



Northeastern Law
**Civil Rights and
Restorative Justice Project**

PHILLIP HATLEY

Silent Archives and Silenced Genealogies

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Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Clinic
Spring 2024

“Speaking about this is tough because most narratives concerning what happened to my grandfather are missing.”¹

“There are many silences in my family.”²

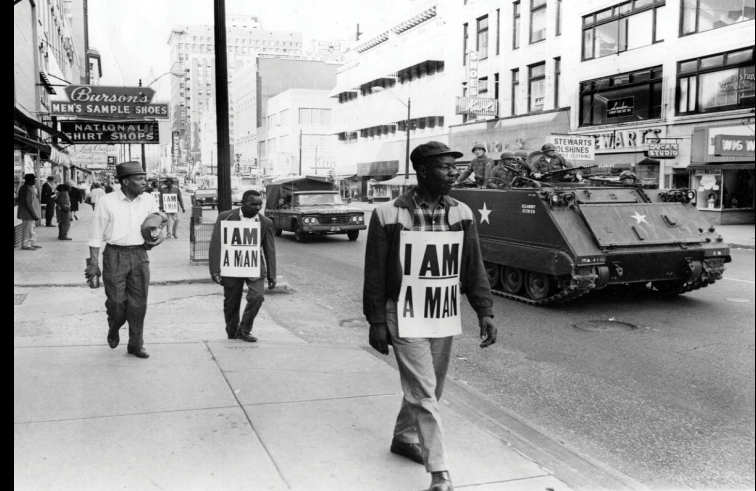
¹ Interview with Solomon Hatley (March 25, 2024)

² Christina Sharpe, *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (2016)

OUTLINE

- I. Jim Crow Memphis: Black Struggle under the Crump Political Machine
- II. Phillip Hatley: A Family's Loss
- III. Legal Responses: Prosecution of Broens and McElroy
- IV. Community Responses: "In the name of God look into this matter"
- V. Justice in the Past-Present

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE



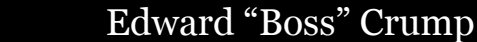
Sanitation workers' strike, March 1968



Robert R. Church, Jr., W.C. Handy,
and Lt. George Lee on Beale Street



Lincoln League meeting, 1916

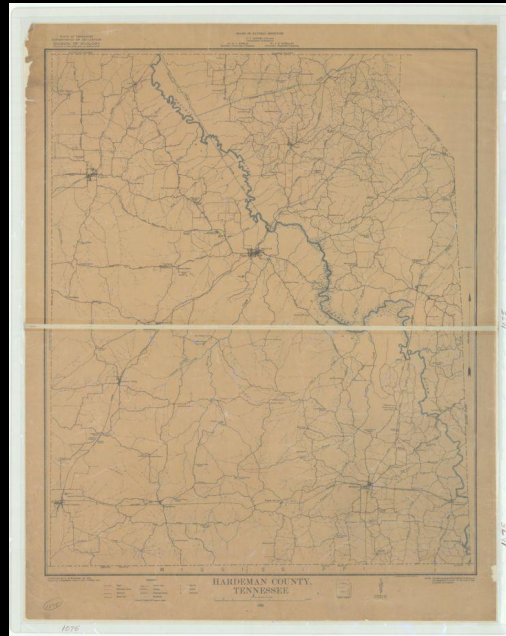


1. *Immediate*

PHILLIP HATLEY

[illegible]

1900 Census



Hardeman County, 1923

Form 1 REGISTRATION CARD No. 13

1 Name in full: Philip Bottley 22

2 Home address: Somersville, Tennessee

3 Date of birth: October 5, 1894

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which): Natural born citizen

5 Where born: Whitfield, Tennessee, America

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present rank, occupation, or office: Farmer 1

8 By whom employed?

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which): mother and child

10 Married or single (specify): Married Race (specify which): Negro

11 What military service have you had? Rank: _____ Branch: _____ Years: _____

12 The one (give name) from which (specify) exempt?

I affirm that I have verified above, and that they are true.

