

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

1913 – Fern Josephine(9), Edward Henry Hyde(75), Blanche A.(3), Jewell Rachel(6), Preston Montgomery Patchett(47), Lillian(1), Frances Arabelle "Belle" Hyde Patchett(33), Paul(11)

Happier times



Collection of Hoosierboy56. Website (ancestry.com).

In rural northwestern Indiana, a year or so after the mother of his six children, ages 1 to 15, died in childbirth in 1916, Preston Patchett, 49, remarried. That death and remarriage may have been the trigger for the three eldest to run amok in the 1920s and 1930s, or maybe failures on the part of Preston. In addition to dealing with their antics, Preston had his own battles to fight.

The drama started with eldest, 17-year-old Paul, leaving unexpectedly in the fall of 1921. He returned at the end of 1922, but left again in the spring to return to Philadelphia to work.

Early in 1924, a man named Dale Knight was found guilty of raping Preston's 15-year-old daughter, Jewell. But in those days, the victim was also suspect. According a Jan 24 *Republican* report of the trial, "... [S]he is believed to be an incorrigible delinquent as shown by her testimony ...."<sup>1</sup> Likely based on that perception, Jewell went under care of the sheriff, then on to what could be considered a foster home. She was joined that summer by the eldest Patchett daughter, Fern, 17, after her father attempted suicide.

In the fall, Harold Shannon and Jewell woke a minister for a spontaneous midnight wedding. Whether she was under the care of either the sheriff or a foster family is unknown.

**"Additional slime was poured into the Fulton county cess pool Saturday ...."**  
was the lead in the Nov. 27, 1924 *Republican* taken from the Rochester (IN) *Sentinal*.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Winamac (IN) *Republican* 24 Jan 1924: 1. Microfilm.

<sup>2</sup> Winamac (IN) *Republican* 27 Nov 1924: 1. Microfilm.

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About that time, the sheriff was under suspicion of assaulting Jewell the previous May while she was under his care. When the grand jury did not find sufficient evidence to indict the sheriff, Preston filed an affidavit of an assault. Concurrently Preston's eldest daughter, Fern, charged him with incest that previous May, possibly explaining his suicide attempt and Fern joining Jewell.

In January 1925, at Preston's incest trial, Jewell and Fern recanted their sworn allegations against him.

**"The Patchetts, it seems can not keep out of the court records of Fulton county."**  
was the lead in an article in the Mar 26 *Republican*.<sup>3</sup>

The charge against Preston was quashed. Jewell and Fern were charged with perjury, assigned counsel, and released on bond posted by their father and others. The recantation also called into question the rape by Dale Knight. A petition to pardon Knight was sent to Gov. Ed Jackson. Knight was paroled two months later after serving over a year in prison for the rape.

By the summer, Jewell and Fern left the area. Jewell had deserted her husband in nearby Kokomo. She and her sister had left with two young men and were living in the southwestern Indiana city of Terre Haute. The young men were arrested on "statutory charges", which was legal jargon for rape at that time. The girls were returned to jail after their bonds were withdrawn.

In a Sep 17, 1925 report in the *Democrat*, Harold Shannon sued Jewell for divorce due to "much improper conduct", charging that "she was arrested with another man at Terre Haute [and] is now in jail ....<sup>4</sup>". In another report, based on their reputation, Jewell and Fern were also suspected of car theft but were exonerated.

**"NOT HIS PLAYMATES – One offense of which they had been suspected apparently can not be laid to the door of the much-chronicled Patchett sisters, now guests of the Fulton county jail ...."** was the lead in a Sep 24 *Republican* item.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Winamac (IN) *Republican* 26 Mar 1925: 6. Microfilm.

<sup>4</sup> Pulaski County (IN) *Democrat* 17 Sep 1925: 1. Microfilm.

<sup>5</sup> Winamac (IN) *Republican* 24 Sep 1925: 1. Microfilm.

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Upon return from their Terre Haute adventure, for some unknown reason, Preston provided part of the bond for Jewell and Fern. Curiously, it appears that he had withdrawn bond when it was reported that the girls had skipped off to Terre Haute.

That same summer of 1925 Preston's personal battle started. A train hit them as he was driving his horses and wagon across the track. He was thrown clear, but the wagon and two horses were destroyed. It was reported in the Aug 27 *Democrat* that, "He is sure his defective hearing brought him near death or serious injury." It was also reported, "His wagon was piled high with grain, which partially obscured his vision."<sup>6</sup>

The end of 1925 found Jewell pregnant and Preston partially paralyzed by a stroke.

1926 started with Jewell and Fern back in jail on their perjury charge. However, Jewell was released temporarily so that she could give her daughter birth in freedom.

Meanwhile, Preston sued the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) railroad for \$10,000 in personal damages and \$600 in property loss due to the collision the previous summer. At the trial, Preston gave a different explanation than the newspaper reports at the time of the accident. He testified that his view was obstructed by an orchard and tall corn and that engineer failed to signal with whistle or bell.

**"The Patchetts can't keep out of the limelight, it would seem."**  
was the lead in a Sep 26 *Republican* article.<sup>7</sup>

In the heat of summer, an item is published that the wife of Ray "Foxy" Flynn was suing him for divorce, and naming Fern as co-respondent.

In the dead of the following winter, Foxy's body was found along a roadside, murdered. It was reported in the Feb 10 *Democrat* that it may have been a "hit" to prevent him from "squeaking" about a fur theft, or Foxy might have been killed by Jewell's estranged-husband, Harold Shannon. Foxy had been "exceptionally friendly" with both Fern, who now lived in his house, and Jewell.<sup>8</sup> [It turned out that Foxy was shot by his intended robbery victim, who then fled. Foxy's gang drove off in the other direction with Foxy, but when they discovered that he had been mortally wounded, tossed his body from their car.]

In May 1927 Preston's only son, Paul, 25, started to appear in the press. He was sentenced to the reformatory after writing bad checks and posing as a federal prohibition agent.

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<sup>6</sup> Pulaski County (IN) *Democrat* 27 Aug 1925: 8. Microfilm.

<sup>7</sup> *Winamac (IN) Republican* 26 Aug 1926: 1. Microfilm.

<sup>8</sup> Pulaski County (IN) *Democrat* 10 Feb 1927: 1&8. Microfilm.

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1929 ended with Preston's suit against the C&O resulting in a hung jury. Three months later in March 1930, nearly four years after the accident, Preston sued again for \$600 in property loss, but had doubled the ante to \$20,000 in personal damages, claiming permanent disability. As 1931 started, Preston was awarded \$5,500, but the C&O planned to appeal. He is also a new subscriber to *The Democrat*.

