Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Died in the Line of Duty

compiled by Daniel D. Holt

1860s

Felix A. Boller
City: Ogden  County: Riley
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: December 12, 1866
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Boller, marshal of Ogden, observed some soldiers entering the house of a female citizen. The story, as related by the newspapers, indicated that the soldiers intended to "assault" the woman. One soldier was stationed on the porch to guard the entrance. Marshal Boller ordered him out whereupon the soldier shot and killed the marshal. Citizens of Ogden shot and wounded at least one of the suspects.21

William "Apache Bill" Semans
City: Ellsworth  County: Ellsworth
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: August 2, 1869
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Ellsworth city policeman William "Apache Bill" Semans was attempting to stop a row at the dance hall and was killed during the attempt. No other information has been located.22

Ira M. Buchanan
City: Junction City  County: Geary
Type of Officer: Police Deputy
Date of Death: November 13, 1869
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

City Marshal Daniel Mc Cleery, because of continued disturbances by a group of Texans, ordered the "rum" and billiard room of a shop closed. When the Texans refused to follow the order, the marshal called on Buchanan for assistance. Buchanan was shot and killed by James Coates and H. M. Childers. In 1872, Childers was found not guilty of actually shooting Buchanan and was freed. The local press said the acquittal was a "put up job," but the technicality of Childers' not being proven to have actually shot was the key point. Coates had not been located.23

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1870s

Henry Bodine
City: Oswego  County: Labette
Type of Officer: Undersheriff
Date of Death: April 20, 1870
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Accidental Gunshot

Several versions exist of the shooting of Undersheriff Bodine by a man named Patterson. One indicates that Bodine and Patterson, who met in the street, were having a disagreement and Patterson pulled a pistol, waved it, and shot the undersheriff. Another story indicates that Patterson playfully flung the weapon at Bodine and it accidently discharged, instantly killing him. A coroner's inquest ruled it accidental. Undersheriff Bodine was on duty at the time.24

Thomas J. "Bear River" Smith
City: Abilene  County: Dickinson
Type of Officer: Chief of Police
Date of Death: November 2, 1870
Type of Crime: Murder
Type of Death: Shot and then Decapitated
Age: 40

Thomas Smith, chief of police of Abilene, was well known for his effectiveness in that position. During the last week of October 1870, Smith, who was also an appointed deputy sheriff, was asked to serve a warrant for the re-arrest of a murder suspect, Andrew McConnell. Smith may have been acting in any one of his official capacities. McConnell lived in a dug-out outside of town. Chief Smith and officer James McDonald went to the location to serve the warrant.

At the site, McConnell's friend, a man named Miles who had given false testimony to originally save McConnell from prosecution, was with him. When Smith informed McConnell he had a warrant for his arrest, McConnell shot Smith through the right lung. Smith in turn wounded McConnell and they began to grapple. Miles struck Smith in the head, grabbed an axe and cut his "head nearly from his body." Officer McDonald immediately returned to Abilene and a posse was raised.

Several days later, police magistrate C. C. Kuney and James Gainsford, two of the original posse, captured the fugitive.

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21. Riley County Police Department files; compilations of stories from Junction City Weekly Union, December 1866 and January 1867, Riley County Historical Society.
22. Junction City Weekly Union, August 7, 1869; Times and Conservative, Leavenworth, August 4, 1869. Why the West Was Wild, original notes, Kansas State Historical Society [hereafter cited as WTWW notes, KSHS].
23. Junction City Weekly Union, November 20, 1869; Junction City Union, March 30, 1872.
McConnell and Miles north of Clay Center with the assistance of Clay County sheriff P. Rothman and two other men.

The Abilene Chronicle wrote of Smith that he was “an officer who never shrank from the performance of his duty. He was a stranger to fear.... He came to this place last spring, when lawlessness was controlling the town... and soon order and quiet took the place of the wild shouts and pistol shots of ruffians who for two years had kept orderly citizens in dread for their lives... It will be a long time before his equal will be found in all the essentials required to make a model police officer.... In years to come there will be those who will look back to the days when it required brave hearts and strong hands to put down barbarism in this new country and among the names of the bravest and truest [will be Tom Smith].”

H. C. Seaman
City: Baxter Springs  County: Cherokee
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: November 7, 1870
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

A “fallen woman” by the name of Nellie Starr, who is listed in the Cherokee County census as operating a brothel, became involved in an argument with two Texas cattle drovers at the Wiggins House hotel. She fired a pistol at one of the men. Marshal Seaman attempted to arrest Starr but several more shots were fired and one of the Texans shot the marshal. Before Seaman died he seriously wounded one of the suspects. During the shooting the owner of the Wiggins House was wounded, and the hotel caught on fire.

Marshal C. M. Taylor was appointed by Mayor J. R. Boyd to succeed Seaman. On June 29, 1872, Mayor Boyd shot and killed Marshal Taylor in a dispute.26

Peter R. “Rattlesnake Pete” Lanahan (sometimes spelled Lanaham)
City: Hays  County: Ellis
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Injury: July 16, 1871
Date of Death: July 18, 1871
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

A former deputy of Wild Bill Hickok, “Rattlesnake Pete” Lanahan (or Lanahan) defeated Hickok in the sheriff’s election of 1869. Evidently Lanahan’s election upset some criminal elements and it is conjectured that they plotted to “set up” the new sheriff. On the night of July 16, 1871, a fight started in Henry “Dog” Kelly’s saloon, and when Lanahan attempted to stop the disturbance, he was shot twice. He died of the wounds within two days.27

Carlos B. King
City: Newton  County: Harvey
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: September 23, 1871
Type of Crime: Attempting to Disarm and Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Deputy Sheriff Carlos King had disarmed one Thames Edwards for disturbing the peace, and had run him out of town. Edwards rearmed himself and returned to town, shooting and killing Deputy King.

Although Harvey County was not organized until February 29, 1872, it is likely that a deputy sheriff was in the county. Although specific sources have not been located, it is possible, based upon similar situations, that King was sent from Sedgwick County. Sedgwick County had the judicial and administrative responsibility for Harvey County prior to and at the time of its organization. It is more likely that King was a deputy sheriff rather than a city police officer.28

26. Baxter Springs City Council, minutes, November 10, 17, 24, 1870, city records, Baxter Springs; Baxter Springs Historical Society files; U.S. Census, 1870, Cherokee County, Kansas, p. 9, LI 15, 16, Archives Department, Kansas State Historical Society; Osego Register, November 11, 1870; Fort Scott Weekly Monitor, November 10, 1870; Junction City Weekly Union, November 12, 1870. Additional newspapers from the towns of Iola, Lawrence, Topeka, Leavenworth, Atchison, Chetopa, and Kansas City, Missouri, were consulted to determine the officer’s first name and the spelling of the surname.
27. Saline County Journal, Salina, July 20, 1871; Republican Daily Journal, Lawrence, July 20, 1871; Ellis County Star, Hays, March 7, 1885; Rosa, They Called Him Wild Bill, 154, note.
28. Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, September 28, 1871; WTW notes, KSHS.
Mike Williams  
City: Abilene  County: Dickinson  
Type of Officer: Policeman/Special Deputy  
Date of Death: October 5, 1871  
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance  
Type of Death: Gunshot  

City Marshal James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok became involved with a group of men when he attempted to quell their disturbance on the Abilene streets. Hickok warned the group and left. Later, when Phil Coe fired his revolver, Hickok thought that the men, numbering about fifty, would likely cause a fight or a major disturbance. Hickok confronted Coe, both men drew their revolvers and began firing. In the midst of the gunfire, Mike Williams, evidently responding to assist Hickok, came around the corner of a building. In the dark, Hickok did not recognize the officer and Wild Bill mistakenly shot and killed Williams. The newspaper identified Williams as a policeman and as Hickok's deputy. Williams had been a city policeman but absolute proof that he was on the force at the time of his death cannot be located. It is probable that he was working as a special police officer for one of the hotels, and still may have been on the city force. Hickok also may have asked him for assistance. Given the usual attitude toward law enforcement in that time period, it may be assumed that Williams was on the force, deputized by Hickok, or responding to assist an officer based upon his role as a special officer.29

C. M. Taylor  
City: Baxter Springs  County: Cherokee  
Type of Officer: City Marshal  
Date of Death: June 29, 1872  
Type of Crime: Assault, Serving Warrant  
Type of Death: Gunshot  

Mayor J. R. Boyd of Baxter Springs was involved in a dispute with the lumberyard owner over the mayor's debt. A fight ensued and the owner swore a warrant for Boyd's arrest. City Marshal Taylor was serving the warrant when an argument began and Mayor Boyd shot and killed Taylor.

Marshal Taylor had been appointed by Boyd in November 1870 to replace Marshal H. C. Seaman who had been killed in the line of duty.30

Chauncey B. Whitney  
City: Ellsworth  County: Ellsworth  
Type of Officer: Sheriff  
Date of Death: August 15, 1873  
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 31

Whitney, well-known lawman and scout who had participated in the Battle of Beecher Island in 1868, became sheriff of Ellsworth County in 1871. Billy Thompson, buffalo hunter and general frontiersman, tried to start a fight over a card game. Whitney stepped in to stop the disturbance and Thompson shot him with a double-barreled shotgun. Thompson was quoted as saying, when asked why he would shoot someone like Whitney, "I would have shot if it had been Jesus Christ."31

William Hogsett  
City: Oswego  County: Labette  
Type of Officer: Special Police  
Date of Death: October 3, 1874  
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance  
Type of Death: Stabbing  

William Hogsett attempted to quiet a disturbance at the county fairgrounds between John Bagby and another man who were in an altercation about a seat in the fair's "rotary swing" ride. When Hogsett attempted to arrest Bagby, Bagby stabbed the policeman with a large pocketknife. Another policeman, Charles Westfall, rushed to assist and also was stabbed but later recovered. Hogsett died on the scene. The constable and others arrested Bagby but fearing that the crowd was "ready to lynch Bagby on the spot... spirited [him] away to Fort Scott."32

Charles G. Bratton  
City: Burlingame  County: Osage  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Death: December 27, 1874  
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance  
Type of Death: Stabbing  
Age: 25

Burlingame city police officer Bratton was attempting to assist the city marshal in restraining Dan Wortz from abusing his wife. In doing so, he was stabbed several times with a butcher knife.33

Alexander Ramsey  
City: Stockton (killed), lived at Hays  
County: Ellis (killed in Rooks County)  
Type of Officer: Sheriff  
Date of Death: June 7, 1875  
Type of Crime: Horse Stealing  
Type of Death: Gunshot  

Ellis County sheriff Ramsey, noted for his effectiveness as an officer, was traveling to Stockton, Rooks County, with Deputy Sheriff Frank Shepherd, to recover

29. Abilene Chronicle, October 12, 1871; Rosa, They Called Him Wild Bill, 135; Rosa, The Gunfighter, 89; Joseph G. Rosa, interview with author, October 21, 1988; WTTW notes, KSHS.  
30. Oswego Independent, July 6, 1872; Baxter Springs Historical Society files.  
31. Ellsworth Register, August 21, 1873, WTTW notes, KSHS.  
32. Oswego Independent, October 10, 1874; Case, History of Labette County, Kansas, 98.  
33. Commonwealth [daily], Topeka, December 27, 1874; Wichita City Eagle, January 7, 1875; Burlingame hotel register, December 27, 1874, Manuscripts Department, Kansas State Historical Society.
stolen property. As they traveled they noticed a fresh horse trail. Aware that one of the West's most wanted men and horse thieves, Henry "Dutch Henry" Borne, was operating in the area, they decided to follow the trail. Entering Stockton, they observed two men selling horses. As the sheriff and deputy approached, one of the men, named Deems, fired. Ramsey was mortally wounded but was able to shoot and kill Deems. The other man, William Stanley, escaped but had been wounded by the deputy sheriff. Stanley was later captured near Kirwin.

