

# **Law Enforcement Memorial**

## **2007 Names to Be Added**

### **Oscar G. Bodley**

Type of Officer: Special Officer  
Jurisdiction: Santa Fe Railroad  
County: Franklin  
Type of Crime: Robbery  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Death Date: 8/29/1906  
Year Added: 2007

#### **Circumstances of death:**

Oscar G. Bodley, Santa Fe Railway Special Officer, was shot and killed by a freight car robber in the Santa Fe Railway yards in Ottawa during the early morning hours of August 29, 1906. Bodley had been watching the rail yards very closely because of recent boxcar thefts. His assailant, who was apprehended by Special Officer Bodley in the act of robbing the merchandise freight car, escaped the scene only to be apprehended later that same day by the Santa Fe Railway Chief Detective and the Ottawa County Sheriff. Bodley had worked as a Special Officer in the Santa Fe Railway yards for two years and was 47 years old at the time of his death.

### **Edward Lee Bowler**

Type of Officer: Special Officer  
Jurisdiction: Santa Fe Railroad  
County: Franklin  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Train Accident  
Death Date: 1/16/1926  
Year Added: 2007

#### **Circumstances of death:**

Santa Fe Special Officer E. Lee Bowler and Special Officer H. N. Latimer had been inspecting a standing freight train at Ottawa Junction on January 16, 1926 looking for possible trespassers. As an eastbound passenger train approached, Bowler stepped to a position away from the approaching passenger train to stand on a supposedly empty eastbound track. Neither special officer was aware of another eastbound freight engine approaching, running in the same direction and parallel with the passenger train. Special Officer Bowler stepped immediately in front of the eastbound freight engine, the noise of its approach being deadened by that of the passenger train. Bowler was killed instantly. He was 51 years old at the time of his death. It was noted in the Ottawa Herald newspaper that Special Officer Bowler had been dangerously wounded by a desperado ex-convict in April 1921 while in the performance of his railroad police duties.

## **John P. Cates**

Type of Officer: Special Officer  
Jurisdiction: Santa Fe Railroad  
County: Sumner  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Death Date: 6/1/1911  
Year Added: 2007

### **Circumstances of death:**

Shortly after midnight on June 1, 1911, Santa Fe Railway Special Officer John Cates was checking security seals on the freight cars of a train that had just arrived in the rail yards at Wellington. Loaded freight cars were temptation to thieves and special security precautions were taken by Santa Fe special officers at every division stop. As Special Officer Cates was examining freight cars at the rear of the train, several shots were fired by unknown assailants and Cates was fatally wounded. Special Officer Cates was 46 years old at the time of his death. He formerly was the Guthrie, Oklahoma police chief.

## **James L. Johnson**

Type of Officer: Sheriff  
Jurisdiction: County  
County: Sheridan  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Death Date: 10/26/2006  
Year Added: 2007

### **Circumstances of death:**

On October 26, 2006, Sheridan County Sheriff James L. "Jimmy" Johnson called a local citizen into his office to discuss some activities and behavior the man had been displaying since the death of his father at the hands of a drunk driver. Sheriff Johnson convinced the man to commit himself to a mental health facility to get help, but when asked to take off his jacket, the man pulled out a handgun and shot Sheriff Johnson multiple times. A deputy in the office responded and shot and killed the assailant. Sheriff Johnson was taken to the Sheridan County Hospital and pronounced dead en route to Colby Municipal Airport, where he was to be flown to Wichita for treatment.

James Johnson was first elected Sheriff of Sheridan County in 1988. He was 54-years-old at the time of his death. Sheriff Johnson is survived by his wife, Linda, and six adult children.