In the summer 1931, after driving a stolen car from Illinois to Indiana, Paul was sentenced to federal prison but put on probation for five years. The reprieve was sadly short-lived. The year ended with Paul, Jewell, and their gang, jailed for burglary of a railroad freight car. Paul pled guilty but refused to implicate others. Jewell, now carrying the Knight surname, and another gang member were described as "sweethearts"<sup>9</sup>. And she was about to become a mother again.<sup>10</sup>

As 1932 started, Paul became a witness for the prosecution, but still faced charges of burglary and auto banditry and was ultimately bound over to serve his two-year federal sentence. Thereafter, his life was no longer newsworthy.

Spring found a man named Steve Knight {any relation to Dale Knight is unknown} granted a divorce from Jewell. And Preston's youngest daughter, Lillian, 26, was arrested for receiving a stolen dress purchased by Jewell. Finally, Preston was sued for not leaving a farm after his lease expired, although the suit was soon dropped.

In January 1934 wedding bells rang for the third time for Jewell. Thereafter, except for a fourth marriage in 1938, her life was no longer newsworthy.

As far as Preston's battle, the previous spring of 1933 brought a loss on appeal for his second suit against the C&O. To add insult, the court put the cost of the case on Preston!

In summer of 1935, Preston sued again, asking for \$15,000, but won only \$2,550. The C&O then requested a new trial, which Preston lost with the prosecution argument that there was nothing obstructing his view, not grain on the wagon, not the orchard, not tall corn. It had been 11 years since the accident. Likely the original news report in which he cited his defective hearing was raised as well. A month later, Preston requested a new trial, but reports were never published of yet another one.

One year later, in the fall of 1936, Preston was felled by a hit-and-run driver. Earlier in the year, Paul barely survived a crash in which the car rolled several times, and he was dragged from the car by his companion. And Preston is now a subscriber to *The Republican*.

Almost two years after that, Preston fell from a tree, breaking a hip and ribs.

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<sup>9</sup> Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 19 Nov 1931: 1&8. Microfilm.

<sup>10</sup> Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Nov 1931: 1. Microfilm.



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January 1940 found Preston a broken man, bowed by the antics of his eldest children, his own battle with the C&O, and his recent injuries. Judged insane, Preston was sent to the nearby state mental hospital, where he died that spring at the age of 74. Preston Patchett was buried at the Kewanna Odd Fellows cemetery with a simple marker with his last name misspelled.

Preston Patchett (1867-1940) - Kewanna (IN) Citizens IOOF Cemetery



Website ([findagrave.com/memorial/77690818/preston-montgomery-patchett](https://findagrave.com/memorial/77690818/preston-montgomery-patchett)).

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The Patchett Family in 1920

STATE <u>Indiana</u>		COUNTY <u>Pulaski</u>		TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY <u>Franklin Township</u>		NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE		WARD OF CITY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS						SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. <u>11</u>		SHEET NO. <u>835</u>	
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION						ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. <u>168</u>		7 B	
NAME OF INSTITUTION						ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE <u>30</u> DAY OF <u>January</u> 1920		John Beckman	
PLACES OF BIRTH	RELATION	SEX	AGE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	PLACES OF BIRTH	RELATION	SEX	AGE
<u>Patchett, Preston M.</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Paul</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Frank</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>William</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>6</u>

U.S. Bureau of the Census 30 Jan 1920. Website:  
[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/6061/4300658\\_00048](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/6061/4300658_00048)

Preston kicked

**P. M. Patchett, who lives on the M. A. Dilts dairy farm north of Winamac, was kicked by a horse while unhitching a team Monday, and suffered a badly lacerated leg.**

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Jul 3 1919. Microfilm.

Paul injured in riding accident

**Paul, the fifteen years old son of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Patchett, suffered a dislocated knee cap and punctured ankle when the horse he was riding stumbled and fell on him.**

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Aug 28 1919: 1. Microfilm.

Parents Hear from Son Missing a Year

**PARENTS HEAR FROM  
SON MISSING A YEAR**

Paul Patchett, son of P. M. Patchett, northwest of Rochester, who had not been heard from since September 1921, when he left his father's home north of Winamac, has written his parents to say that he will be home in December. The letter was written from Whitestone, N. Y.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Nov 30 1922: 1. Microfilm.

Paul bugs out, again

## **PATCHETT LAD AGAIN FAILS TO KISS FOLKS GOOD-BYE**

Paul Patchett has left home again. He is the sixteen year old son of Preston M. Patchett, formerly of Kewanna and Winamac, now living on the Robbins farm, reports the Kewanna Herald.

This is the second time he has disappeared, the same thing occurring a couple years ago while the family was living near Winamac. At that time his parents heard nothing from him until October, 1922, when he wrote from Philadelphia that he was employed there by an electric concern and would be home around the holidays. He arrived in Rochester on New Year's Day.

This time Paul left a note on the table which said "I will bid you all good-by, as I am going back east." Mrs. Patchett found a railroad map in his room on which he had traced a route to Philadelphia.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Mar 15 1923: 8. Microfilm.*

Patchett Girl Has Man Arrested at  
Rochester

## **PATCHETT GIRL HAS MAN ARRESTED AT ROCHESTER**

Dale Knight, a Rochester man thirty years of age, was arrested and jailed there a few nights ago on a charge of rape preferred by Jewell Patchett, fourteen years old, daughter of Preston Patchett, living west of Rochester. The Patchett family formerly lived north of Winamac.

The girl, who has been given considerable publicity recently on account of her having twice run away from home, was seen to go to Knight's room over the Newman restaurant on the corner of Main and Seventh street, and her father was informed of the fact, relates the Rochester Sentinel.

Patchett in turn enlisted the aid of Night Officer Chamberlain and the two went to Knight's room, which had by that time been vacated by Knight and the girl.

The girl was located later, however, and confessed to having been in Knight's room. A formal charge of rape was lodged against Knight and he was taken to jail and placed under \$3,000 bond. His case is set for hearing Nov. 20.

The Patchett girl ran away from home on two occasions because of her father's alleged mistreatment. At one time she was located at Kokomo and on the second occasion at Leiters.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Nov 15 1923: 1. Microfilm.*

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Accused rapist to be arraigned

**PATCHETT FILED CHARGES**

Probably the most sensational trial of the January term of the Fulton circuit court is that of Dale Knight, who will be arraigned for raping 15-year-old Jule Patchett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Patchett, who live in the Burton neighborhood, says the Rochester News. A jury will hear the case. Attorney Albert Chipman of Akron will defend Knight.

The Patchett family formerly lived in Franklin township, Pulaski county.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 17 Jan 1924: 6. Microfilm.*

Rapist found guilty

**PATCHETT GIRL'S TESTIMONY  
CONVICTS PERU YOUNG MAN**

Dale Knight of Peru was found guilty of rape on fifteen-year-old Jule Patchett Sunday morning at 12:01 o'clock by a jury in the Fulton Circuit Court. The jury was given the case by Judge Carr, Saturday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock. The crime of rape on the person of a girl under the age of consent carries with it a sentence of from 5 to 21 years in the state penitentiary. Knight will be sentenced some time this week.

