**Stark Anderson Biography**

The youngest of Jim and Fannie Anderson’s children, Stark Anderson, was born in February 1880 in Tennessee. The family lived in Civil District 3 where Jim worked as a laborer. Stark moved out of the family home by the time he was twenty because the 1900 Montgomery County Census shows him living with his aunt Emily McComb at 117 ½ South First Street.

The first mention of Stark in the local newspaper was on June 20, 1899 when he was convicted for vagrancy and fined six dollars. He couldn’t pay the six dollars so he was sentenced to the rock pile. On October 30, 1900, Stark was fined six dollars for disturbing the peace. The next year on January 15, 1901, Stark was arrested for receiving stolen knives from a break in at the Kincannon Brothers Store. He was tried and acquitted on January 18, 1901. He was arrested again on October 15, 1901 after he was accused by Tiddy Mimms of hitting her with his fist. The paper did not cover the result of this charge. He ended the year as a victim. Will Overton was found guilty on December 3, 1901 of stealing 79 cents from Stark and was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. At this time, Stark was working at Winter’s Bakery.

Stark was arrested on May 26, 1902 at an illegal crap game that occurred in the rear of Ben Hudson’s Restaurant on Strawberry Alley. Four months later on September 10, 1902 Stark was sentenced to the rock pile for twelve days for drunkenness. Either Stark took a break from crime or he got better at evading detection because his next arrest was on April 18, 1904. He graduated to a higher level of charge as well. Stark was arrested for assault and battery with intent to kill. Again, the newspaper did not record the outcome of this charge.

The next year was a quiet one for Stark. January 30, 1905, he was arrested for selling liquor on Sunday. The paper is silent on the outcome, but Stark was not mentioned again until September 24, 1906 when he was fined ten dollars for being drunk and disorderly. The only mention of him in 1909 was again as a victim. On January 5, 1909, Walter McReynolds was fined ten dollars for fighting. McReynolds struck Stark in the mouth with a piece of iron.

On March 18, 1910, Stark was working at Smith’s Restaurant and was arrested for stealing food for resale. He appears in the 1910 Montgomery County census as an inmate of the Montgomery County Jail located on Commerce Street. On August 25, 1910 Stark was tried and found not guilty of concealing stolen property in the case of stealing food for resale.

Once again Stark managed to stay out of trouble, this time for five years. His quiet streak ran out on July 19, 1915 when he was arrested with a large quantity of whisky in his possession. He was ordered to 150 days labor. The article referred to him as a bootlegger for the first time. On August 27, 1917, he was on trial for selling liquor illegally. The newspaper did not record the result.

Stark registered for the draft on September 12, 1918. The draft registration card notes that his occupation was shoe shine and his nearest relative was his brother Robert. The army never got the chance to call him up. On November 22, 1918, Stark Anderson died of cardiac valvular insufficiency. He was thirty-eight years old, and was buried in Mt Olive Cemetery the same day he died. Currently no headstone has been found for him.

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