had knocked his wife out of bed three times. Mrs. Uhl also said Babe Uhl was a brute and had threatened her with a club, and she had come to the conclusion that he would either kill them or be killed.

Mrs. Uhl was arrested and confined to the county jail as was her son, Eddy. Later Mrs. Uhl was taken to the State Hospital for the Insane in Athens, Ohio, where she died. It was discovered that she was in the last stages of consumption. She died January 16, 1906. Mrs. Uhl's body was returned to Marietta and was buried beside her husband in Oak Grove Cemetery. Eddy Jr. did not attend either of his parents' funerals.

The coroner concluded the murderer evidently came into the room, closed the door, which fastens with a spring lock, and walked over to the side of the bed and blew the head off of Mr. Uhl.

Eddy said nothing during the trial and refused to talk about the murder. He always appeared well dressed and calm.

The jury found Eddy not guilty on February 1, 1906

Author's note: My conclusion on this murder, was that Ida Uhl murdered her husband. She knew she had very little time left, as she was dying of consumption. Her son Eddy Jr. took the blame even though he never said he did it. He didn't want his mother's name to be blemished.

Edgar Uhl Sr. (Babe) was born on February 6, 1827 in Wood County Virginia. His parents John Rudolph and Mary (Pagett) Uhl were married October 29, 1848 in Wood County, Virginia. Babe lived there until he married Ida Kennaird on June 21, 1882, in Washington County, Ohio. Edgar and Ida had five children. At the time of the trial, Edgar Jr., the oldest, was 21; Brady was dead; Cora, a deaf mute, was 18; Oscar was 15; and Eva was 13.

*The facts of this case were taken from *The Marietta Times*, Marietta, Ohio June 19, 1905 to February 1, 1906.

Marriages were taken from Wes Cochran's *Washington County Ohio Marriages, Wood County, Virginia Early Marriages*. Other information was taken from Wes Cochran's *1860 Census of Wood County, West Virginia*.

Newspaper clipping from *Lima Daily News (Lima, Ohio)*, Feb. 3, 1906.

Broken Hearts: A Case of Domestic Violence

By Brenda K. Kinsler

Recently, I sat down with a close cousin and was able to obtain a rich oral family history about the Mazon branch of the Kinsler family. As a child growing up in Ocala, Florida, my cousin recalled family members whispering about the untimely death of Albert Mazon. Her limited knowledge of Albert included that he worked in a restaurant in Ocala, and was popular among the patrons. Albert was born circa 1880 and was the oldest son of Mary Kinsler and John Mazon. He lived most of his life in Martin, Florida.

Due to the limited oral history about the untimely death of Albert, I searched the digitized newspapers on the Library of Congress website and found 4 articles that provided a detailed account of his demise.

The June 6, 1906 edition of the *Ocala Evening Star* reported that Gertrude Jordan, who was described as Albert's longtime girlfriend, murdered him on June 5, 1906. The following is a summary of the newspaper article:

Albert 's murder occurred in a "free-n-easy joint ran by L.V. Miller." When Albert arrived at this establishment, he was in the company of two other women. Gertrude questioned him about the women. Albert informed Gertrude that she should "go about her business." At that time, Albert took his knife out of his pocket. "While talking, Gertrude slapped the knife out of Albert's hand, picked it up and stabbed him in his heart. He only lived for a few seconds."

After she committed the crime, Gertrude was later found by "Marshal Cleveland hidden in a house that was in front of the laundry that was occupied by Mamie Taylor."

A jury was impaneled at the scene of the murder. The body was viewed and evidence was collected. The jury adjourned at 9 am on the 6th. "The verdict was that the killing was unjustifiable." Gertrude Jordan was described "as a cold blooded mortal and seemed perfectly indifferent to her crime."

On the afternoon of June 6th, Albert's burial took place in Martin, Florida.

According to the December 11, 1906 issue of the *Ocala Evening Star*, Gertrude's trial began where R.B. Bullock served as her attorney. The December 18, 1906 edition of the *Ocala Evening Star* indicated that Gertrude was acquitted of Albert's murder. In order to learn more about the circumstances of the murder, witnesses to the murder and the alleged murderer, Gertrude Jordan, and why she was acquitted of the murder, a request of court transcripts regarding the trial was requested; none were available.