It was discovered that the horses had been stolen from Indians, and therefore "technically" the two were not guilty of any crime. Stanley was later tried for assaulting a police officer and found not guilty.54

Edward J. Masterson
City: Dodge City County: Ford
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: April 9, 1878
Type of Crime: Attempting to Disarm
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 26

City Marshal Masterson (older brother of Bat Masterson) disarmed Jack Wagner who was drunk and in violation of the Dodge City ordinance against carrying guns in town. Wagner gave Masterson his pistol, but as the marshal stepped into the street to leave, Wagner drew another pistol and shot Masterson. Masterson managed to shoot Wagner who later died from his wounds.55

Harry T. McCarty
City: Dodge City County: Ford
Type of Officer: Deputy U.S. Marshal
Date of Death: July 13, 1878
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Deputy U.S. Marshal McCarty was drinking in the Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City when one Thomas Roach, angered that he was the butt of cowboys' jokes, created a disturbance and began fighting with the cowboys. Roach became involved with McCarty, seized the marshal's gun, and shot him.56

R. H. Clift
City: Chetopa County: Labette
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: August 25, 1878
Type of Crime: Horse Stealing
Type of Death: Gunshot

Informed that a John Richmond was in possession of a stolen mule and was heading for Missouri, Marshal Clift, who was also a deputy U.S. marshal, pursued Richmond and stopped him near Chetopa. Richmond agreed to return to town with the marshal but instead drew a revolver and shot him. A man who had followed Clift in pursuit of the thief, took the marshal for medical care, but he died the same day. Richmond was captured, but when he was being brought back for trial, he was taken off the train by a mob and lynched from a bridge.57

Lewis M. Chew
City: Atchison County: Atchison
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: October 25, 1879
Date of Death: October 27, 1879
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

A drunken man, attempting to buy more liquor at a local saloon, was refused service. The man threatened the bartender with a gun. When Police Officer Chew attempted to arrest the drunk, he was shot without warning. The officer, however, was able to return the assailant's fire; fatally wounding him. Chew died from his wounds the next day.58

1880s

James A. Spilman
City: Emporia County: Lyon
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: August 4, 1881
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt
Type of Death: Stabbing
Age: 45

54. Lenawee-Ether Daily Times, June 9, 1875; Commonwealth [daily], Topeka, June 9, 1875; Fort Scott Daily Monitor, June 10, 1875; Hays Daily News, March 12, 1961; Ellis County Star, Hays April 4, 1965; Rooks County District Court, Case No. 21, State of Kansas v. Wm. Stanley.
55. Dodge City Times, April 13, 1878; Ford County Globe, Dodge City, April 16, 1878; Commonwealth [daily], Topeka, April 12, 1878; WTWW notes, KSHS.
56. Ford County Globe, Dodge City, July 16, 1878; WTWW notes, KSHS.
57. Chetopa Advance, August 29, 1879; Case, History of Labette County, Kansas, 69.
Deputy Spillman had escorted an inmate named Edward Johnson to Johnson's former apartment at the latter's request to look for clothing. Johnson had been arrested the previous May on a variety of charges. At the time of his arrest he was described as a "walking arsenal," and the court had declared him insane.

At the apartment Spillman inventoried the contents of Johnson's trunk finding four pistols and two butcher knives. He returned everything to the trunk, and proceeded with Johnson into the yard. Johnson said he had to return to the apartment for something and before Spillman could react, Johnson went to the house and retrieved a pistol and knife. He fired at Spillman but missed, then he stabbed the deputy to death. Spillman died at the scene.39

Michael Meagher
City: Caldwell  County: Sumner
Type of Officer: Special Policeman
Date of Death: December 17, 1881
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 37

Being threatened by a group of about five cowboys, former city marshal Meagher went to Caldwell city marshal John Wilson for assistance or protection. Wilson asked Meagher to serve as a special policeman to assist in the arrest of one of the cowboys. As the two men approached the group, the cowboys dispersed. Later, with Meagher still acting as a special policeman, a Jim Talbot fired at Marshal Wilson. Wilson and Meagher circled the block, and on reappearing, Talbot shot and killed Meagher.40

George S. Brown
City: Caldwell  County: Sumner
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: June 22, 1882
Type of Crime: Attempting to Disarm
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 28

Brown was at the Red Light saloon attempting to disarm two brothers, Steve and Jess Green, for violation of the Caldwell city gun ordinance. As the city marshal was dealing with one brother, the other distracted him; Brown turned and was shot and killed. Supposedly, a reward had been offered for the brothers for the shooting of a U.S. marshal in Texas.41

Daniel Weiser
City: Valley Falls  County: Jefferson
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: January 6, 1883
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance, Serving Warrant
Type of Death: Gunshot

The night prior to Weiser's death, Charles Cobb and another man had argued after a lyceum presentation, Cobb finally shooting at the other man. The assaulted man filed a charge and Officer Weiser went to the home of Charles Cobb to serve the warrant. Cobb was waiting, and, as Weiser approached, Cobb shot and killed the officer. Cobb then made his escape and the Jefferson County sheriff issued a telegraphic bulletin. Near Udall a rancher became suspicious of one of his new workers and informed Cowley County sheriff A. T. Shenneman who investigated, recognized Cobb from the bulletin, and attempted to arrest him but was shot and killed in the process.

Cobb was captured and later lynched in Winfield. See the entry under Shenneman.42

Albert T. Shenneman
City: Udall  County: Cowley
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Injury: January 23, 1883
Date of Death: January 25, 1883
Type of Crime: Murder
Type of Death: Gunshot

Sheriff Shenneman had received notice that Charles Cobb, who had killed Valley Falls marshal Daniel Weiser, was traveling in his direction. Cobb, working at a ranch near Udall Station (now Udall), aroused suspicion of the owner when he kept loaded weapons close at hand. The rancher notified Shenneman. Using an assumed name, the sheriff went into the ranch house, observed Cobb, decided he was the wanted person and attempted to arrest him. Cobb, however, shot and killed Shenneman but was captured by the owner and ranch hands and taken to Winfield. When a large crowd gathered, Cobb was moved to Wichita for safekeeping. He was returned, however, to Winfield for a court hearing. A large mob again gathered, took him from the jail, and lynched him from the Kansas City, Lawrence and Southern Kansas railroad trestle. While in jail Cobb explained that books on Jesse James and other "desperados" had influenced his spree of crime.43

Thomas C. Nixon
City: Dodge City  County: Ford
Type of Officer: Assistant City Marshal
Date of Death: July 21, 1884
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Gunshot

Well-known former buffalo hunter Nixon had a long running feud with another well-known character, "Mysterious" Dave Mather who was a former assistant marshal. For unknown reasons Nixon had shot at

40. Caldwell Commercial, December 22, 1881; Caldwell Post, December 22, 29, 1881; WTW notes, KSHS.
41. Caldwell Commercial, June 29, 1882; WTW notes, KSHS.
42. New Era, Valley Falls, January 13, 20, 27, 1883; Winfield Courier, January 25, February 1, 1883.
surrendering. When the deputy threatened to set the house on fire, Cross fired through the door killing Hollister.

Edward Hageman
City: Logan
County: Phillips (killed in Norton County)
Type of Officer: Constable
Date of Death: May 27, 1891
Type of Crime: Foreclosure, Serving Warrant
Type of Death: Gunshot

Hageman, the city constable of Logan in Phillips County, was serving a warrant for foreclosure or payment for property held by Cyrus Aldrich in Norton County. Aldrich shot and killed Hageman when he attempted to retrieve the property.47

Samuel W. Dunn
City: Liberal (killed in rural location)
County: Seward
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: January 5, 1892
Type of Crime: Political Assassination
Type of Death: Gunshot

During a complicated political situation in Seward County involving a political faction, loyal to the late Samuel Wood, and the Stevens County seat war, Sheriff Dunn learned of a plot to assassinate Judge Theodosius Botkin. Botkin, the judge trying the case of Wood's murderer, had raised the ire of the alliance that had followed Wood. They evidently feared Botkin would not follow through on the case or prosecute it to their liking.

The scheme was to kill Judge Botkin as he rode in open country on his way to Springfield for court. The sheriff stayed at Botkins' house the night before, with five deputies, and replaced the judge the next morning on the ride. He and the deputies were ambushed, and in the ensuing gun battle, the sheriff was killed. The political climate in Seward County became so unruly that the state militia was called in to enforce order.48

John F. Fulton
City: Winfield
County: Cowley
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: September 2, 1892
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 59

46. Caldwell Journal, September 4, 1884; WTWW notes, KSHS.
47. Logan Republican, May 28, 1891; Kansas Attorney General's office, correspondence, June 1891, and Criminal Court Case No. 8438, Archives Department, Kansas State Historical Society.
48. Aitken News, January 7, 14, 21, 1892; photograph, “Sam Dunn (plot against a judge),” FK2.54 no. 2, Photograph Division, Manuscripts Department, Kansas State Historical Society.
A citizen reported to Officer Fulton that a George Killion was whipping his wife and disturbing the peace. When Fulton arrived at the location, Killion jumped from a window in an attempt to escape, but he was caught by the officer. A struggle ensued during which Fulton struck Killion with his club. Witnesses reported that Killion's wife seized Fulton's gun and gave it to her husband who then shot and killed Officer Fulton.\(^{49}\)

Charles T. Connelly
City: Coffeyville  County: Montgomery
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: October 5, 1892
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 46

Hearing the firing in the streets of Coffeyville as citizens took arms against the attempted bank robbery by the infamous Dalton gang, City Marshal Connelly ran to the street. He exited from an alley, directly in line with the firing and the Daltons, and he was shot down. The marshal, along with three private citizens, died as a result of the Dalton's attempt to rob the Coffeyville bank.\(^{50}\)