Miss Patchett is a daughter of P. M. Patchett, who formerly lived north of Winamac.

After the verdict had been read to him, Knight said that he would commit suicide rather than serve a sentence of five years in the penitentiary. Knight's every move is being watched to thwart any attempt he may make to carry out his threat.

The crime for which Knight was convicted is supposed to have been committed in Rochester on the night of November 3rd. During the taking of the testimony it developed that Miss Patchett and Knight had been together on several occasions besides the November case. Knight denied all the allegations of Miss Patchett, saying that he had never been with her at any time.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Jan 1924: 1. Microfilm.*

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Rapist found guilty

## JURY IN FULTON HOLDS KNIGHT IS GUILTY OF RAPE

P. M. PATCHETT, FORMER PULASKI COUNTY MAN FILED CHARGES—15 YEAR OLD GIRL WAS THE VICTIM.

Dale Knight, 31, was found guilty of rape on the person of Jewell, 15 year old daughter of P. M. Patchett, west of Rochester on the night of November 3 last, after the jury that had heard the case last week in the Fulton circuit court had deliberated until midnight Saturday night.

Knight, who came from Peru and was employed by the Rochester Telephone Co., as a lineman at the time of his arrest, has not yet been sentenced. Conviction of the rape charge carries with it a sentence of from five to 21 years in the state prison.

In the meantime the Board of Children's Guardians has taken in hand the case of the girl and it is probable that she will be made a ward of the court as she is believed to be an incorrigible delinquent as shown by her testimony in the Knight trial.

The Patchett family formerly lived in Franklin township, Pulaski county. The offense on which the action was brought was charged as committed last November, the girl's father swearing out the affidavit.

The Patchett girl told in court how she was pulled along Main street from Wile's to the Fristoe corner on the evening of November 3. The girl stated that Knight had her by the right arm and yanked with all his might, as she with both feet firmly set and sliding along the sidewalk, struck viciously at him with her left hand, according to the Rochester News.

The trip from Fristoe's corner west to Jefferson and thence to the rooming house was somewhat vague but once in the room, Miss Patchett remembered that Knight had an open knife in his right hand and every minute of their stay, while the assault took place, she believed her life to be in danger, as the result of his threats to kill her.

A sweeping denial of all wrong doing, charged by the state was made by the defendant, Dale Knight when placed on the stand in his own defense.

He denied that he ever left the street as he has been charged, and left the girl at the Dawson & Coplen drug store corner fifteen or twenty minutes after he had met her in front of M. Wile & Sons.

Miss Fern Patchett, aged 17, sister of the prosecuting witness was so discomforted and at a loss as to what it was all about that Judge Carr called a halt in her examination and ordered that another witness be called.

Patchett attempts suicide

[Now it's a mystery, but all will be revealed this winter.]

## ATTEMPTS SUICIDE WITH STRYCHNINE ON PANCAKE

Another chapter in the tragic life of the Preston Patchett family, well known farmer people living three miles west of Rochester on the Burton road, was written Sunday morning when Mr. Patchett in a thoroughly premeditated manner attempted to commit suicide by eating a quantity of strychnine, which he spread on a pancake at breakfast.

The Patchett family formerly lived on a farm north of Winamac.

Both because of the fact that he did not take quite enough of the poison, although he had 60 grains of it in a bottle, enough to kill a dozen men, and because medical aid was summoned, the suicide was a failure and although still in a weakened condition the would-be self-victim is on the road to recovery, reports the Rochester Daily News.

That Mr. Patchett realized his mistake and that he would not care to repeat his performance was gleaned from the remark to one of the attending physicians, "If you get me out of this, 'Doc,' I'll never do it again."

In an investigation of the case the Daily News learned that a juvenile case, in which Jule and Fern Patchett, daughters of the would-be suicide, were the principals was scheduled before Judge Carr Monday. This was postponed because of the father's act. It was also learned that Jule Patchett, who last January was the state's star witness against Dale Knight, who was sent to Michigan City prison for from 5 to 21 years for rape, left her father's home several weeks ago and went to Rochester, where she remained in the care of Sheriff Kochenderfer. Recently she went to the home of Elmer Bradley, on the Burton road, where she has been making her home. Then on Saturday night, Fern, the younger sister, also left her parents' home and was later located with her sister at the Bradley home.

Winamac (IN) Republican 24 Jan 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Jun 1924: 8. Microfilm.



Patchett attempts suicide

## FORMER FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MAN TRIES SUICIDE

**P. M. PATCHETT AFTER YEARS  
OF TROUBLE TRIES TO END  
IT ALL—RECANTS AND CALLS  
DOCTOR**

Another chapter in the tragic life of the Preston M. Patchett family, well-known farmer people living three miles west of Rochester was written Sunday morning, when Mr. Patchett in a thoroughly premeditated manner attempted to commit suicide by eating a quantity of stychnine, which he spread on a pancake at breakfast. Both because of the fact that he did not take quite enough of the poison, although he had 60 grains of it in a bottle, enough to kill a dozen men and because medical aid was summoned the suicide was a failure and the would-be self victim is on the road to recovery.

That Mr. Patchett realized his mistake and that he would not care to repeat his performance was gleaned from the remark to one of the attending physicians of "if you'll get me out of this, Doc, I'll never do it again."

His wife was busy getting breakfast, Patchett remarked that he was not long for this earth. A few minutes later he suddenly became very ill and dispatched a young daughter to the Burton church, where his neighbor and friend, J. W. Rhinehart was at Sunday school. When Rhinehart reached the Patchett home Patchett confided the suicide plot in all its details.

As soon as medical aid was summoned, a hunt was instituted about the premises for a letter, which Patchett told Rhinehart he had written explaining his act and it was long after every nook and corner of the house and barn had been searched that the sealed letter was found in a box of stationery. This Patchett directed be turned over to Rhinehart and not opened until after his death and today, despite the fact that Prov. Engels made a demand on Rhinehart he refused to turn the letter over without an order from the court. This step will likely be taken at once.

Just what prompted the suicide attempt has not been learned but it is thought likely the unopened letter will explain matters, if it is opened at the direction of the court.

Winamac (IN) Republican 5 Jun 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Jewel marries

## MIDNIGHT WEDDING ROUTS OUT PASTOR

**Shannon-Patchett**

Miss Jewel Patchett, daughter of P. M. Patchett, of Rochester and Harold Shannon a farmer of this county and the son of Thos. Shannon of Danville, Ill., were issued a marriage license on Tuesday of this week.

The couple appeared at the Methodist parsonage about midnight, arousing the minister from his slumbers. When Shannon made known the importance of his visit, Rev. Rogers donned his citizen's apparel as did Mrs. Rogers to act as wedding witness and the knot was tied.

Miss Patchett formerly resided in Franklin township, when her parents lived on a farm on the state road.

Winamac (IN) Republican 16 Oct 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Jewell licensed to marry

[Will Jewell find happiness after her rape ordeal?]