4th Quarter 2015

*MCGS Christmas Party
December 19th*

*MCGS January Meeting
January 14th*

[Rootstech](#)
*February 3-6
Salt Lake City, Utah*

[2016 NGS Conference](#)
*May 4-7
Fort Lauderdale, Fl.*



Marriages 1844-1900

The following is a portion of an indexed list of marriage licenses from the Marion County Marriage Books A, B, and C (1844-1900) and Alachua County Marriage Book 1 (1837-1845). The list is organized alphabetically by the groom's name. A copy of the original records can be obtained by contacting the Clerk of Court of either Alachua or Marion County.

This is part of an on-going series that began with the 1st Quarter 2013 issue.

Notes:

(259): Groom surname is unclear. On license is Backin and on certification is Bakin.

(300): Alachua County marriage record

Groom Name	Bride Name	Date Married	Note	Book & Page
Baily, Edward	Nelson, Ella	20 Jun 1898		2-367
Baily, Martin C.	Fox, Eva M.	16 Mar 1899		2-428
Baily, Noah	Randall, Matilda	8 Oct 1894		2-026
Baily, Janes	Harris, Diley	10 Sep 1866		C-060
Baity, Henderson	Williams, Hamer	24 May 1883		D-675
Baker Jr., Gibson	James, Martha	2 Jan 1892		1-354
Baker, Anderson	Williams, Georgia	25 Nov 1894		2-035
Baker, Eli	Taylor, Abbey	15 Jul 1866		C-072
Baker, Frank	Cowell, Sarah	31 Mar 1887	(153)	E-253
Baker, Frank	Crowell, Sarah	31 Mar 1887	(153)	E-253
Baker, Frederick	Jackson, Rina	8 May 1870		D-003
Baker, George	Plain, Hester	11 Dec 1889	(1)	1-178
Baker, Gibbs	Richardson, Arney	23 May 1880		D-452
Baker, Harry E.	Van Palen, Lilly	3 Feb 1894		1-550
Baker, Henry	Taylor, Elizabeth	11 Jul 1866	(12)	C-285
Baker, James	Roundtree, Viney	23 Oct 1895		2-120
Baker, James	Williams, Margaret	27 Mar 1890		1-211
Baker, Landon	Clinch, Elizabeth I.	24 Feb 1889		1-123
Baker, Leonard	Davis, Maggie	6 Feb 1892	(1)	1-366
Baker, Lum	Bradley, Eva	28 Jan 1894		1-548
Baker, Lum	Sampson, Emma	25 Sep 1899		2-460
Baker, Manuel	Turgison, Carrie	13 May 1897		2-251
Baker, Paul	Knox, Anna	10 Mar 1888		1-053
Baker, Paul	Veal, Nancy	18 Mar 1883		D-656
Baker, Samuel	Dinkins, Pansy	12 Sep 1895		2-113
Baker, Saul T.	Price, Mattie E.	23 Dec 1885		E-084
Bakin, J. G.	Spicer, L. T.	31 Jan 1893	(259)	1-456
Balam, Floyd	Adams, Emma	20 Dec 1900	(162)	2-581
Balar, Nathan	Galloway, Maria	1 Feb 1890	(1)	1-195
Baldwin, Archy	Sellars, Satyes	29 Jul 1866		C-089

Gatesy Gates—Arrested for Murder

By Margaret Sasser

Edmon Jackson “Gatesy” Gates was one of the Gates boys from Gates Valley, Texas. The Gates families were Atascosa County pioneers. Gatesy’s family migrated to Atascosa in 1854 from Natchitoches, Louisiana. They settled in a pretty valley near the present day town of Poteet. Gatesy’s father William Norwood “Billy” Gates claimed 160 acres along Palo Alto creek. According to an unsubstantiated story, Billy had first seen the land while serving as a scout for Gen. Zachary Taylor’s army during the Mexican American War (1846-1848).

Within a short time, Gatesy’s Uncle Abner Valentine Gates and his family joined them in Atascosa County. Abner had stayed behind in Natchitoches to settle the estate of Gatesy’s grandfather John Valentine Gates. Abner and his family settled nearby and soon the area was called Gates Valley. The brothers were known for their long horn cattle and fine quarter horses.