Hugh H. Siverd
City: Winfield  County: Cowley
Type of Officer: Constable
Date of Death: October 25, 1893
Type of Crime: Bootlegging
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 46

Constable Siverd arrested bootlegger Wilbur Norton on a warrant, and was taking him to jail when they were confronted by Morgan Wright, a friend of Norton. Wright ordered Siverd to release Norton. Norton jumped to one side, and Wright shot and killed the constable. A gold star in the sidewalk marks the spot of Siverd's death.\(^{51}\)

Seldon B. Lard
City: Leonardville  County: Riley
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: October 20, 1897
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance, Serving Warrant
Type of Death: Gunshot

Sheriff Lard, accompanied by a deputy and the county attorney, was attempting to serve a warrant for disturbing the peace and violation of the prohibitory law on Ike Warren and his wife. The officers took possession of Warren's cafe. Later, as Sheriff Lard approached Warren on the street, words were exchanged and Warren shot and killed the sheriff. The offender was pursued and captured by citizens of Leonardville.\(^{52}\)

Charles Batterson
City: Marysville  County: Marshall
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: April 6, 1898
Type of Crime: Jail Escape
Type of Death: Beating

On the night of April 6, City Marshal Batterson was assisting the county sheriff as the county jailor, as he often did. While Batterson was sleeping, three men escaped from their cell and attacked the marshal, beating him to death. Two of the men were captured soon after and the third not until 1902.\(^{53}\)

William Kime
City: Coffeyville  County: Montgomery
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: April 20, 1898
Date of Death: April 22, 1898
Type of Crime: Assault
Type of Death: Gunshot

James Wood and Lou Burdick had attacked a citizen with stones and revolvers. When they returned to Coffeyville, the police were notified and Officer Kime set out to arrest them. Kime recognized Wood and Burdick outside the Missouri Pacific depot dining hall and ordered them to surrender. While Kime held his gun on one of the suspects, the other drew a pistol and shot the officer. Kime died two days later. The suspects were convicted of murder.\(^{54}\)

Edward Coleman
City: Hollenberg  County: Washington
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: May 15, 1899
Type of Crime: Robbery, Serving Warrant
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 51

Sheriff Coleman was attempting to serve a warrant on William Hoxie and Robert Algeo, suspects in several burglaries and robberies. Coleman, accompanied by Ira Matthews, went to Algeo's farm and arrested him. Algeo informed them that Hoxie was sleeping in the barn. As he was being apprehended, Hoxie struggled with the sheriff and was shot. As the fighting continued, Hoxie managed to take the sheriff's revolver and shoot him.\(^{55}\)

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\(^{49}\) Winfield Daily Courier, September 3, 1892.
\(^{50}\) Coffeyville Daily Journal, October 2, 1892.
\(^{51}\) Winfield Daily Courier, October 25, 26, 1893.
\(^{52}\) Manhattan Nationalist, October 22, 1897; Riley County Police Department files.
\(^{53}\) Byron E. Guse, chairman, Pony Express Home Station No. 1, Marysville, to Attorney General Robert Stephon, May 28, 1885; State of Kansas v. James Dalton, District Court, transcript, Marshall County Historical Society.
\(^{54}\) Coffeyville Daily Journal, April 20, 22, 1898.
\(^{55}\) Washington Republican, May 19, 1899.
R. A. Dickerson  
City: Atchison (killed near Doniphan)  
County: Atchison (killed in Doniphan County)  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Death: October 23, 1899  
Type of Crime: Robbery  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 46

Officer Dickerson, of the Atchison Police Department, was sent to assist officers in the town of Doniphan after a store robbery. He served as part of the posse that pursued the suspects first to an abandoned house from which they escaped, and then to the river where they barricaded themselves behind logs and brush. The posse remained near the river the entire night. When morning came, Dickerson was one of the officers that stormed the suspects' hiding place, and he was killed in the process. The posse kept the suspects pinned down into another night, but under the cover of darkness they eluded the posse and were never caught.56

1900s

Edward Metz  
City: Hutchinson  
County: Reno  
Type of Officer: Undersheriff  
Date of Death: January 7, 1901  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Possible Accident

Undersheriff Metz was on his way to board the Missouri Pacific for Wellington as he was to appear there at the trial of a horse thief he had apprehended. His body was later discovered lying on the tracks with his legs and one hand severed. Although his death may have been an accident, an investigation indicated signs of a struggle. The case was not investigated further.57

James R. White  
City: Junction City  
County: Geary  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Death: November 18, 1901  
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 46

Officers White and Robert Cooper were attempting to quell a disturbance created by Fourteenth Cavalry soldiers from nearby Fort Riley. The disturbance became violent and both officers were shot and killed by cavalry trooper W. B. Buchanan. The suspect later committed suicide in his cell.58

Robert Cooper  
City: Junction City  
County: Geary  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Injury: November 18, 1901  
Date of Death: November 20, 1901  
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 38

Officers Cooper and James White were attempting to quell a public disturbance created by Fort Riley soldiers of the Fourteenth Cavalry. The disturbance turned violent and both officers were killed by cavalry trooper W. B. Buchanan. The suspect later committed suicide in his cell.59

William Morris  
City: Kansas City  
County: Wyandotte  
Type of Officer: Police Sergeant  
Date of Death: September 2, 1902  
Type of Crime: Robbery  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 54

On his early morning patrol, Police Sergeant Morris routinely checked the Metropolitan Street Car barn. On September 2, he discovered two gunmen forcing the night watchman to open the safe. Morris struck one of the men, but as he attempted to draw his gun, the suspects opened fire, killing Morris and wounding the watchman.60

William H. Owens  
City: Lansing  
County: Leavenworth  
Type of Officer: Corrections Officer  
Date of Injury: October 4, 1905  
Date of Death: October 5, 1905  
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt  
Type of Death: Beating  
Age: 50

56. Atchison Daily Champion, October 23, 1899.  
57. Hutchinson News, January 8, 1901.  
58. Junction City Daily Union, November 19, 21, 1901.  
59. Ibid.  
Officer Owens had taken prisoner W. B. Cunningham to do survey work outside the penitentiary. In an attempt to escape, Cunningham assaulted the officer by delivering a severe blow to Owens' solar plexus. The inmate was quickly captured and was charged with felonious assault and murder. The blow to Owens resulted in internal bleeding and a heart attack.61

John J. Breene  
City: Arkansas City  County: Cowley  
Type of Officer: Constable  
Date of Injury: November 17, 1906  
Date of Death: November 27, 1906  
Type of Crime: Burglary  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 56

City Constable Breene surprised a burglar in his own house. The man, a known burglar that Breene previously had arrested, shot and killed the constable as he attempted to apprehend the burglar.62

A. O. Welfelt  
City: Winfield  County: Cowley  
Type of Officer: Sheriff  
Date of Injury: November 22, 1906  
Date of Death: January 28, 1907  
Type of Crime: Murder  
Type of Death: Accidental Gunshot  
Age: 53

Sheriff Welfelt had tracked murderer Louis Bloomfield to Ponca City, Oklahoma Territory. As Welfelt approached Bloomfield, he drew his revolver and accidentally discharged the weapon into his own leg. After the accident, Welfelt continued to work diligently, even arresting a suspect in the murder of Arkansas City constable John Breene. He continued to overwork and at one point his deputies locked him in a cell to restrain him.

Welfelt finally succumbed to the wound which was complicated by other illnesses, on January 28, 1907, nearly three months after he had been shot. The wound had caused his retirement as sheriff prior to the elections and he was no longer an officer at the time of his death.63

E. L. "Bud" McCracken  
City: Kiowa  County: Barber  
Type of Officer: Sheriff  
Date of Injury: March 19, 1908  
Date of Death: March 21, 1908  
Type of Crime: Bootlegging  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 45

Sheriff McCracken and City Marshal Bunton of Kiowa were attempting to serve a warrant on one James Clark for selling whiskey. As the two approached Clark's house, the suspect ran and hid in the outdoor privy. As the sheriff attempted to talk him into surrendering, Clark shot through the privy door and fatally wounded McCracken. The marshal wounded Clark as he attempted to escape.64

Will Garr  
City: Caney  County: Montgomery  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Death: April 14, 1908  
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance  
Type of Death: Gunshot

Garr, who had arrested a known town drunk and rowdy, Mark Killion, several times, was "called out" by Killion. They talked very briefly before Killion shot Garr three times.65

1910s

Caswell S. Matthews  
City: Topeka  County: Shawnee  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Injury: May 5, 1912  
Date of Death: May 6, 1912  
Type of Crime: Robbery  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 54

Officer Matthews, alerted that two men who had robbed the city marshal of Bonner Springs might be on the 6:00 a.m. train, went to the Union Pacific depot. When two suspicious looking men appeared, Matthews attempted to question them and one opened fire. Matthews, mortally wounded, returned their fire, wounding one of the assailants. Police Chief Morris Jenkins single-handedly captured one of the suspects in a hand-to-hand fight. The other wounded suspect was arrested near the Kansas River at Topeka.66

John McInroy  
City: Caney  County: Montgomery  
Type of Officer: City Marshal  
Date of Death: November 12, 1913  
Type of Crime: Robbery  
Type of Death: Gunshot

On November 12, 1913, City Marshal McInroy was attempting to place into custody a thief, Nip Vann, when he was shot and killed by Vann. It was not until 1937 that Vann was captured.67

61. Leavenworth Times, October 5, 6, 7, 1905; Kansas State Department of Corrections files.  
62. Winfield Daily Courier, November 17, 19, 22, 29, 1906; Arkansas City Council, minutes. December 5, 1906, Arkansas City Police Department.  
63. Winfield Courier, November 22, 29, December 6, 27, 1906, January 30, February 7, 1907.  
64. Jean M. Brown, A History of Kiowa, Old and New, on the Cowboy-Indian Frontier (Lawrence, Kans.: House of Usher, 1979), 190-92; Nellie Snyder Yost, Medicine Lodge: The Story of a Kansas Frontier Town (Chicago: Swallow Press, 1970), 159; Barber County Sheriff's Department files; Kiowa Historical Society files.  
65. Caney Chronicle, April 17, 24, 1908.  
66. Topeka State Journal, May 6, 1922; Topeka Police Department files.  
67. Independence Daily Register, July 9, 1937; Montgomery County Sheriff's Department files.
gasoline for their car. Upon questioning them, his suspicions grew. Healea checked with other towns and learned that the men had not been truthful. He returned to the station and began to search them, but when he turned his back on one of the suspects, the other drew a gun and shot the marshal.\footnote{79}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textbf{Martin Moore} & \\
City: Rolla & County: Morton \\
Type of Officer: Sheriff & \\
Date of Death: July 22, 1916 & \\
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance & \\
Type of Death: Gunshot & \\
Age: 28 & \\
\end{tabular}

Sheriff Moore had been called to investigate a public disturbance call at a Rolla residence. After the sheriff arrived at the house, he was attacked and beaten by several individuals. Then, Don VanWormer held a shotgun on Moore and ordered him off the property.