A marriage license has been issued to Jewell Patchett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston M. Patchett of Rochester, and Harold Shannon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shannon of Danville, Illinois. The bridegroom is a resident of this city.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 20 Oct 1924: 5. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/24857711/?terms=Patchett>

Assault charges filed by Preston

## FULTON SHERIFF HELD ON CRIMINAL ASSAULT CHARGES

ROCHESTER, Ind., Nov. 24.—Harley Kockenderfer, sheriff of Pulaski county, is at liberty under a \$1,000 bond today following his arrest on an affidavit signed by Preston Patchett, charging the officer with criminal assault on Jewell Patchett, daughter of Preston Patchett. The father acted after the Fulton county grand jury which investigated the case, failed to return an indictment. Witnesses listed on the affidavit are Dale Knight, now serving a term in the Indiana prison for a previous assault on the girl; Frank Collett, Bern Stohn and Harry Strode, all prisoners in the Fulton county jail at the time the alleged assault is said to have taken place, also Patchett and the daughter, now Mrs. Harold Shannon of Winamac. Coroner Haimbaugh served the papers on the sheriff. The alleged attack is said to have taken place on May 12, 1924, which was prior to the girl's sixteenth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kockenderfer have issued previous statements denying the charges as instituted by Editor VanCamp of the Rochester News, a few weeks ago.

Logansport Pharos-Tribune 24 Nov 1924: 3. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/24858379/?terms=Patchett>

Preston charged

## BOND FURNISHED ROCHESTER MAN

ROCHESTER, Ind., Nov. 25.—Preston Patchett is at liberty under bond today following his arrest on charges of incest. Names of witnesses appearing upon the papers in connection with the charges are Fern Patchett and Mrs. Jewell Shannon, daughters of the man, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bradley, neighbors of the Patchetts. It is charged that the alleged crime took place on May 13, 1924, while the daughter, Fern, was assisting her father plow.

Patchett is the person signing the affidavit charging Sheriff Kockenderfer with criminal assault upon his daughter, now Mrs. Jewell Shannon of Winamac.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 25 Nov 1924: 3. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/24858398/?terms=Patchett>



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Daughter charges father

[So that's why Preston attempted suicide last May!]

**ROCHESTER MAYOR UNDER  
SERIOUS CRIMINAL CHARGE**

Dr. Milo O. King, mayor of Rochester, was arrested Friday on a grand jury indictment charging him with having performed a criminal operation on a young lady of the Rochester vicinity. He gave \$5,000 bond.

Robert Moonshower, a Rochester young man, was arrested at the same time, charged with having been the instigator of the crime.

In connection with the Fulton county grand jury's action the Rochester News says:

"It is generally understood that the grand jury, in the course of its deliberations, considered evidence against Sheriff Harley Kochenderfer, growing out of affidavits made by inmates of the jail during the time Jewell Patchett was confined within the jail or sheriff's residence as a ward of the Fulton county juvenile court. No indictment was returned in this case."

Chapter II—Learning that the Fulton county grand jury had failed to indict Sheriff Kochenderfer on the grounds of alleged immoral relations with his daughter, Jewell Patchett, now Mrs. Harold Shannon of Winamac, Preston Patchett Friday evening filed an affidavit with Pros. Atty. Marsh, at Plymouth, in which the sheriff stands charged with rape. The case was filed in the Fulton circuit court and Judge Carr at once issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Sheriff Kochenderfer, fixing the bond at \$1,000.

Chapter III—Another angle was added the first of this week by the arrest of Preston Patchett on a charge of incest. The affidavit alleges that the crime was committed on May 13 of this year while Patchett's daughter Fern was helping him plow. He has given \$1,000 bond for his appearance for trial.

The Patchett family formerly lived on a farm north of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Nov 1924: 5. Microfilm.

Daughter charges father

**DAUGHTER FILES  
SERIOUS CHARGES  
AGAINST PATCHETT**

FORMER FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
FARMER IN JAIL AT ROCHESTER—ANOTHER CHAPTER IN  
WIERD HISTORY OF FAMILY

Additional slime was poured into the Fulton county cess pool Saturday says the Rochester Sentinel when a new affidavit, this one made by Fern Patchett, 17, against her father, Preston Patchett, charging him with mistreating her as he had his other daughter, Jewell. Shortly afterwards he was arrested and placed in jail. His bond was placed at \$1,000, but no one was willing to go on his bond and indications are that he will remain behind the bars until his trial comes up.

The girl stated that the act was committed on May 13, 1924, while they were in the field plowing corn at the Dr. Robbins farm in the Burton neighborhood.

The Patchett's formerly lived in Franklin township, this county on the state road.

Sheriff Harley Kochenderfer was arrested at noon Saturday by Coroner Dow Hainbaugh on a bench warrant from the Fulton circuit court charging him with rape on the person of Jewell Patchett, whose name is now Mrs. Harold Shannon, of Winamac, says the Rochester Sentinel. The officer was released under \$1,000 bond furnished by himself, his father, Benjamin Kochenderfer, and Dr. M. O. King.

The affidavit against Kochenderfer was preferred by Preston Patchett, father of Mrs. Shannon, who alleges his daughter was assaulted by the officer on May 12, 1924, at which time she was only 15 years of age. At the time the alleged act was supposed to have been committed the girl was in charge of Mrs. Harley Kochenderfer at the jail for the Board of Children's Guardians. Patchett is a farmer living west of Rochester.

It is said that the grand jury which closed its deliberations Thursday investigated this charge against Sheriff Kochenderfer but did not find sufficient evidence to return with a true bill against him. It is said that after the grand jury refused to indict Sheriff Kochenderfer, Mr. Patchett drove to Plymouth, Friday afternoon where he swore out an affidavit which was approved by Prosecutor Alvin Marsh.

It will be remembered that last year Patchett attempted to commit suicide.

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Nov 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Preston's up for trial

**PATCHETT TRIAL DATE SET**

Preston Patchett, who is charged with incest by his daughter, Fern, will go on trial in the Fulton circuit court before a jury on January 23, Judge Carr decided Monday morning, after he had instructed the defendant's attorney to have his client plead on or before January 19. This case was filed after the special grand jury in October had returned with indictments against several Fulton county officials.

The Patchetts were former Franklin township residents.

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Jan 1925: 1. Microfilm.



1925-01-15 - Pleas to be entered -  
Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune - p2 - Crime,  
Patchett - hh

**SET ROCHESTER CASES**

ROCHESTER, Ind., Jan. 15—January 19 has been set as the date for the defendants in state cases to enter their pleas. This step is taken in preparation for the setting of the cases for the next term of court. The cases included in the list are: State of Indiana vs. Mayor King for abortion, state vs. Robert Moonshower for abortion, state vs. ex-sheriff Harley Kochenderfer for rape, state vs. **Preston Patchett** for incest, state vs. Everett Grey for embezzlement, and state vs. James Henderson for failure to support his children.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 15 Jan 1925: 2. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/28122809/?terms=Patchett>

Patchett girls commit perjury

## Patchett's Daughters "Back Up" on Former Charges Against Him

Charges against Preston Patchett of Rochester, under indictment for a serious offense alleged by his daughter Fern, were left without much foundation yesterday afternoon when the daughter Fern and also the daughter Mrs. Harold Shannon of Winamac went on the witness stand and repudiated statements against their father that they had previously made.