Gatesy was the eleventh of twelve children and the youngest son born to Elizabeth Jane Stacy and William Norwood Gates. He was born in Atascosa County, Texas on February 23, 1864. In the family Bible his name is listed as Edmund J., but the name on his tombstone is Edmon J. His family called him Gatesy.

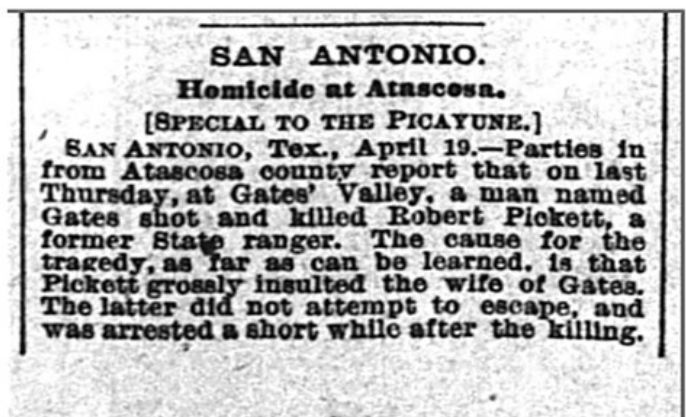
Like his brothers and cousins, Gatesy was “raised in the saddle” and learned to ride horses and rope cattle just as soon as his short legs would reach the stirrups. He learned cattle ranching from his father and brothers while working on his father’s ranch in Atascosa County. It was a rough and tumble life. When Gatesy was 16, he was laid up for a time after being kicked by a horse. Early Texas was plagued with Indian attacks. In 1861 a Comanche raid in nearby Pleasanton killed two people, wounded 2 and captured one. Gatesy was taught to shoot while he was quite young.

His father Billy ensured his family would be educated. He donated land for the first school in Gates Valley and for a Baptist church. According to the 1870 Federal Census for Mottomosa Post Office, Atascosa County, Gatesy started school sometime before his 7th birthday.

Newspapers

The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, Louisiana) · Mon, Apr 20, 1885 · Page 1

Downloaded on Sep 9, 2015



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The Mottomosa post office, opened in July 1866, was on the Atascosa River five miles upriver from Poteet. This post office was discontinued in September 1875. In January 1876 the Gates Valley post office was established with Gatesy's father Billy as the postmaster. The Gates Valley post office was discontinued in February 1880. In 1881 a new application was submitted to the postal authorities. Ditto was written into the space for the name – assuming that the authorities would understand that the town was requesting the same name as before. The approval came for the name Ditto, Texas. Businesses in the early community included a grist mill, cane mill, general mercantile store, and a gin.

On September 2, 1884 at the age of 20 Gatesy married Rubelle R. Thomas, age 16, in Atascosa County. Rubelle, daughter of Sarah Flora Smith and Sam Houston Thomas, was born in Atascosa County on November 13, 1868. The couple settled in Atascosa County and began a family.

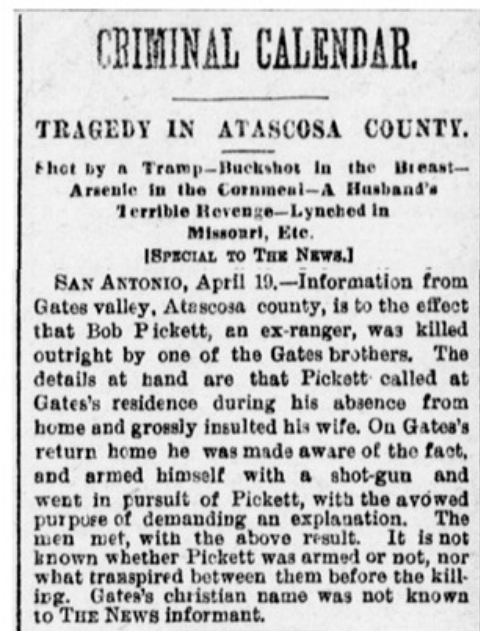
Gatesy's sister, Mason and her husband Robert "Bob" Pickett lived nearby. According to newspaper reports, Bob Pickett was a Texas Ranger.

On February 7, 1885, Mason gave birth to a son, William Walter Pickett. Just days after the baby was born, Pickett came home drunk while Mason was washing clothes in a tub under a shade tree. Bob came by behind her and whipped her with a doubled up rope because she wasn't cooking dinner.