The sheriff obtained a warrant for VanWormer’s arrest, returned, and attempted to place the suspect in custody. However, four of VanWormer’s friends attacked Sheriff Moore, enabling VanWormer to return to the house, acquire a shotgun, and then shoot Sheriff Moore. The sheriff was killed instantly.\footnote{72}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textbf{Walter Davis} & \\
City: Emporia & County: Lyon \\
Type of Officer: Sheriff & \\
Date of Death: August 16, 1916 & \\
Type of Crime: Robbery & \\
Type of Death: Gunshot & \\
Age: 44 & \\
\end{tabular}

After two men reported to the police that they had been robbed, a policeman observed the two suspects and informed Sheriff Davis. The sheriff, the policeman, and another man detained the suspects and, as Davis finished searching one of them, he was shot and killed. One of the men with the sheriff was also wounded, and three posse members were also wounded during a subsequent gun battle with the suspects.\footnote{72}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textbf{John H. Cox} & \\
City: Topeka & County: Shawnee \\
Type of Officer: Game Warden & \\
Date of Death: December 6, 1916 & \\
Type of Crime: Hunting without a License & \\
Type of Death: Gunshot & \\
\end{tabular}

While attempting to arrest Claude Biggers for hunting without a license, Game Warden Cox was shot and killed six miles southwest of Topeka. Biggers removed the officer’s commission, threw it away, and ran. He was caught and convicted for murder.\footnote{73}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textbf{William L. Humphries} & \\
City: Wichita & County: Sedgwick \\
Type of Officer: Police Detective & \\
Date of Death: February 23, 1915 & \\
Type of Crime: Routine Stop & \\
Type of Death: Gunshot & \\
\end{tabular}

Humphries, the first Wichita officer to lose his life in the line of duty, was attempting to question a suspect that he had cornered in a pool hall. The trapped suspect pulled a handgun and fired from close range at the officer. Humphries attempted to seize his assailant but collapsed and died.\footnote{68}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textbf{Frank W. Griswold} & \\
City: Wichita & County: Sedgwick \\
Type of Officer: Police Captain & \\
Date of Death: May 23, 1915 & \\
Type of Crime: Burglary & \\
Type of Death: Gunshot & \\
\end{tabular}

Captain Griswold and Detective Al Harrell responded to a burglary reported at a shoe store. As Griswold entered the store he was fired on and killed instantly. Harrell was wounded.\footnote{69}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textbf{Virgil E. Healea} & \\
City: Marion & County: Marion \\
Type of Officer: City Marshal & \\
Date of Death: March 10, 1916 & \\
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation & \\
Type of Death: Gunshot & \\
Age: 51 & \\
\end{tabular}

Marshal Healea noticed two suspicious acting men who had awakened a gas station owner to obtain

\footnote{68. Officer Gregory D. Romans, \textit{Wichita Police Department History} (typescript), 1.} \footnote{69. Ibid.}
John Stonebraker
City: Salina  County: Saline
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: February 12, 1917
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 69

Responding to a call involving a public disturbance, Officer Stonebraker and Chief of Police Howard Burke entered a rooming house where the suspect was located. As the officers entered, the suspect opened fire, immediately killing Officer Stonebraker and wounding Burke.74

Marion Ross
City: Manhattan  County: Riley
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: March 10, 1918
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Beating

Ross, on patrol in Aggieville, the campus town near Kansas State University in Manhattan, approached a drunk in the city park. When the officer tried to awaken him, the drunk's wife told Ross to stop. Milton Moorehead, a foreman of the laundry at Camp Funston, was with the drunk and his wife and came to their assistance. Moorehead fought with Ross, beating him severely. Ross was dead on arrival at the hospital.75

John M. Starnes
City: Leavenworth  County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: July 13, 1919
Date of Death: July 19, 1919
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Beating
Age: 66

Five men who were “joyriding” collided their car with another vehicle and then continued riding through the streets of Leavenworth. After many complaints were received, the Leavenworth Police Department began searching for the suspects. Upon locating them, Officer Starnes attempted to arrest the men, but was knocked from the running board of their car by a blow to the head. It was thought that a crankshaft was used to deliver the blow. Two of the men were captured shortly after the incident, and the other three surrendered a week later.

Starnes’ injury was at first thought to be minor, but he deteriorated slowly and died nearly a week later.76

William H. Ballard
City: Wichita  County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Detective
Date of Death: July 20, 1920
Type of Crime: Narcotics Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot

While conducting a narcotics investigation with two officers, Ballard was shot three times and killed as he attempted to search one of the suspects. The other officers were wounded, one seriously. The shooting occurred as the officers concentrated on one suspect while another was partially hidden behind a mattress and had a chance to open fire.

A female suspect, jailed for investigation of the Ballard shooting, killed herself in her cell, and a male suspect attempted suicide.77

Orla F. Hefner
City: Lakin  County: Kearny
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: August 3, 1920
Type of Crime: Suspected Stolen Car Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 38

An itinerant worker at a ranch was attempting to sell a car with Texas license plates. When the attempted sale was reported to the sheriff, he discovered a search was in progress for the vehicle. Hefner went to the ranch to arrest the suspect, Walter Tunis. Tunis accompanied Hefner to the sheriff’s car, but when the sheriff began to crank the car to start it, Tunis shot him in the back. The killer was tracked down and killed by a posse.78

Richard Kreuger
City: Winfield  County: Cowley
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: September 3, 1920
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 47

The Winfield Police Department received a call reporting that John Shoup had been following and annoying a woman. Officers Kreuger and George Nichols responded and confronted Shoup in his car. Shoup, who was drunk, began shooting, killed Kreuger instantly, and wounded Nichols. Shoup escaped but later wrecked his car and was taken into custody.79

74. Salina Evening Journal, February 13, 1917; Salina Police Department files.
75. Manhattan Republic, March 14, 1918; Riley County Police Department files.
76. Leavenworth Times, July 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 1919.
77. Wichita Daily Eagle, July 21, 22, 23, 24, 1920; Martens, Wichita Police Department History, I.
a notorious troublemaker named Greenwood. After the shooting, Greenwood prevented anyone from assisting the marshal who died within a short time.

Miller had previously been the city marshal of Hays, as well as undersheriff and sheriff of Ellis County.82

Robert Fitzpatrick
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: November 20, 1921
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Fitzpatrick and his partner, Rudy LaCroix, were informed that the notorious Eddie Adams gang was in the Wichita area. When the officers stopped a car for a burned-out taillight, they recognized one of the occupants as a member of the Adams gang. Fitzpatrick attempted to apprehend the suspects for questioning, but Adams, who was also in the car, accelerated the vehicle and sped off. One of the gang members, Frank Foster, fired from the car, killing Fitzpatrick.

The Adams gang, which had killed Officer A. L. Young in early November, would also be responsible, three days following the Fitzpatrick slaying, for the death of Police Officer Charles Hoffman.83

Charles Hoffman
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Detective
Date of Death: November 23, 1921
Type of Crime: Murder
Type of Death: Gunshot

Suspected murderer and gangster Eddie Adams, whose gang had killed officers A. L. Young and Robert Fitzpatrick, was attempting to rent a car from a motor livery. Evidently the police were alerted. When Officer Hoffman and two others entered the back door of the livery, Adams recognized them and drew his gun. Detective Hoffman lunged forward, seizing Adams, but Adams worked his gun hand free and fired, killing Hoffman instantly. He then fired on one of the other officers, hitting him. The third officer, hidden behind a pillar, took careful aim and killed Adams.

The body of the notorious gangster was taken to a Wichita undertaker and by one o'clock the following afternoon, over nine thousand people had viewed the body.84

William E. Waers
City: Herington County: Dickinson
Type of Officer: Rock Island Railway Police
Date of Death: January 11, 1922
Type of Crime: Murder
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 48

80. Salina Evening Journal, November 29, 1920; Salina Police Department files.
81. Mattens, Wichita Police Department History, 1.
82. Ellis County News, Hays, November 17, 24, 1921.
83. Wichita Eagle, November 15, 1921; Mattens, Wichita Police Department History, 2.
84. Mattens, Wichita Police Department History, 2.
Rock Island Railway policeman Waers was brought to Herington to assist in an ongoing investigation concerning nine murders in the railroad yards over the past five years. Waers, it was later learned, evidently interrupted two men stealing coal from the yards and was shot when he attempted to arrest them. Waers and other railroad police had been cooperating with local authorities at the time of his death. After his killing, additional railroad police were brought into the case and Waers' two killers were identified.85

C. LeRoy Damron
City: Bonner Springs County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: August 23, 1922
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 38

While on night rounds, Marshal Damron noticed two suspicious looking men on a street corner. It was later learned that the men were serving as lookouts for an attempted bank robbery at the Farmers Bank. As the marshal approached them, they opened fire, killing Damron. Although he was dying, Damron managed to beat one of the men with his nightstick.86

Elmer E. Biggs
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Sergeant
Date of Death: September 1, 1922
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 58

Sergeant Biggs and Officer Fred Wheeler observed several persons unloading tires from a parked truck. When the officers approached to investigate, the suspects opened fire, killing Biggs instantly and seriously wounding Wheeler. Wheeler later died at the hospital.87

Fred C. Wheeler
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: September 1, 1922
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 35

Officer Wheeler and Sergeant Elmer Biggs observed several persons unloading tires from a truck. As they approached to investigate, the suspects opened fire, seriously wounding Wheeler and instantly killing Biggs. Wheeler later died at a hospital.88

William F. Bloomfield
City: Fort Scott County: Bourbon
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: September 16, 1922
Type of Crime: Bootlegging
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 53

Deputy Sheriff Bloomfield was attempting to arrest John Cochran, a well-known bootlegger, for selling illegal liquor. A gun battle ensued at the rural location. Both men were wounded. Bloomfield died shortly after, and Cochran died a day or two later.89

Jacob N. Elliott
City: Eureka County: Greenwood
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: November 16, 1922
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 60

Officer Elliott was on night patrol and interrupted two burglars attempting to break into the city store. Evidently the suspects fired at the officer as he came into their view. Officer Elliott died immediately after the shooting.90

Robert C. Scudder
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: November 24, 1923
Date of Death: November 27, 1923
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Scudder was responding to a disturbance call at a dance hall. Proceeding up the stairs he met Ray Foote whom he halted and attempted to body search. The suspect fired, wounding Scudder, and then fled. Another officer followed in pursuit. Officer Scudder died three days later of his wound.91