The trial started yesterday morning, in circuit court at Rochester, and a jury was obtained without much delay. Mrs. Shannon was one of the first witnesses. Before her marriage to Mr. Shannon a few months ago she was Miss Jewell Patchett of Rochester and was the prosecuting witness against Dale Knight in the trial that resulted in his conviction for rape. The Patchett family formerly lived north of Winamac.

On the stand yesterday Mrs. Shannon startled the prosecuting attorney and his assistant by completely denying many statements which she had made under oath in juvenile court nine months ago about her father's relations with her sister, even after the same had been read to her to refresh her memory. Mrs. Shannon did, however, tell of frequent quarrels which she had with her father and how she had left home on a number of occasions, on one of which she had found refuge in the jail. Mrs. Shannon also said that she had made false accusations against her father after promises had been made to her by an ex-officer of the county and another man.

Miss Fern Patchett was the next witness placed on the stand and her testimony, like that of her sister, was a complete surprise to the state. She denied that her father had ever had improper relations with her. Prosecutor Dexter then introduced in evidence a confession which the girl had made in her own handwriting telling of different occasions on which her father had wronged her.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Jan 1925: 1. Microfilm.

### Patchett girls commit perjury

## 2 WOMEN HELD FOR PERJURY THIS MORNING

Mrs. Shannon and Fern Patchett  
Held as Result of Incest Trial  
Testimony.

(Special to Pharos-Tribune)  
ROCHESTER, Ind., Jan. 29—Steps that would result in the dismissal of the charges against Harley Kochenderfer, former county sheriff, charged in a grand jury indictment with improper relations with Jewell Patchett, and those against Dale Knight, now serving a sentence at the state prison received in court here upon statements of the same girl, were contemplated by officials here today as the result of testimony given in the case against Preston Patchett by Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon, daughter of the defendant, in the incest case that opened Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Shannon and Fern Patchett, her sister, with whom the father is charged with improper relations are held by authorities for perjury. Their arrest was affected this morning following the filing of charges by Prosecutor Galeman Dexter. The prosecutor's acts resulted from the instructions given the jury by Judge Carr to make a finding for the defendant in the Patchett incest case.

The judge based his instructions upon the complete denial of both Fern Patchett and Mrs. Jewell Shannon to the charges against their father and to the contents of the alleged confession signed by them several weeks ago and upon which the charges against their father were based.

Mrs. Shannon in her testimony in court also stated that she had made false, signed confessions against a former county official and another man. Kochenderfer and Knight are the only other local men against whom she had made charges in written confessions, according to local officials.

Investigations into the activities that resulted in the filing of the charges in the several cases hinging around the pre-election "squabble" here to which the several charges are connected will be made by the county officials as the result of the development today and Wednesday, it is understood.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 29 Jan 1925: 1. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/28123964/?terms=Patchett>

### Knight may be paroled

Steps to secure the release of Dale Knight, now serving a sentence at the Indiana prison on a serious charge preferred by Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon, which charge, officers say, the prosecuting witness, now denies, are being made through two different channels. His attorney, Gilbert Chapman, has filed a motion for a new trial which is expected to be granted. There is also a petition being circulated here to gain a pardon for him.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune Jan 31 1925: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com)

### Sheriff freed

## FORMER SHERIFF OF FULTON IS FREED

(Special to Pharos-Tribune)

ROCHESTER, Ind., Feb. 4.—Upon motion of Galeman Dexter, prosecutor of the Fulton circuit court, the case against Harley Kochenderfer, former sheriff, charged with rape on Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon, was dismissed by Special Judge Ralph Smith in court here Tuesday. In the motion to prosecute set forth that the dismissal action was taken because of the character and veracity of the prosecuting witness, Mrs. Shannon, now held under bond on charges of perjury.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 4 Feb 1925: 12.  
Website (newspapers.com).



#### Girls jailed for perjury

### Patchett Girls Go to Rochester Jail on Charges of Perjury

The Preston Patchett incest trial came to a quick termination last Thursday in the Fulton circuit court when Judge Carr upheld Attorney Campbell's motion to quash the charge, on the ground that the state had failed to make a case.

Prosecutor Galeman Dexter of Plymouth then filed charges of perjury against Fern Patchett, who made the affidavit against her father, and against Mrs. Harold Shannon of Winamac, sister of Miss Patchett. Both were put in the Fulton county jail, being unable to furnish the \$500 bond required, but were later released when their bonds were guaranteed by Sherman Overmyer and Jess Chamberlain, both of Rochester.

After Fern Patchett had been placed on the stand Wednesday afternoon and repudiated the allegation in the affidavit which she had made against her father and denied the confession which she wrote after she had made the charge, Attorney Charles Campbell made a motion to dismiss his client, stating that the state had failed to introduce evidence to convict Mr. Patchett and further that they had introduced evidence to impeach their own witnesses.

Prosecutor Galeman Dexter and his associate counsel, Attorney L. M. Lauer of Plymouth contested the court's jurisdiction to quash the charge. But when court convened Thursday Prosecutor Dexter announced that the state had withdrawn its objection to the dismissal of the suit. Judge Carr then instructed the jury to retire and return a verdict of not guilty, which they did.

As soon as the jury's decision had been announced, Prosecutor Dexter then in a long speech severely condemned the plaintiff and her sister and said that he would file charges of perjury against both. Judge Carr commended the prosecutor on his attitude and said that he thought it was high time the two young ladies, who have been basking in the limelight for the past year, were ruled off the stage.

The Rochester News-Sentinel states that the charge of perjury which was filed against Mrs. Harold Shannon of Winamac, who was formerly Jewell Patchett, will greatly weaken the state's case against ex-sheriff Harley Kochenderfer, charged with rape by Mrs. Shannon. This prediction was borne out Tuesday, when on motion of the prosecuting attorney the charge against Kochenderfer was dismissed.

The penalty for perjury is a two to fourteen years sentence. Both women probably will go on trial at the March term of court.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Feb 1925: 1. Microfilm.

#### Girls request lawyer

### ASK COURT TO NAME LAWYER.

Mrs. Jewel Patchett Shannon of Winamac and her sister, Miss Fern Patchett, who were arrested ten days ago for perjury after they had refused to testify against their father, Preston Patchett, in incest proceedings, late Saturday afternoon filed a petition in court stating that they were too poor to hire an attorney to defend them. The court will probably appoint Attorney Martin Ivey, county attorney, to defend them.—Rochester News-Sentinel.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Feb 1925: 1. Microfilm.