C. A. Philip X Philip Bottley
mark

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 41-27-A

1 Tell, in full, or short (specify which): Short Slender, medium, or stout (specify): stout

2 Color of eyes: Black Color of hair: Black Build: No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or limb, eye, ear or is otherwise disabled (specify): No

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Maudie M. Parke
(Signature of Registrar)

Precinct: 15
City or County: Fayette
State: Tennessee June 5, 1917
(Date of registration)

STATE: Tennessee COUNTY: Fayette TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: David Davidson

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920-POPULATION

INCORPORATED BY ME ON THE: 15th day of January, 1920 NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE: David Davidson

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO.: 13 SHEET NO.: 3
ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO.: 26

NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	RELIGION	PROPERTY	REMARKS
Philip Bottley	26	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	22	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	24	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	20	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	22	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	18	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	20	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	16	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	18	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	14	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	16	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	12	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	14	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	10	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	12	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	8	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	10	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	6	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	8	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	4	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	6	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	2	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Philip Bottley	4	M	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		
Maudie M. Parke	0	F	N	8	Farmer	Methodist		

WWI Registration Card, June 5, 1917

1920 Census

JANUARY 22, 1939

Went to Negro's Home

The patrolmen had completed their early morning watch and technically were off duty. They had gone to Hadley's home, however, on a voluntary continuance of a burglary investigation, they said.

They entered Hadley's home, compelled him to accompany them outside to their squad car where witnesses say they beat Hadley. Then they took him back into the house and beat him some more, police say.

Hadley broke away from them in the kitchen and fled through a rear door. He was first shot while he was still on the porch. Wounded, he started to flee across the yard and he was shot again.

Hadley fell dead over a wire fence on a neighbor's property.

Patrolman Broens is said by his fellow officers to have done the actual shooting.

Was Cooking Breakfast

Hadley, according to his wife, was cooking breakfast when the patrolmen entered the house. They took him out to the squad car, she said. Neighbors said that they saw Hadley being beaten. He was then taken back to the house.

Hadley's wife, who was in a bedroom, said she didn't see the shooting but says she heard her husband being beaten in the kitchen. The next thing she heard were the shots.

The Commercial Appeal, January 23, 1939

FIRED AND CHARGED: BROENS AND MCELROY

State of Tennessee } CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY.
SHELBY COUNTY } JANUARY Term, A. D. 1939

THE GRAND JURORS of the State of Tennessee, duly elected, empaneled, sworn and charged to inquire in and for the body of the County of Shelby, in the State aforesaid, upon their oath, present that

R. G. MCELROY and E. F. BROENS

late of the County aforesaid, heretofore, to-wit on the 22nd day of JANUARY, A.D. 1939 before the finding of this indictment, in the County aforesaid, did unlawfully, wilfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of their malice aforethought KILL and MURDER PHILIP HADLEY

Shelby County Grand Jury's indictment for the first-degree murder of Phillip Hatley



UNBRIED INFLATION DENIED BY NAZI PRESS
Comment Made On Ouster Of Dr. Schacht

BERLIN, Jan. 22. — (AP) — The Nazi press denied today that Chancellor Hitler's dropping of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht and his restrictive "no men" from the Reichsbank meant the regime was moving toward an unbridled inflation.

AUDITORIUM MANAGERS GATHER THIS MORNING
Association Session Opens At 9:30 O'clock

Problems confronting auditorium managers and new methods of stimulating business, including road and travel show business, will be presented today at the Southern Auditorium Managers Association gathering at the Chamber of Commerce at 9:30 o'clock this morning.

Former Officer Tells Story Of Death Fight With Negro In His Murder Trial Defense

By THOMAS FULLER

A story of a terrific struggle between a policeman and his negro prisoner, which ended in death for the latter and subsequent criminal prosecution of the former officer, was unfolded yesterday by Elmer B. Broens, on trial for his life.

Mr. Broens, wiry, red-haired and 26, took the stand in Criminal Court to give his version of the killing of Philip Hadley, negro, of 308 Harrell, for which he is charged with first degree murder.

The state and defense rested yesterday afternoon and the jury is expected to begin consideration about noon today following final arguments by attorneys and the court's charge to the jury.

The trial, which started Monday before Criminal Court Judge Wallace, has been highlighted by the acquittal Thursday of a codefendant, Roy G. McElroy, also 26 and a former officer, who was indicted with Mr. Broens.

Mr. Broens' story covered incidents from the time he and his partner, Mr. McElroy, took over squad car 18 until they were hauled into Police Headquarters, stripped of their badges and guns, questioned and placed in jail.

Naturally a low talker, Mr. Broens' voice rang out as he de-

scribed the life and death struggle. And the jury listened, the judge leaned over even farther and the packed courtroom was quiet, save for the voice of the defendant.

"My partner and I were cruising when we stopped a negro to question him," he testified. "McElroy did the talking. Then he told me 'we're going to get the negro who has been pulling these holdups around here.' That's why we went to Hadley's house."