Steve A. Jenkins
City: Augusta County: Butler
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: April 18, 1924
Date of Death: April 25, 1924
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 43

While on patrol, Officer Jenkins noticed a man hiding inside the Augusta Standard Oil service station. Jenkins ordered him to come out. The suspected burglar came out shooting, hitting Officer Jenkins four times. Jenkins was able to return the fire, instantly killing

85. Herington Sun, January 12, 19, 26, March 2, 1922; Cotton Belt Railway (successor to Rock Island Railway) Police Department files.
86. Bonner Springs City Council, minutes, September 5, 1922; Bonner Springs Chief (clipping), chief of police, Bonner Springs.
87. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memo.
88. Ibid.
89. Fort Scott Tribune and Daily Monitor, September 18, 1922
90. Democratic Messenger, Eureka, November 16, 25, 1922; Board of City Commissioners, minutes, Eureka, Kansas, November 21, 1922.
91. Marions, Wichita Police Department History, 2.
burglar Harry Parsons. Officer Jenkins died of his wounds seven days later.92

Reason S. Monroe
City: Hutchinson County: Reno
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: July 1, 1924
Date of Death: July 2, 1924
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 57

Following reports of a family disturbance, Officer Monroe arrived at the Maynor Cheek home to find that Cheek had pistol whipped his wife, taken their child and gone to a store. When Monroe approached Cheek, who still had his son with him, Cheek fired. Because of the child, Monroe did not return the fire. Police officers, the National Guard, guards from the reformatory, and citizens engaged in the manhunt for Cheek. He was captured two hours later. He received a life sentence for murdering Monroe.93

Rudy Markl
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Detective
Date of Injury: December 20, 1924
Date of Death: December 29, 1924
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot

Investigating a robbery, Detective Markl and his partner observed the suspects’ vehicle parked in front of a pharmacy. As they approached the vehicle, a man jumped from the car and ran. He was pursued by

Markl’s partner. Markl remained, and upon entering the pharmacy, he was confronted by three more suspects who opened fire, hitting him four times. The detective managed to return their fire before collapsing.94

Harrison R. Brown
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: January 4, 1925
Type of Crime: Routine Stop
Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Brown was the first black officer to be killed in the line of duty in Wichita. While walking a beat, he stopped to question a man named Duke Kelley. Kelley fatally shot Brown, then confessed to his murder.95

Edward F. Hall
City: Colby County: Thomas
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: April 10, 1925
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Hall and a detective were attempting to stop a car. As they pulled alongside, gunfire came from within the vehicle without warning. Officer Hall was killed.96

Samuel C. Pratt
City: Colby County: Thomas
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: August 24, 1925
Type of Crime: Robbery and Murder
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 63

Two robbers on a two-state crime spree had killed a police officer in North Platte, Nebraska, and were headed for the Kansas line. A posse led by Sheriff Pratt blockaded the road north of Colby. When the bandits stopped their car, the sheriff approached the side of the car and was shot and killed. The two men made their escape with a posse of cars, airplanes, and ground searchers in pursuit. One of the assailants was captured in New Mexico and the other was killed in Oklahoma.97

William Conley
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: September 12, 1926
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot

Conley and his partner, E. J. Wilson, observed a car parked under a viaduct. As they approached to investigate, they were met with gunfire. Conley was

92. Augusta Daily Gazette, April 26, 1924; Augusta Police Department files; death certificate, Butler County Department of Health.
93. Hutchinson Police Department files.
94. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.
95. Mattens, Wichita Police Department History, 3.
96. Ibid.
97. Colby Free Press and the Colby Tribune, August 27, September 3, 10, 17, 1925.
killed instantly. Wilson returned fire, killing one assailant and wounding another. The suspects had been preparing to rob the safe at the Missouri Pacific depot when they were interrupted by the officers.99

Joseph E. Marshall
City: Wichita  County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: August 9, 1927
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Marshall was in the sidecar of a motorcycle being driven by Officer Frank Bush when they recognized an automobile that had been involved in a robbery. They stopped the vehicle, and as Marshall approached, the men in the car opened fire. The killers, members of the well-known Porter Meeks gang, were shot and mortally wounded by Officer Bush.99

Govan C. Mills
City: Syracuse  County: Hamilton
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Injury: September 10, 1927
Date of Death: September 13, 1927
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot

Sheriff Mills, with his wife along, observed a car parked in a suspicious manner along the roadside. He retrieved Deputy Ray Kampf and they proceeded to investigate the vehicle. When Kampf entered the suspect car to take it to the police station, two men exited from the car and held Sheriff Mills at gunpoint. The deputy was confronted by a third man. When one of the men covering the sheriff withdrew to disable the sheriff's car, Mills attacked the remaining suspect. The man holding a gun on the deputy turned and shot Sheriff Mills and the deputy. The suspects were captured after a long chase and gun battles near Pueblo, Colorado. Sheriff Mills died three days after he was wounded.100

Albert J. DuFriend
City: Newton  County: Harvey
Type of Officer: Night Chief of Police
Date of Death: November 22, 1928
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Internal Hemorrhage
Age: 44

Chief DuFriend and Officer Paul Dutton were responding to a store robbery. While on route, DuFriend suffered a hemorrhage of the lungs, which was evidently caused by excitement and by his asthma. He died within a few minutes of being stricken.101

William H. Rich
City: Pratt  County: Pratt
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: June 21, 1929
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Accident
Age: 28

Around 1:00 a.m., as Officer Rich was painting a "No U Turn" sign on a street, he was struck by a car and killed. In the darkness, the driver of the car had been unable to see Rich.102

Adolph J. Eichenberger
City: Florence  County: Marion
Type of Officer: Chief of Police
Date of Death: September 17, 1929
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 65

While on patrol about 4:30 a.m., Chief Eichenberger came upon two men attempting to pry open a store door. Several shots were fired including five by the chief. Eichenberger died instantly from two wounds. The burglars were never caught.103

William Hicks
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: December 8, 1929
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Hicks and his partner were on motorcycle patrol when a citizen informed them of a burglary in progress. Arriving at the crime scene, Hicks covered the back entrance and his partner watched the front. They ordered the burglars to surrender, but gunshots were exchanged and Hicks was hit. He later died at the hospital.104

John Crawford
City: Columbus  County: Cherokee
Type of Officer: Deputy Constable
Date of Injury: December 29, 1929
Date of Death: December 31, 1929
Type of Crime: Bootlegging
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 52

Crawford, deputy constable of Spring Valley Township, was fatally shot at an abandoned coal mine near Columbus. Crawford was with the constable and a justice of the peace taking part in a raid at the mine suspected of housing contraband liquor and a still. Unknown to Crawford, another group consisting of two deputy sheriffs and a federal officer, were also staging a raid

88. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.
89. Topeka Daily Capital, March 22, 1946; Wichita Police Department files; Martens, Wichita Police Department History, 5.
90. Syracuse Times, September 15, 22, 29, October 6, 1927.
91. Evening Kansas Republican, Newton, November 27, 1928.
92. Pratt Union, June 21, 26, 1929; Pratt Daily Tribune, June 21, 1929, record of death, City of Pratt.
94. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.
ordered him off the train and to surrender the gun he was carrying. The suspect, Clarence Hays, fatally shot Rickman and wounded City Marshal George Griffith. Hays, wanted for escape from General Hospital in Kansas City, had robbed two cab drivers and had forced one to transport him to Burlington. Following Rickman’s death, Hays was located and killed by a posse.107

Paul E. Gillmore
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: July 1930
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Traffic Accident

Patrolman Gillmore was killed in a traffic accident while on motorcycle patrol.108

James O. Pugh
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Lieutenant
Date of Death: August 1930
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Traffic Accident

Lieutenant Pugh was on motorcycle patrol and was killed in a traffic accident.109

Melvin C. Hamilton
City: Oswego County: Labette
Type of Officer: Undersheriff
Date of Death: October 15, 1930
Type of Crime: Robbery, Escape Attempt
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 62

While transporting two prisoners, who had been convicted of robbing the Edna bank, from Oswego to the state penitentiary, Undersheriff Hamilton and Sheriff Alfred Coad were shot by one of the prisoners. The assailant had used a concealed revolver and it was suspected that the gun may have been “slipped” to him by accomplices. Undersheriff Hamilton was killed instantly in the shooting and Sheriff Coad was seriously wounded. An accompanying special deputy, also riding in the car, shot and killed the assailant.110

Melvin C. Howe
City: Lawrence County: Douglas
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: April 24, 1931
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 42

106. Democratic Messenger, Eureka, April 10, May 24, 1930; Eureka Herald, April 10, May 22, 1930.
109. Ibid.
110. Oswego Independent, October 17, 1930.
Officer Howe had stopped a driver who was swerving his car on the road. Howe did not know that the driver, Oney Knight, was an escaped murderer from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Howe approached the car on foot. As he reached the car, Knight stepped out and shot the officer twice. Howe’s partner, John Ingals, fired at the escaping fugitive but failed to stop him.111

Frank Rohrbach
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: August 6, 1931
Type of Crime: Response to Investigate
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 36

Rohrbach received a citizen call at home to investigate two men who were observed with guns in their car. The deputy, in uniform, investigated and removed three guns from the car and one from a suspect. As he continued the search, the other suspect drew a weapon and fatally shot Rohrbach. It was nearly five years before the two suspects were apprehended.112

Merle Colver
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Detective
Date of Death: August 14, 1931
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot

Detective Colver was questioning two men, who were suspects in several gas station robberies, in their hotel room. While questioning them he began searching the room and was shot in the back by one of the suspects. The assailant was an escaped murderer from Oklahoma.113

Harry L. Bolin
City: Newton County: Harvey
Type of Officer: Assistant Chief of Police
Date of Injury: June 15, 1932
Date of Death: June 17, 1932
Type of Crime: Bootlegging
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 36

Chief Bolin was following a car suspected of transporting illegal alcohol. To avoid alerting the vehicle’s driver, he was traveling without headlights. He struck a culvert bannister and was fatally injured in the accident.114

Ernest R. E. Gough
City: Leavenworth County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: July 28, 1932
Date of Death: July 29, 1932
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 40

Officer Gough and his partner, Joe Feidler, were on night patrol and stopped to routinely investigate two men who were crouched down and apparently hiding behind a tree. One of the men, later identified as James Robertson, fired, mortally wounding Gough. Robertson had been paroled from state prison four days earlier. A civilian was wounded in the ensuing exchange of gunfire between Officer Feidler and the suspects.115

Bailey Bell
City: Leavenworth County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: February 4, 1933
Type of Crime: Robbery, Car Theft
Type of Death: Gunshot

While on patrol with Officer Kenneth Hunt, Bell observed an occupied car that had been reported stolen. The officers approached with guns drawn and Bell ordered the occupant out. The door opened slightly and the suspect shot Bell with a sawed-off shotgun he had been holding in his lap. The killer ran, as did his partner who had been inside a store during the affair.