#### Rapist petition to Governor

## PETITION FOR PARDON OF CONVICTED MAN

(Special to Pharos-Tribune)

ROCHESTER, Ind., March 4.—

Petition signed by several local officials and many people of the county has been forwarded to Governor Ed Jackson asking for a pardon for Dale Knight, local young man, who was sent to the Indiana prison at Michigan about nine months ago on charges of rape as preferred by Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon. The petition has been in circulation here since the testimony given in circuit court a few weeks ago in which she told officers that she had given false testimony against Knight.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 4 Mar 1925: 14.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Girls to get new judge

**PATCHETTS AGAIN IN COURT**

The Patchetts, it seems can not keep out of the court records of Fulton county. Tuesday morning Deputy Prosecutor Chas. Flagg filed a motion in court to disqualify Judge Carr as judge in the state case against Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon of Winamac, charged with perjury for refusing to testify against her father in a criminal case in which he was charged with incest on his daughter Fern. The court then disqualified himself and nominated five men all of whom were crossed off the list except Judge Hurd Hurst of Miami county, who will probably try the case during the March term of the Fulton circuit court.

Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Mar 1925: 6. Microfilm.

Judge named

Hurd Hust, judge of the Miami county court, has been named as special judge in the case of Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon, charged in a grand jury indictment with perjury. The appointment of a special judge was necessary in that Judge Carr has been summoned as a witness by the state. The charges against Mrs. Shannon are the result of testimony given before the grand jury here, which she later denied.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 26 Mar 1925: 8.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Rapist paroled

Dale Knight, local young man, who was sent to the state prison on a charge of criminal assault, has been paroled by Governor Ed. Jackson. The act on the part of the governor came after a petition signed by many local people had been sent to him. Officers state that the prosecuting witness, who is now Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon, refuted her statements regarding the charges against Knight a few weeks ago.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 7 May 1925: 6.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Rapist paroled

**DALE KNIGHT PAROLED.**

Dale Knight, a Peru young man who was convicted of rape at Rochester a few months ago on testimony of Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon, has this week been paroled from the Michigan City prison. A petition asking this action on the part of the governor and pardon board was signed by citizens of Rochester following the recent indictment of Mrs. Shannon on a charge of perjury in connection with the prosecution of her father, Preston Patchett.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 May 1925: 1. Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Rapist paroled

**DALE KNIGHT PAROLED**

Dale Knight, convicted in Fulton county circuit court in January, 1924 for rape and sentenced to serve from 5 to 21 years in the Indiana state penitentiary, was granted a parole last Wednesday by Governor Ed Jackson.

Knight was adjudged guilty of rape on the person of Mrs. Jewel Patchett Shannon, who at the time was 15 years of age, by a jury in the 1924 January term of the Fulton circuit court. Preston Patchett, the father of the girl swore out the affidavit against Knight, after he had obtained a confession from his daughter.

Winamac (IN) Republican 14 May 1925: 1. Microfilm.

Girls attempt to jump bail

**The Patchett Girls Again**

Sheriff Fred Carr returned last week from Terre Haute with Fern Patchett and Jewell Patchett Shannon, who have been placed in the local jail, for want of bondsmen. The girls were arrested in Terre Haute by the chief of police at the request of Hugh VanMeter and Preston Patchett, their bondsmen, who believed that the girls were attempting to jump their bond.

The Patchett girls were out on bond awaiting trial in the local court for perjury, and last week left Kokomo with two young men.

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Aug 1925: 1. Microfilm.

Girls returned from Terre Haute

Fred Carr, county sheriff, went to Terre Haute today for Fern Patchett and Jewell Patchett Shannon. The two former local girls were wanted here that their bondsmen might be released from their obligations. The two have been living in Kokomo with the latter's husband but several days ago they deserted him. They are under indictment here for making false affidavits in criminal actions.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 18 Aug 1925: 8.  
Website (nnewspapers.com).

Girls attempt to jump bail, while Preston jumps to avoid train

## Well! Well! Here Are the Patchetts in Limelight Again

Sheriff Fred Carr of Fulton county returned to Rochester one night last week from Terre Haute with Fern Patchett and Jewell Patchett Shannon, who were placed in the local jail for want of bondsmen. The girls were arrested in Terre Haute by the chief of police at the request of Hugh Van Meter and Preston Patchett, their bondsmen, who believed that the girls were attempting to jump their bond.

The Patchett girls were out on bond awaiting trial in the Fulton circuit court for perjury, and a few days before had left Kokomo with two young men with whom they were found in a boarding house in Terre Haute. The young men have also been arrested and charged with statutory offenses.

Preston Patchett, father of the Patchett sisters, and himself a central figure in cases filed in the Fulton circuit court, had a close call Thursday afternoon, when one of the team hitched to a wagon which he was riding was instantly killed and the other so seriously hurt that it had to be killed, by a west bound C. & O. local passenger train.

Patchett is uncertain whether he jumped or was knocked from his lofty perch to the ground. He is sure his defective hearing brought him very near death or serious injury.

The well-known farmer-litigant was enroute to a threshing. His wagon was piled high with grain, which partially obscured his vision. He did not hear the approaching train and drove onto the track in its path.—Rochester News-Sentinel.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Aug 1925: 8. Microfilm.*

Jewell's hubby is suing her

One suit is brought by Harold Shannon against Jewel Shannon. Previous to the marriage last October her name was Patchett, and she has attained no little notoriety in this and Fulton counties in connection with various activities on the part of herself, her sister Fern and her father, Preston Patchett, formerly a resident of the vicinity north of Winamac. In his complaint Shannon, who is a resident of Franklin township, charges much improper conduct on the part of his wife, concluding with the statement that she was arrested with another man at Terre Haute in August and that she is now in jail at Rochester. They have no children.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Sep 1925: 1. Microfilm.*

'Much-chronicled' Patchett girls falsely  
assumed guilty of more

**NOT HIS PLAYMATES**

One offense of which they had been suspected apparently can not be laid to the door of the much-chronicled Patchett sisters, now guests of the Fulton county jail, according to the Rochester News-Sentinel.

After the apprehension of a Kokomo youth at Lafayette and his slating on a charge of auto theft, authorities thought the Patchett girls must be the ones the youth referred to in connection with the incident. He said two girls had obtained a car in which he went for a joyride, the girls later leaving the car hidden in a gravel pit.

The car could not be found at the place he designated, but the officers investigated further by coming here to see the girls Sept. 8, who fitted the youths description.

Sunday the officers brought the youth here, but he said the girls were not the ones to whom he referred.

Winamac (IN) Republican 24 Sep 1925: 1. Microfilm.