"McElroy went into the negro's house and brought Hadley out. He did not beat him in bringing him to the car."

Mr. Broens then said Mr. McElroy went across the street to the

(Continued on Page Three)

BROENS ALSO FREED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

Jury Deliberates Hour And 15 Minutes In Exonerating Former Patrolman

Elmer B. Broens, 26-year-old former Memphis policeman, charged with murdering a negro prisoner, was exonerated yesterday by a Criminal Court jury which took only an hour and 15 minutes to acquit him.

Mr. Broens was indicted with Roy G. McElroy after fellow police investigators said the pair went to the home of Philip Hadley of 308 Harrell on Jan. 22, beat the negro and then shot him. Mr. McElroy was acquitted Thursday on a directed verdict by Judge Phil Wallace.

FUND WILL AID NEGROES

A movement to raise \$1000 for the family of Philip Hadley, negro, who was killed by police last Sunday, was started yesterday by Matthew Thornton, "Mayor of Beale Street," and Lewis O. Swingler, editor of the Memphis World, negro newspaper.

A total of \$13 was contributed by members of the Centenary Methodist Church at a meeting Friday night. Contributions of food, coal and clothes also have been made to the family, Swingler said.

" Memphis Tenn
my Dear Mr President
Roosevelt I am Warm over
how the City of Memphis
commen get the young police
get Payed and go to Mrs.
Brother Philip Hatten
house and Kill him
and just 3 little Children
and his Wife suffing
and no one to Care
for them Mrs Woe Bone
the 1st January 1938 he
was a Soldierite the
world war he howe a
good man in Ever
place is time and
is living the City of
Memphis howe a right
to Car for his Children
and wife like it as it
look as if negroes is
mother but Dogs and
Mr Roosevelt a more gro
money to fight the
Carry and not asking you
in the name of The Lord

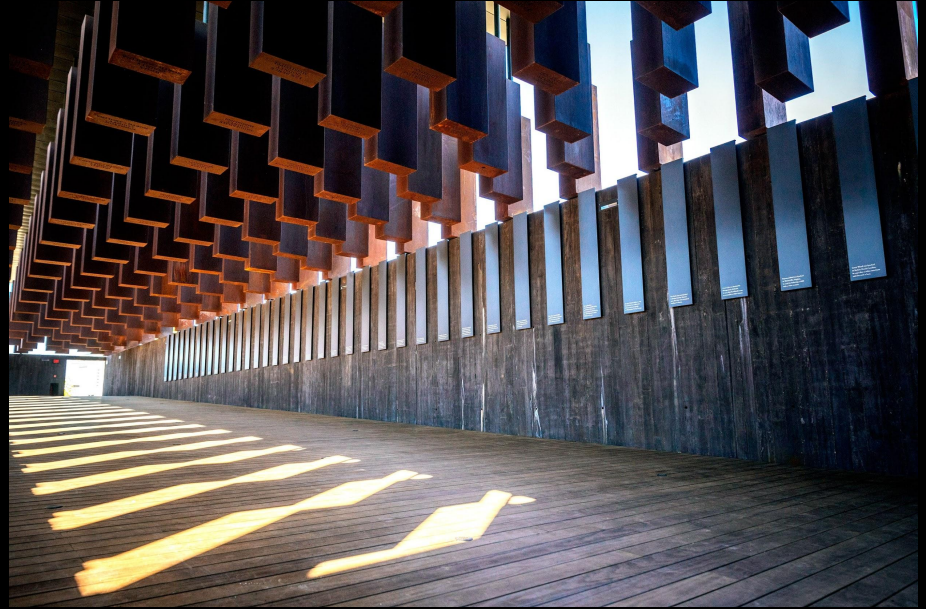
SEP 15 1938

okk
7/6/38
mem

CLARENCE CHANCE - 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
CLARENCE CHANCE - 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
CLARENCE CHANCE - 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

James Hatley's letter to President Roosevelt,
September 1939

*“In the wake, the past that is not past
reappears, always, to rupture the present.”¹*



National Memorial for Peace and Justice
Montgomery, Alabama

¹ Christina Sharpe, *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (2016)

Thank you to the Hatley family

Thank you to Professor Margaret Burnham and Professor Olivia Strange

Thank you to Anne Probert, Charlotte Weiss, and my clinic classmates

Thank you to researchers and organizations including Noah Lapidus, Lydia Beal, Jay Driskell,
Lynching Sites Project Memphis, Shelby County Clerk's Office, & Historic Archives of
Rosemark & Environs