Bell had been an officer only since January 18 and was the second man on the Leavenworth force to be killed in six months.116

Charles M. Bruce
City: McPherson County: McPherson
Type of Officer: Night Police Chief
Date of Death: May 14, 1933
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 45

Investigating the possible burglary of a service station, Officer Bruce found a broken lock but no one was present. After informing the station owner, he returned to find men outside the station. As he approached the suspects, he was shot. Unknowingly Bruce had confronted the well-known Gene Johnson gang of bank robbers. Johnson was later cornered by officers from Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma and was killed in a fusillade of bullets.

The story made several of the pulp detective magazines of the day.117

111. Lawrence Daily Journal World, April 24, 25, 27, 1931.
113. Martens, Within Police Department History, 3.
114. Evening Kansas Republican, Newton, June 18, 1932.
115. Leavenworth Times, July 29, August 2, 1932; Leavenworth Police Department files.
Benjamin J. Davidson  
City: Topeka  County: Shawnee  
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff/County Jailor  
Date of Death: November 28, 1933  
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt, Jail  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 56  

Davidson, the county jailor and a deputy sheriff, was on night duty when four men led by Cecil Thornbrugh, escaped from their cell. The men beat the jailor with homemade blackjacks, and in the struggle, Davidson and Thornbrugh fell down the stairs. The escapee managed to acquire Davidson’s revolver, and shot him once. Davidson continued his pursuit, and Thornbrugh fired two more times, hitting Davidson. The deputy continued to struggle with his assailant. Davidson finally ended up on top of Thornbrugh and died in that position, pinning Thornbrugh to the floor and preventing the escape.  

Wimerly W. Baker  
City: Topeka  County: Shawnee  
Type of Officer: Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent  
Date of Death: April 17, 1937  
Type of Crime: Robbery  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 27  

Baker, a Kansas City bureau FBI agent assigned to eastern Kansas, was staking out a post office box belonging to Robert Suhay and Glen Applegate, suspected of robbery. When the two appeared to claim the contents of the box, Baker identified himself and attempted to arrest the two men. They turned and fired, killing Baker in the lobby of the downtown Topeka post office.  

Charles Casey  
City: Elk City  County: Montgomery  
Type of Officer: Undersheriff  
Date of Death: August 28, 1937  
Type of Crime: Murder  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 43  

Undersheriff Casey was killed while attempting to arrest murder suspect Frank Foster near Elk City.  

John T. Moyer  
City: Baxter Springs  County: Cherokee  
Type of Officer: Chief of Police  
Date of Death: April 24, 1939  
Type of Crime: Institutional Escape  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 65  

Chief of Police Moyer was shot and killed while attempting to apprehend one Charles Kinzie, an escapee from an insane asylum. The owner of the hotel where Moyer found Kinzie was also wounded and later died from his injuries.  

1940s  

Clarence A. Sanger  
City: Moran  County: Allen  
Type of Officer: City Marshal  
Date of Death: March 28, 1942  
Type of Crime: Burglary  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 48  

While on his rounds Marshal Sanger discovered two men attempting to break into a garage. Sanger, with pistol drawn, challenged them at the rear door. The suspects immediately fired at the marshal with a shotgun killing him almost instantly.  

Olney E. Eaton  
City: Salina  County: Saline  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Injury: May 24, 1942  
Date of Death: May 31, 1942  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Accidently Struck by Automobile  
Age: 67  

While on night duty, Officer Eaton was crossing a street after conferring with fellow officers. The driver of a car, following two other cars through the intersection,

118. *Topeka Daily Capital*, November 29, December 2, 1933; Shawnee County sheriff’s Department files; death certificate, Shawnee County.
120. *Kansas City Times*, August 28, 1937.
122. *Ida Register*, March 28, 1942; City of Moran, reward resolution. April 6, 1942, city clerk, Moran, Kansas.
failed to see Eaton and the vehicle fatally struck the officer.123

Edward Nugent
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: August 2, 1943
Type of Crime: Suspected Rape
Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Nugent was on his way home when a young woman stopped him to report that a man had tried to force her into an alley. Nugent located the suspect, searched him, and took him into custody. While en route to the jail the suspect produced a revolver and shot Nugent. Nugent later died at the hospital.124

Robert L. Freeman
City: Tonganoxie  County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Injury: November 22, 1944
Date of Death: August 26, 1944
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot Complications
Age: 38

Arthur Lathrop, just paroled from the state penitentiary in Lansing, stole a car in Leavenworth, wrecked it, and was picked up by passing motorist Ernest Elston. Lathrop forced Elston to drive him to Tonganoxie where he boarded a bus. Elston saw Deputy Freeman and informed him of the incident. Freeman ordered Lathrop from the bus, and as Lathrop exited, he shot Freeman. Paralyzed from the waist down, Deputy Freeman took his own life when told he could not survive the wound.125

Maurice R. Plummer
City: Hays  County: Ellis
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol
Date of Death: December 16, 1944
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 42

Trooper Plummer, the first Highway Patrol officer to die in the line of duty, was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Hays.126

Michael F. Churchill
City: Osawatomie  County: Miami
Type of Officer: Chief of Police
Date of Death: February 3, 1947
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance, Serving Warrant
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 48

Chief Churchill, with city engineer Harvey Earp, went to the home of George Miller to serve a warrant charging Miller with assaulting his wife following a night of quarreling and abuse. Mrs. Miller accompanied the two men. Finding the house locked and knowing Miller had a grandchild with him, Churchill chopped down the door, went through the house and to a shed in the alley. As he approached, he was shot with a shotgun. Earp and Mrs. Miller fled to safety. A posse of 25 apprehended the killer. He was convicted and hanged on May 6, 1950.127

Ed Payne
City: Garnett  County: Anderson
Type of Officer: Chief of Police
Date of Death: July 22, 1947
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 70

Chief of Police Payne stopped a speeder in Garnett. The suspect, Edward Smerchek, while seated in his car, shot and killed Payne. He fled but was located by the sheriff, the undersheriff, and the fire chief. As the three drove into Smerchek’s yard, shots were fired and the undersheriff and fire chief were wounded.

Smerchek had just been released from the army on a medical discharge and was drunk at the time of the shootings.128

Fred Shaumeyer
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: February 12, 1948
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Accident

On February 12, 1948, Officer Shaumeyer was investigating a report of a car parked on the Frisco railroad tracks. Perhaps because of the ice and snow, Shaumeyer fell from the bridge and was killed.129

Elmer F. Davis
City: Abilene  County: Dickinson
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: April 24, 1949
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Sheriff Elmer Davis, and his brother, Undersheriff Milton Davis, answered a disturbance call at the farm of Charles Rush. Rush, who was described as “having gone berserk,” had shot and wounded three persons, including two who lived with him and a neighbor. The ensuing sequence of events is unclear, but both officers had

128. Anderson County, Garnett, July 22, 1947; Anderson County Historical Society files.
129. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.
fired their weapons and had been killed inside the Rush house. After shooting the sheriffs, Rush set fire to the house and died in the fire.¹³¹

Milton L. Davis
City: Abilene    County: Dickinson
Date of Death: April 24, 1949
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Undersherriff Milton Davis, and his brother, Sheriff Elmer Davis, answered a disturbance call at the farm of Charles Rush. Rush, who was described as "having gone berserk," had shot and wounded three persons, including two who lived with him and a neighbor. The events that followed are not clear, but both officers had fired their weapons and were found burned inside the remains of the house. After shooting the sheriffs, Rush had set fire to the house and died in the fire.¹³¹

Dave Break
City: Florence    County: Marion
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: October 9, 1949
Type of Crime: Routine Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 70

Marshal Break followed a known drunk, Fred Stanley, home as the suspect appeared to be driving while intoxicated. The marshal pulled into Stanley's driveway, proceeded to his car, and found a pint of whiskey. Stanley then shot Break three times. A neighbor fired at the assailant and the fire was returned. Stanley, when cornered in his house by the sheriff and a posse, killed himself.¹³²

1950s

Alfred F. Jacka
City: Great Bend    County: Barton
Type of Officer: Undersheriff
Date of Death: November 28, 1950
Type of Crime: Vandalism
Type of Death: Accident, Electrocution
Age: 52

Undersherriff Jacka, who had recently been elected sheriff, was searching for two farmers reported overdue at their homes. Driving west of Great Bend he discovered the two men, electrocuted by electrical wires which had been shot down by vandals. As Jacka approached the bodies in the dark he brushed a wire and was also electrocuted.¹³³

Cleo Chrest
City: Manhattan    County: Riley
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: January 27, 1951
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 36

Officer Chrest was riding in a patrol car with another officer driving. While evidently in response to a call elsewhere in Manhattan, with red lights and siren on, the police car crashed into a vehicle that had crossed the center line. Chrest was killed in the accident.¹³⁴

Willard N. Carver
City: Olathe    County: Johnson
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: June 23, 1952
Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 31

Early on the morning of June 23, Sergeant Carver and Patrolman Floyd Gaunt were investigating an attempted auto theft. The officers located a car that resembled the stolen vehicle stalled in a ditch. Carver took cover in a hedgerow and awaited the suspect's return. When two men returned with a stolen pickup to pull the car from the ditch, the officers ordered them to surrender. A gun battle ensued. Carver fired three rounds before he was killed.

The suspects, Charles Isgrigg and William Martin, known as the "pillowcase" burglars because they carried

¹³¹. Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, April 25, 1949; Dickinson County Commissioners' Log. 1949; Dickinson County Sheriff's Department files; Dickinson County Historical Society files and photographs.
¹³². Ibid.
¹³³. Great Bend Daily Tribune, November 29, 1950; Barton County Sheriff's Department files.
¹³⁴. Manhattan Mercury, February 1, 1951; Riley County Police Department files.
their stolen loot in pillowcases, were wanted for various crimes. Isgrigg was captured the day following Carver’s slaying, and Martin, who made the FBI’s ten most wanted list, was not captured for two months.