Girls out on bail

## **PATCHETT SISTERS OUT OF JAIL ON \$500 BONDS**

Fern Patchett and Jewell Patchett-Shannon, who again have been spending some time in the Fulton county jail since their appearance at Terre Haute several weeks ago in company with two young men, were released on \$500 bonds each, Tuesday, reports the Rochester News-Sentinel. Their guarantors were Preston Patchett, their father, and his neighbor, Hugh Van Meter.

The girls, who had been in jail since early September this time, are awaiting trial before a jury in the local circuit court on November 5 on charges of perjury, growing out of Fern's case in a past court term against her father for incest, and in which the two girls failed to testify against Mr. Patchett.

Mr. Patchett and Mr. Van Meter were two of the three former bondsmen who withdrew after the Terre Haute episode.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Oct 1925: 4. Microfilm.

'The Patchett Girls Again'

**The Patchett Girls Again**  
On motion of the defendants' attorney, Charles Campbell, Judge Hurd Hurst of Peru, to whom the cases had been assigned for trial in the Fulton circuit court, were continued against Fern Patchett and Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon, who are charged with perjury, over the present term of court.  
Atty. Campbell presented affidavits showing that Mrs. Shannon was about to become a mother and that Preston Patchett, father of the defendants was in a serious condition, having suffered a stroke of paralysis recently which has rendered his right side useless.  
The now famous sisters were in jail at Rochester until last Thursday when bail was provided for them by Hugh Van Meter, prominent Liberty township farmer, and their father. The sisters were arrested at Terre Haute in August by Sheriff Carr of Fulton county, after their bondsmen had surrendered them, according to the News-Sentinel.

Winamac (IN) Republican 12 Nov 1925: 1. Microfilm.

Startling News! Girls in Jail again!

**STARTLING NEWS: PATCHETT SISTERS IN JAIL AGAIN**  
The Patchett sisters, Fern and Jewell Shannon, awaiting trial on charges of perjury growing out of state cases of a former court term, were located Monday afternoon at the home of their father, Preston Patchett, west of Rochester, reports the News-Sentinel of that place. They surrendered to officers, and are now lodged in the county jail.  
The women refuse to discuss their disappearance, since their bondsmen obtained release from the obligation, other than saying they had been at Elkhart and Hartford City.  
The charges of perjury hanging over the women grew out of the trial of Preston Patchett, named by Fern Patchett as guilty of incest. On the stand, the two refused to testify against him.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Jan 1926: 8. Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Startling News! Girls in Jail again!

**IN JAIL AGAIN**

The Patchett sisters, Fern and Jewell Shannon, awaiting trial on charges of perjury growing out of state cases of a former court term, were located Monday afternoon at the home of their father, Preston Patchett, west of Rochester. They surrendered to officers, and are now lodged in the county jail. Mrs. Shannon is soon to become a mother, it is reported.

The women refuse to discuss their disappearance, since their bondsmen obtained release from the obligation, other than saying they had been at Elkhart and Hartford City.

The charges of perjury hanging over the women grew out of the trial of Preston Patchett, named by Fern Patchett guilty of incest. On the stand the two refused to testify against him.

Winamac (IN) Republican 14 Jan 1926: 1. Microfilm.

Pregnant Jewell leaves jail

**PATCHETT GIRL IS ONCE AGAIN IN LIMELIGHT**

Soon to Become Mother, Permitted to Leave the Jail

Mrs. Jewel Patchett Shannon was removed from the Fulton County jail early Tuesday morning under the direction of Dr. H. W. Taylor, and taken to her home in the outskirts of Rochester so that her child, expected shortly, would be born into freedom rather than the confinement of bars and walls. Fern Patchett, a sister, locked up with her sister on a perjury charge, remains in jail. Both have entered a defense as a poor person for a trial that is slated for the current term of circuit court.

Very recently the Patchetts, sisters and both about 18, were reported to have jumped bail, furnished them for the coming perjury trial and were vagrants in Elkhart. Investigation, however, proved that the girls had merely accompanied two young fellows in an automobile ride. This escapade drew much local comment with the result that the Patchett sisters' bondsmen withdrew their trusts. The sisters have been jailed in Rochester for about ten days.

The Patchetts, thus called in the vernacular of the court dockets, know the local bastille from several unsavory contacts. The last was when they caused Dale Knight to be locked up upon a rapine charge for which he was found guilty and sentenced to penal servitude.

Next came one of the sisters up on a night about a year ago to shelter at the county jail, because, she said, her father, Preston M. Patchett, was paying her too intimate attentions. While a waltz at the bastille, then commanded by Sheriff Harley Kochenderfer, Fern Patchett declared that the sheriff had intimacies with her. A state case, with the girl as leading witness, was dismissed. Kochenderfer's political future in the region was rendered worthless. This entire affair smacked strongly of political intrigue.

The state then arraigned Preston M. Patchett for the alleged charge of intimacies with his daughters. Both upon sworn affidavits, declared this fact. At the time of the trial, the girls were mute. Thus the state's count against the father was defeated.

The perjury charge, now current at the circuit court term, is the state's reaction against having a state's witness defeat the state's ends. Perjury charges were filed against both girls for swearing to affidavits that they as good as declared false.

Logansport (IN) Morning Press 20 Jan 1926: 11. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/32494292/?terms=Patchett>

Jewell has baby!

**CHILD BORN TUESDAY**

Mrs. Jewel Patchett Shannon gave birth to a seven pound baby girl Tuesday afternoon. The mother who has figured more or less prominently in the Rochester vicinity during the past three years and who was awaiting trial in the county jail at Rochester on a charge of perjury was removed to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Patchett near Fulton, shortly before the birth of the child. It has been rumored that the state case now on file against Mrs. Shannon and her sister Fern will be dismissed.

Winamac (IN) Republican 21 Jan 1926: 1. Microfilm.

Preston sues Railroad

**FULTON RESIDENT  
ASKS \$10,000 FROM  
RAILWAY COMPANY**

Special to Pharos-Tribune  
ROCHESTER, Ind., Jan. 29.—  
Preston Patchett, now residing  
three miles west of Fulton, today  
entered suit in circuit court  
against the C. and O. railroad to  
collect \$10,000 personal damages  
and \$600 for loss of possessions.  
The suit is based on an accident  
in which Patchett claims he re-  
ceived the injuries when a train  
on the defendant's lines struck  
the horses and wagon owned and  
driven by him at a crossing near  
here. The horses were killed and  
the wagon demolished. Campbell  
and Emmons are attorneys for  
the plaintiff.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 29 Jan 1926: 2. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/24835919/?terms=Patchett>

Preston sues Railroad

**PATCHETT SUES C. & O.  
RAILWAY FOR \$10,600**

A damage suit asking \$10,000 for  
personal injuries sustained, and \$600  
for loss of possessions has been filed  
in the Fulton circuit court by Preston  
Patchett against the Chesapeake &  
Ohio railroad.