A neighbor got on her horse and rode to Gatesy's place and told him what happened. Gatesy went and got Mason and the baby and took them to his home. He then fetched the local doctor as Mason was in very bad shape and nearly died.

When Pickett came to get Mason, Gatesy refused to let his still-recuperating sister leave. He told Pickett that Mason would stay until she was well and then she could decide what to do. Pickett went into the bedroom where Mason was; he kissed his wife and the baby, and then left. Pickett let it be known that he was carrying a gun and he was going to blow Gatesy's brains out for taking Mason away from him.

Gatesy heard Pickett was threatening to kill him so he carried a rifle in his wagon when in the fields. One day Gatesy was out in the field plowing corn with a hired man when he spotted Pickett approaching. He moved to the tail gate of his wagon. As Pickett drew his pistol, Gatesy grabbed his rifle and shot Pickett, killing him.



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On October 8, 1885, Atascosa County issued an arrest warrant for Gatesy Gates for the murder of Bob Pickett. The warrant was marked "NO BAIL." The trial was set for April 5, 1886. The shooting was ruled self defense, and Gatesy was set free.

On October 15, 1886, Gatesy's wife Rubelle gave birth to a daughter, Frances E "Frankie" Gates [Black]. Within months of giving birth, Rubelle died on December 9, 1886, at the age of 18 leaving behind a grieving husband and a 3-month-old baby. She was buried in Rutledge Cemetery in Poteet.,

On December 5, 1892 at the age of 22, Gatesy married Cora "Belle" Bass, age 17, in Atascosa County. Belle was born on September 2, 1875; she was a teacher. Belle gave birth to two daughters, Jean "Eddie" Gates [Cooper] in 1893 and Cora Regenia Gates in 1895. Belle died on October 24, 1898, at the age of 23. She was buried in Rutledge Cemetery in Poteet, Texas.

On June 30, 1902 Gatesy married 20-year-old Ida Frances Seiler. Ida, daughter of Caroline and Paul Seiler, was born on September 8, 1881, in Atascosa County. Ida gave birth to 6 children: Thelma Seiler in 1903, Luther Benet in 1906, William Paul in 1907, Lillian Emeline in 1909, May "Tommie" in 1911, and Gatesy in 1913.

On December 16, 1913, at the age of 49, Gatesy died in Atascosa County. He left behind his wife Ida, and 6 living children, Jean "Eddie" age 20, Cora 18, William Paul 6, Lillian Emaline 4, Tommie May age 2, and Gatesie, a mere 13 days old.

Following the death of Gatesy, Ida married William Jasper Gibson, a rancher, in 1919.

Children of Edmon and Rubelle R. Thomas (1868 – 1886)
 Frances E "Frankie" Gates [Black] 1886 - 1905

Children of Edmon and Cora Bell Bass (1875 - 1898)
 Jean "Eddie" Gates [Cooper] 1893 - 1990
 Cora Rugenia Gates 1895 - 1916

Children of Edmon and Ida Frances Seiler (1881 - 1964)
 Thelma Seiler Gates 1903 - 1904
 Luther Benet Gates 1905 - 1912
 William Paul Gates 1907 - 1997
 Lillian Emaline Gates [Kincaid] 1909 - 1959
 Tommie May Gates [Smoot] 1911 - 1998
 Jack Gatesie Gates [Storms Shankle] 1913 - 1996





**Marion County
Genealogical Society**

4th Quarter: October –
December 2015

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Mission Statement

The Marion County Genealogical Society is dedicated to creating and promoting an interest in genealogy, focusing on research in Marion County, Florida, and in supporting members in their research.

The *Rootdigger* is indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI).

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Finding Your Roots Returns Jan 5/16!



**finding
your
roots**
with
HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

Season 3 of *Finding Your Roots*, hosted and produced by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. returns to PBS on January 5th, 2016. The popular show which airs on Tuesdays at 8 pm, will trace the ancestral stories of 28 new guests including Maya Rudolph, Richard Branson, Soledad O'Brien, Bill Hader, Julianne Moore, Keenen Ivory Wayans, Senator John McCain, Norman Lear, Shonda Rhimes, and more. Gates utilizes traditional genealogical research and genetics to find the family history of his guests.