Carver was awarded the Medal of Valor by the National Police Officers Association.135

Fred Bell
City: Salina  County: Saline
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: September 17, 1982
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Beating, Leading to Heart Attack
Age: 60

During a court hearing for a murder case, the defendant became unruly and combative. As the sheriff attempted to restrain him, they engaged in a scuffle. Bell was struck in the chest, suffered a heart attack, and died in the courtroom.136

Henry N. Kenaga
City: Lansing  County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Corrections Officer
Date of Death: June 20, 1954
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt, Penitentiary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 58

Corrections Officer Kenaga responded to a situation in which inmates at the state penitentiary, armed with guns and knives, had rushed the visitors’ room and seized at least six hostages. The inmates were crossing the prison yard when they encountered Kenaga. When the officer attempted to prevent their escape, he was fatally shot. After a brief exchange of gunfire and a call for additional enforcement officers, the prisoners were surrounded and returned to their cells. They were charged with first degree murder.137

Maurice A. Bedell
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: August 29, 1954
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 51

Bedell and his partner, Louis LeManske, were on patrol when they were flagged down by a robbery victim who pointed out a field where his assailants were hiding. The suspects were apprehended, but en route to the police department, one of the suspects obtained LeManske’s revolver and in a struggle shot Deputy Bedell. The shooting suspect was later shot and killed by sheriff’s officers.138

Clarence L. “Boots” Shields
City: Topeka  County: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: April 11, 1955
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 32

Officer “Boots” Shields, who was either responding to a tip or was continuing an investigation into a burglary ring, made a patrol stop at the Moose Lodge Club in North Topeka. He surprised burglars on the roof of the lodge and was mortally wounded by them. Shields managed to return their fire, wounding one of the suspects.

The investigation into Shields’ killing and arrest of suspects led to the disbanding of a large burglary ring.139

Wesley G. Walden
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: November 19, 1955
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 41

Walden, only nineteen days on the force, was riding with another officer at approximately 4:00 a.m. when they responded to an accident call. While en route their patrol vehicle struck the rear of a truck parked along the roadside near Muncie. The driver of the truck had stopped to aid another motorist and the rear of his truck was left protruding onto the roadway. Walden was killed in the accident and the other officer was severely injured.140

Thomas W. Mendina
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: March 4, 1956
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 28

Mendina, on patrol, was called to assist another officer, William Scherzer, who was investigating two men who had stopped alongside highway K-32 west of Edwardsville. According to the deputy who was with Mendina, just as Mendina opened the car door to exit, he was fatally struck by a car. The driver of the vehicle was later convicted of “driving under the influence.”141

135. Kansas City Star, June 23, August 11, 1952; Olathe Tribune, June 29, 1952; Johnson County Sheriff’s Department files.
136. Salina Journal, September 17, 1952; Saline County Sheriff’s Department files.
137. Leavenworth Times, June 21, 1954, Kansas State Department of Corrections files.
138. Henry, Johnson, Owens, Wyandotte County Sheriff’s Deputies.
139. Topeka Daily Capital, April 11, 1955, Topeka Police Department files.
140. Henry, Johnson, Owens, Wyandotte County Sheriff’s Deputies.
141. Ibid.
A speeding vehicle that Deputy Sheriff Parmer was chasing crashed with a motorcycle and struck a power pole. As Parmer and a passing driver were attempting to clear an electrical wire from the roadway, Parmer was electrocuted.\textsuperscript{144}

Robert C. Cowdin
City: Ottawa (died at Garnett)
County: Franklin (on duty in Anderson)
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: July 4, 1962
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance, Riot
Type of Death: Heart Attack
Age: 41

Officer Cowdin of the Ottawa Police Department was on loan to the Garnett department, as were other officers from different locations, to lend assistance for traffic and crowd control during the annual Fourth of July sports car races at Garnett. While assisting to quell a riot at the race grounds, Cowdin died of a heart attack.\textsuperscript{145}

Alfred Claycamp
City: WaKeene
County: Trego
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: July 14, 1962
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 40

When Sheriff Chet McAtee of Trego County was informed by a farmer of a suspicious pair of hitchhikers, he asked Claycamp, who was a deputy sheriff as well as a WaKeene city police officer, to accompany him to investigate. They located the hitchhiking couple, Harry Jack Bloomer and his companion, juvenile Shirley Kay Nixon, and wanting to question the couple, the officers offered to take them to WaKeene. On the way, Bloomer drew a gun, shot and killed Claycamp, and seriously wounded Sheriff McAtee.

A posse, numbering nearly three hundred on horseback, in vehicles and airplanes, tracked the couple and captured them on July 17.\textsuperscript{146}

Forrest E. Richards
City: El Dorado
County: Butler
Type of Officer: Undersheriff
Date of Death: September 23, 1962
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Heart Attack
Age: 54

Undersheriff Richards had returned to duty directing the Augusta office of the sheriff's department after recuperating from a heart attack suffered on April 18. On September 23, he stopped a driver for drunk driving.

\textsuperscript{144.} "Tonganoxie Mirror," September 1, 1960; Leavenworth County Sheriff's Department files.
\textsuperscript{145.} Ottawa Department of Public Safety files, Ottawa, Kansas.
\textsuperscript{146.} "Tonganoxie Daily Capital," July 16, October 25, 1962; Western Kansas World, WaKeene, July 19, 1962; Trego County Sheriff's Department files; records, 25th District Court.
After placing the suspect under arrest, Richards left the man in order to move the driver's car from the road. As he did, the suspect fled. Richards fired a shot over the fleeing man's head, radioed for assistance, and began a foot chase. He ran about one hundred feet, collapsed, and died from a heart attack.147

David A. Kenyon  
City: Wichita  
County: Sedgwick  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Death: October 26, 1962  
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance  
Type of Death: Gunshot  

Officer Kenyon was attempting to settle a domestic disturbance. He escorted a woman from the scene when her husband obtained a weapon and fired, evidently at his wife, but hit and killed Kenyon.148

Harry Hedrick  
City: Kansas City  
County: Wyandotte  
Type of Officer: Police Sergeant  
Date of Death: August 5, 1963  
Type of Crime: Response to Investigate  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 47  

Sergeant Hedrick and his partner, Officer Bill Luna, were sent to investigate a report of shots being fired. Upon their arrival they observed a man rummaging through a trash can and another with a coat over his arm. When the police car stopped, the man with the coat approached, questioning the officers. The subject had a handgun under the coat and fired at Hedrick at point blank range, and then exchanged gunfire with Luna. The assailant was shot by another officer who had arrived to assist. Sergeant Hedrick was dead on arrival at the hospital.149

Robert H. Vest  
City: Winfield  
County: Cowley  
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff  
Date of Death: January 17, 1964  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Automobile Accident  
Age: 40  

While on patrol near Arkansas City, Deputy Vest was killed in a one car accident.150

John B. McMurray  
City: Manhattan  
County: Riley  
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol  
Date of Death: December 6, 1964  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Automobile Accident  
Age: 27  

Highway Patrol Trooper McMurray had completed a radar setup and was loading the equipment into the trunk of his car. The vehicle of an intoxicated driver left the roadway, struck a patrol car that was parked behind McMurray's car, and pinned the trooper between the vehicles. McMurray died in the hospital.151

Bernard C. Hill  
City: El Dorado  
County: Butler  
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol  
Date of Death: May 28, 1967  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Automobile Accident  
Age: 51  

Trooper Hill was killed west of El Dorado in a head-on collision with a car that was proceeding in the wrong direction.152

Eldon K. Miller  
City: Overland Park  
County: Johnson  
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol  
Date of Death: January 19, 1968  
Type of Crime: Robbery  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Age: 48  

Sergeant Miller, of the Kansas Highway Patrol, responded to a bank robbery call in Overland Park at the Metcalf Bank. Along with officers from several other law enforcement agencies, Miller was assisting in the apprehension of the suspect, Henry Floyd Brown, when he was shot and killed. Sergeant Miller was the first trooper to die by gunshot.153

George R. Nettleton  
City: Hoisington  
County: Barton  
Type of Officer: Chief of Police, Fire Chief  
Date of Death: November 29, 1968  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Heart Attack  
Age: 49  

When a Hoisington cafe caught fire on Thanksgiving night, Chief of Police Nettleton, who was also the fire chief, directed the fire fighting and general control efforts throughout the night. He succumbed to a heart attack immediately after the fire was extinguished.154

Roger Lutter  
City: Kansas City  
County: Wyandotte  
Type of Officer: Police Officer  
Date of Death: December 28, 1969  
Type of Crime: Response to Assist Officer  
Type of Death: Gunshot  

147. El Dorado Times, August 18, September 24, 1962; Butler County Sheriff's Department files.  
149. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.  
150. Cowley County Sheriff's Department files.  
151. Kansas Highway Patrol files; Riley County Police Department files.  
152. Kansas Highway Patrol files.  
Officer Lutcher and his partner, Howard Berry, were on patrol when they observed another officer, Robert Mackey, pursuing a suspect. The officer chased the suspect into an alley and ordered him to surrender. He complied, but as Officers Lutcher and Berry approached him, he pulled a gun and opened fire, hitting and killing Lutcher. The suspect was shot and killed by the other officer. It was learned later that the killer was wanted by police for other crimes.155

1970s

Gerald A. Foote
City: Olathe  County: Johnson
Type of Officer: Sheriff Department Detective
Date of Death: April 3, 1971
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 32

With Olathe police officer Herbert Hogue, Detective Foote was on a routine investigation in his unmarked patrol car. The car collided with another vehicle. Foote died shortly after the accident. Officer Hogue recovered.156

Kenneth M. Kennedy
City: Hutchinson  County: Reno
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: September 15, 1972
Type of Crime: Bootlegging
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 29

Officer Kennedy was making an undercover purchase of alcoholic beverages at a location suspected to be bootlegging and operating illegal gambling devices. After making the purchase, Officer Kennedy and fellow officer John Coldren identified themselves and attempted to make the arrest.

As the officers scuffled with suspect Elmo Anderson, a Mrs. Jobe came from the kitchen with a gun and shot Coldren and Kennedy. Before he was shot, Kennedy shouted a warning at Coldren who turned, thus causing the shot to miss a vital mark. Kennedy shot Mrs. Jobe before he died.