## **George C. Montgomery**

Type of Officer: Special Officer  
Jurisdiction: Santa Fe Railroad  
County: Cowley  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Death Date: 10/5/1901  
Year Added: 2007

### **Circumstances of death:**

On the night of October 5, 1901, Santa Fe Special Officer George C. Montgomery sat at a table in his Winfield home preparing his weekly reports for the Santa Fe Railway home office in Topeka. From directly outside his sitting room window an unknown assailant fired a shotgun blast killing him instantly. Numerous threats had been made by cowboys against Special Officer Montgomery's life because of his investigations. One such threat against his life had been inscribed on a brick at the Santa Fe depot in Winfield prior to his death. Several individuals were subsequently arrested and trials held, however no one was ever convicted of Montgomery's death.

## **Earl Scothorn**

Type of Officer: Special Officer  
Jurisdiction: Santa Fe Railroad  
County: Johnson  
Type of Crime: None  
Type of Death: Train Accident  
Death Date: 11/13/1927  
Year Added: 2007

### **Circumstances of death:**

Several weeks prior to his death on November 13, 1927, Santa Fe Railway Special Officer Earl Scothorn was on duty in the Santa Fe rail yards in Argentine when he received injuries believed to have been a result of being struck by a train. The January 1928 Santa Fe Employee Magazine noted that "Scothorn was injured in an accident while performing his duties, and the shock was too severe to overcome." This same magazine noted that there was a high death rate among Santa Fe Railway employees from being fatally injured while getting on and off locomotives and boxcars. Special Officer Scothorn was 32-years-old at the time of his death. Prior to working for Santa Fe, he had been a Lawrence, Kansas police officer.

## **George Shindle**

Type of Officer: Special Agent  
Jurisdiction: Union Pacific Railroad  
County: Logan  
Type of Crime: Peddling Liquor  
Type of Death: Knife Wound  
Death Date: 7/3/1916  
Year Added: 2007

### **Circumstances of death:**

On June 21, 1916 Union Pacific Railroad Special Agent George Shindle was stabbed by a railroad worker in the Union Pacific Railroad yards in Oakley, Kansas while investigating reports of someone peddling liquor on railroad property. Special Agent Shindle was treated for his wounds by a physician in Oakley. The suspect pled guilty to assault and battery on June 22. Special Agent Shindle was subsequently transferred to a hospital in Denver where he died on July 3, 1916. Following his death, the suspect was charged and convicted of second degree manslaughter. Agent Shindle had been an employee of Union Pacific for 12 years and was survived by his wife and two sons.

## **William Edward Smith**

Type of Officer: Special Agent  
Jurisdiction: United States Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
County: Crawford  
Type of Crime: Bootlegging  
Type of Death: Vehicle Crash  
Death Date: 12/25/1937  
Year Added: 2007

### **Circumstances of death:**

United States Treasury Department Special Agent William E. Smith suffered a head injury in a vehicle crash while he and another agent were pursuing a suspected bootlegger near Mulberry, Kansas on August 11, 1937. More than four months later, Special Agent Smith was still under a doctor's care for injuries suffered in the crash. On December 22, 1937, Special Agent Smith suffered a stroke while on duty and died three days later. Agent Smith joined the Prohibition Unit in 1920, transferred to the US Customs Service in 1923 and returned to the Prohibition Unit in 1929. He was a 17 year veteran of the Treasury Department and a veteran of the US Army. SA Smith was survived by his wife.

## **Roy W. Stewart**

Type of Officer: Special Officer  
Jurisdiction: Santa Fe Railroad  
County: Harvey  
Type of Crime: Trespassing  
Type of Death: Gunshot  
Death Date: 1/9/1926  
Year Added: 2007

### **Circumstances of death:**

On August 9, 1921, while riding a locomotive through Newton's Sand Creek yards, Santa Fe Railway Special Officer Roy Stewart observed two trespassers. While he was questioning the trespassers one of them fired two shots at Stewart, seriously wounding him. With the assistance of a posse and blood hounds, the two suspects were quickly arrested. As a result of the serious wounds inflicted, Special Officer Stewart died on January 9, 1926. Special Officer Stewart was 41-years-old at the time of his death.