Coldren survived his wound. Mrs. Jobe was convicted of second degree murder.157

Larry G. Beery
City: Kingman  County: Kingman
Type of Officer: Police Captain
Date of Death: April 15, 1973
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 29

While making a routine building check at a drug clinic, Captain Beery, in plain clothes, was evidently ambushed by an unknown assailant or assailants. He was taken a short distance to an alley, forced to kneel, and was shot in the head with his own weapon. The night patrol had been initiated because of a large number of burglaries in the area.158

James D. Thornton
City: Topeka  County: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol
Date of Death: October 2, 1973
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 52

Trooper Thornton stopped to investigate a hitchhiker on I-70 east of Topeka, unaware that the man was wanted in New York for murder. The hitchhiker shot and killed Thornton and was himself shot and killed by other officers after he refused to surrender.159

Elmer L. Nonnast
City: Newton  County: Harvey
Type of Officer: Game Warden
Date of Death: May 8, 1974
Type of Crime: Illegal Fishing
Type of Death: Heart Attack
Age: 37

Warden Nonnast and another game warden were patrolling the Arkansas River investigating reported illegal snagging and hand fishing. They arrested one person, and as they were leaving, they observed another group of fishermen illegally hand fishing. One member

155. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.
156. Olathe Daily News, April 5, 1971; Johnson County Sheriff's Department files.
158. Kingman Journal, April 17, 1973; Kingman Police Department files.
159. Kansas Highway Patrol files.
of the group fled and Nonnast pursued on foot. Upon returning to the remaining violators he became engaged in a violent argument. When the officers left the scene, Nonnast suffered a heart attack and he later died at a hospital.160

Roy V. Johnson
City: Wichita Country: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Sheriff's Detective
Date of Death: October 31, 1974
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 43

In an attempt to escape, a county prisoner seized a police officer's gun. During the ensuing scuffle, the officer was shot and the prisoner continued his escape. Detective Johnson and another officer responded to the shooting and attempted to rescue the wounded officer and capture the prisoner. In the attempt, both Johnson and the other officer were shot. Another officer responding was also shot by the prisoner. Detective Johnson was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Detective Johnson was awarded the department's Medal of Honor.161

Marcus W. Hood
City: Topeka Country: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: November 1, 1974
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Air Accident
Age: 40

Officer Hood was killed while on patrol in his police helicopter. The drive shaft broke, causing the helicopter to crash. Hood purposely chose to maneuver his craft to avoid hitting an automobile loaded with passengers.162

Jerry R. Ivey
City: Salina Country: Saline
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: June 13, 1975
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 27

Officer Ivey stopped a vehicle answering the description of a car used moments earlier in a robbery at a Dillon's grocery store. The suspect jumped from the car, sprayed the officer with mace, and both men drew their weapons. Ivey fired six rounds and the suspect fired twelve. As Ivey attempted to reach his shotgun in the patrol car, the suspect shot him in the back. Following a chase and additional gunfire the suspect was captured by several police officers.163

Carl A. Simons
City: Leoti Country: Wichita
Type of Officer: Chief of Police
Date of Death: May 25, 1976
Type of Crime: Parole Violation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 42

North of Leoti, Chief Carl Simons stopped a car driven by Richard McCowan, who was in violation of parole. A general request for McCowan's arrest had been circulated, and Simons stopped McCowan on that charge. McCowan, who had his children with him in the car, was handcuffed by Officer Simons and was taken to the officer's car, but McCowan returned to his car to check on his children.

At his car, McCowan retrieved his gun (probably given to him by one of his children) and walked back to the police car. While still handcuffed, McCowan engaged in a struggle with Simons, and Simons was shot and killed.

When Simons did not report in from duty, his wife went to look for him and found him.

McCowan was captured in Eads, Colorado, three hours after the incident.164

Paul J. Weber
City: Kansas City Country: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Parole Officer
Date of Death: October 19, 1976
Type of Crime: Parole Violation
Type of Death: Stabbing
Age: 26

Parole Officer Weber went to the home of a parolee at the mother's request to have her son move out. As Weber followed the parolee into the kitchen, the man seized a butcher knife and stabbed Officer Weber to death. The parolee was convicted of assault on a law enforcement officer and first degree murder.165

Archie K. Jacobs
City: Elkhart Country: Morton
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: November 26, 1976
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 22

On patrol in a zero visibility blizzard, Jacobs' car and another vehicle collided at a rural intersection. Jacobs had been on the force for two years and was only twenty-two years old when he died.166

160. Kansas Fish and Game Department files, Law Enforcement Division, Pratt, Kansas.
161. Wichita Eagle, October 31, November 1, 1974; Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department files.
162. Topeka Police Department files.
163. Salina Journal, June 14, 1975; Salina Police Department files.
164. Hutchinson News, May 26, 1976; Garden City Telegram, May 26, 1976; Salina Journal, January 6, 1977; Wichita County Sheriff's Department files. The Kansas Peace Officer (June 1976) and Leoti Standard (clippings) and death certificate, scrapbook, Carlisle Simons Bishop.
165. Topeka State Journal, October 20, 1976; Kansas State Department of Corrections files.
166. Southwest Daily Times, Liberal, November 27, 1976; Morton County Sheriff's Department files.
police officer attempted to make an arrest. A disturbance began, shots were exchanged between the officer and the suspect, and Haen was hit. He died at the hospital a short time later. 169

Donald R. Martin
City: Lansing  County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Corrections Officer
Date of Injury: August 14, 1978
Date of Death: August 19, 1978
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt, Penitentiary
Type of Death: Beating
Age: 42

Corrections Officer Martin had been assigned to the state penitentiary hospital unit. He was attacked and fatally beaten by an inmate who was holding a female hostage during an escape attempt. Martin resided in Leavenworth. 170

Stephen L. Hopper
City: El Dorado  County: Butler
Type of Officer: Sheriff’s Patrol Sergeant
Date of Death: May 19, 1979
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 26

Sergeant Hopper, a former Andover chief of police, was responding to a civil disturbance call. En route, he was killed in an automobile accident. 171

John T. Morgan
City: Goessel  County: Marion
Type of Officer: Reserve Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: May 22, 1979
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 47

Reserve Deputy Sheriff Morgan answered a family disturbance call in the town of Goessel. His son was with him at the time. As Morgan exited his car he was shot with a rifle and killed. As a result of the civil disturbance, the assailant also killed his ex-wife and wounded her boyfriend. 172

1980s

Paul Garofalo
City: Wichita  County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: November 8, 1980
Type of Crime: Routine Stop
Type of Death: Gunshot

167. Newspaper clippings, August 11, 1977, scrapbook, city clerk, Minneapolis, Kansas.
169. Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.
171. Butler County Sheriff’s Department files and compilations from the Augusta Daily Gazette, El Dorado Times, and Wichita Eagle.
172. Marion County Record, Marion, May 50, 1978; Marion County Sheriff’s Department files.
Officer Garofalo was on patrol when he stopped to question two women on the street. As he stopped his car, a man emerged and approached his car on the driver's side. The man fired a shotgun through the car window and killed the officer instantly.\textsuperscript{173}

Ferdinand F. Pribbenow
City: El Dorado  County: Butler
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol
Date of Death: July 7, 1981
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 46

Trooper Pribbenow was shot and fatally wounded after a traffic stop on the Kansas Turnpike north of El Dorado.\textsuperscript{174}

Robert D. Hurd
City: Lansing  County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Corrections Officer
Date of Death: October 11, 1981
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Stabbing
Age: 41

Corrections Officer Hurd was stabbed to death by an inmate at the state penitentiary. The inmate was angered by a disciplinary report that Hurd was about to file. Officer Hurd lived in Olathe.\textsuperscript{175}

Danny Laffey
City: Wichita  County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: January 5, 1982
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Accident

Officer Laffey was investigating a disturbance call at the Zanzibar Club. He had stopped a suspect vehicle in the street and was in the process of removing the occupants when a passing vehicle, traveling at a high rate of speed and having defective brakes, jumped the curb and struck Officer Laffey.\textsuperscript{176}

Alvin T. Wolf, Jr.
City: El Dorado  County: Butler
Type of Officer: Sheriff's Patrol Sergeant
Date of Death: April 19, 1982
Type of Crime: Traffic, Hit-and-Run Pursuit
Type of Death: Rammed by semi-trailer truck
Age: 29

A semi-truck driver, involved in several hit-and-run accidents, was being pursued through Sedgwick County. As he approached the Butler County line he encountered a roadblock that had been set up by the Butler County Sheriff's Department. The driver of the truck ran the roadblock and Deputy Wolf gave chase. Wolf passed the truck hoping to get in front and slow the truck down. The offending vehicle rammed the deputy's car several times, finally locking bumpers. The truck and patrol car left the road and rammed a house, killing Wolf instantly.\textsuperscript{177}

Donald R. Harbour
City: Ogden  County: Riley
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: August 9, 1982
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation and Response
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 49

Officer Harbour, assigned to patrol duty in Ogden, responded to a routine call about suspicious activity at a pawnshop. Reportedly one man was attempting to sell a rifle as two others remained in a car outside. As Harbour ordered the two to step out of the car, they attempted to drive away. Harbour shot the tires out, and one suspect fired back, hitting Harbour.

The man inside the shop was arrested, while another was arrested after he had abducted a woman and wrecked his car. The third was killed in a car crash as he attempted to run a roadblock.\textsuperscript{178}

Douglas E. Bunch
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: March 29, 1983
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Heart Attack
Age: 38

While assisting with a burglary call, Bunch took part in a foot pursuit. Following the incident, Bunch, thirty-eight years old, stopped for a lunch break, was stricken with a heart attack, and died.\textsuperscript{179}

James L. Reynolds
City: Kansas City  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: August 4, 1984
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Accident
Age: 41

Reynolds, a member of the motorcycle division, was assisting in the pursuit of a fleeing traffic offender. He lost control of his cycle and in the accident he received massive internal injuries. Normally a full-time booking officer, Reynolds had voluntarily worked with officers on the motorcycle unit.\textsuperscript{180}

177. Butler County Sheriff's Department files and compilations from Augusta Daily Gazette, El Dorado Times, and Wichita Eagle-Beacon.
178. Riley County Police Department files; Manhattan Mercury, August 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 1982.
179. Kansas City Kansan, March 29, 1983; Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial.
180. Henry, Johnson, Owens, Wyandotte County Sheriff's Deputies.
Deanna Hummel Rose
City: Overland Park  County: Johnson
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: January 24, 1985
Date of Death: January 26, 1985
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Intentionally Struck by Automobile
Age: 26

Officer Rose, the first woman officer to be killed in the line of duty in Kansas and the only city officer to be killed in Overland Park, had stopped a vehicle and was attempting to arrest the driver on suspicion of driving while intoxicated. She was fatally injured when the suspect driver knocked her to the ground and then intentionally struck her with the vehicle. She died two days later from the injuries. Prior to working for the Overland Park Police Department, she had graduated from Wichita State University in Criminal Justice, and had been a member of the San Diego, California, County Sheriff's office.181

Maureen Gentry Murphy
City: Bonner Springs  County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: January 31, 1986
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 28

The second, and only other, woman police officer killed in the line of duty in Kansas is Officer Murphy. At work in her patrol car filing out reports, she was killed by a sniper who shot through the window of the car with a high-powered rifle. The suspect apprehended for the murder hanged himself in his cell.

Officer Murphy’s husband is a Kansas City, Kansas, police detective.182

Donald Pittenger
City: Wamego  County: Pottawatomie
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Injury: April 24, 1986
Date of Death: April 27, 1986
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Stroke
Age: 55

Deputy Pittenger was dispatched to a residence northeast of St. George to investigate a domestic disturbance between two males and a female. Shots had been fired. With assistance of Wamego and St. George police officers, Pittenger separated the individuals and secured two weapons. While taking a statement, Deputy Pittenger complained of feeling ill, went to his car, and collapsed. He died as a result of a stroke three days later.183

181. Overland Park Police Department files; Johnson County Historical Society files.
183. Topeka Capital Journal, April 28, 1986; Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Department files.