Mr. Patchett was formerly a resi-  
dent of the vicinity north of Wina-  
mac but now lives three miles west  
of Fulton, and the instance for which  
he asks damages is one that occurred  
on August 20, 1925, when a wagon he  
was driving was struck by a C. & O.  
train at a crossing north of his home,  
as he was on his way to assist a neigh-  
bor to thresh.

Mr. Patchett states that his view  
at the crossing was obstructed by an  
orchard and growing corn, and that  
the engineer of the train which struck  
his rig failed to signal either by whis-  
tle or bell.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 Feb 1926: 8. Microfilm.

Preston sues Railroad

**PATCHETT SUES ROAD  
FOR ACCIDENT INJURY**

A damage suit asking \$10,000 for personal injuries and \$600 for loss of possessions has been filed in the Fulton circuit court by Preston Patchett, against the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. Mr. Patchett lives three miles west of Fulton.

The instance for which he asks damages is one that occurred on August 20, 1925, when a wagon he was driving was struck by a C. & O. train at a crossing north of his home, as he was on his way to assist a neighbor to thresh.

Mr. Patchett states that his view at the crossing was obstructed by an orchard and growing corn, and his complaint states that the engineer of the train which struck his rig failed to signal either by whistle or bell. In the accident, Mr. Patchett states a horse valued at \$150 was killed, and a \$77 wagon and \$135 worth of harness ruined.

The plaintiff states he was thrown 50 feet out of the wagon and rendered unconscious, and that he was hurt so that he has been unable since to perform any labor of consequence.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 Feb 1926: 1. Microfilm.

Patchett girls free

**PATCHETT GIRLS FREE**

Prosecutor Galemán Dexter of Plymouth, Tuesday made a motion in the Fulton circuit court to dismiss charges of perjury entered several months ago against Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon of Winamac, and her sister, Miss Fern Patchett, reports the Rochester Sentinel. The motion was based by the prosecutor on the grounds that the girls had spent enough time in jail awaiting trial for sufficient punishment. The request was sustained by Special Judge Hurd Hurst of Peru.

The charges against the two Patchett sisters were filed after they had refused to testify in court against their father Preston Patchett after they had made an affidavit charging him with a statutory offense. The cases have been postponed several times and on two different occasions the girls' bondsmen surrendered them. On each one of these times the Patchett sisters spent long periods of time in the Fulton county jail.

Winamac (IN) Republican 29 Apr 1926: 1. Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Jewell didn't 'marry up'

Harold Shannon, who was arrested a few days ago on a charge of selling mortgaged property, pleaded guilty to the charge in circuit court the latter part of last week and was fined \$50. He had sold a horse to John Underwood, knowing that Kokomo parties held a mortgage on it, and was working for Underwood to pay off the debt. When he "turned up missing" one morning, Underwood notified authorities and the arrest followed. It appeared that Shannon had borrowed money on the horse for the benefit of his wife's relatives, members of the Traver family. Paul Behnke, for whom Shannon is now working, enabled him to secure the money to pay the mortgage on the horse and the fine was suspended.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 May 1926: 1. Microfilm.*

Fern breaks up marriage

## PATCHETT GIRL NAMED IN DIVORCE PROCEEDING

The Patchetts can't keep out of the limelight, it would seem. Recently one of the members of the Patchett clan, Miss Fern, appeared in a new role of a co-respondent in a divorce suit if the petition filed by Mrs. Matilda Flynn against her husband, Ray C. Flynn, proves true, reports the Rochester Sentinel.

Mrs. Flynn who now lives with her parents, at Hebron, alleges her husband whom she married on March 20, 1923 deserted her while she was pregnant and without making any provision for her support on December 29, 1925. The plaintiff sets forth that she was compelled to go to the home of her parents four days later to live.

Mrs. Flynn says the defendant is guilty of cruel and inhuman treatment in that he gave her no attention at all but spent his time with Fern Patchett. Mrs. Flynn accuses her husband with associating with Miss Patchett and with other women.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Aug 1926: 1. Microfilm.*

# Stalking My Hometown 1924-1947 1924 – Preston and all his children

## 'Foxy' found dead

**ROCHESTER MAN  
MURDER VICTIM**

Ray Flynn Found Dead on  
Roadside With Bullet in  
His Heart.

**PULASKI COUNTY MAN  
WANTED AS WITNESS**

Call Sent Here for Harold  
Shannon, But Officers  
Change Minds.

The body of Ray "Foxy" Flynn, a Rochester man twenty-five years of age, was found along the state highway about two miles north of that city early Sunday morning. Flynn had been killed by a shot through the heart from a .38 calibre revolver.

The body was lying about two feet outside the used portion of the highway, and the absence of tracks near it led to the belief that it was dropped there from the running board of a car.

A driver who passed the spot about 2:30 Sunday morning saw what he took to be a pile of old clothes lying along the roadway. It is presumed that what he saw was Flynn's body, and that it was placed there some time before. The last trace of Flynn alive was about 9 o'clock Saturday night, when he was seen on the street in Rochester with a stranger.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1927: 1. Microfilm.*

Flynn, who was a butcher by trade, had been employed with an ice company for several months. On Tuesday of last week, says the Rochester News-Sentinel, he was released from the county jail when he had completed serving a term for contempt of court for failure to make payments for the support of his divorced wife and two young children, who now reside in Hebron. It was also learned that three weeks ago he was arrested at East Chicago, at which time he was accompanied by two sixteen year old Rochester girls.

**Pulaski County Sheriff Called.**

"The officers are at work," added the Rochester paper in its Monday issue, "on several clues, in one of which the eternal triangle looms up as a possible motive and in this connection the names of the well known Patchett sisters, Miss Fern and Mrs. Harold Shannon, and the latter's husband, are slated for a probing by the officers working on the case. Harold Shannon is being sought at Medaryville, Ind., by the sheriff of Winamac today. If apprehended he will be summoned before Prosecutor Fred McClurg."

In connection with this feature of the case, Sheriff Kopkey states that he was requested on Sunday to locate Shannon, and found that he was working on the west side of this county. Officials at Rochester were notified of this fact, and were asked if they had a warrant for Shannon's arrest, but said they did not care to question him at this time. The matter was then dropped by Sheriff Kopkey.

It was first thought, said a later report from Rochester, that the unknown stranger was Harold Shannon, but this was found to be erroneous.

Another possibility that loomed up in the process of probing was that an attempt was made to hi-jack a run-runner, and that this effort resulted in a fatality to the attackers. Substantiating this assumption, the founders of this claim point to the fact that a handkerchief worn about the slain man's neck might have been used for the purpose of a mask.

## 'Foxy's' death a mystery

**Rochester Murder  
Is Still a Mystery;  
'Triangle' Scented**

The "break" in the Flynn murder mystery case which every one has been anxiously awaiting still remains in the offing, declared the Rochester News-Sentinel in its Monday issue. Many local people have made the assertion that the officers are at their string's end and the Flynn killing will always remain unsolved. Whether or not they are right in this assumption will be known within the next few weeks.

Just what Prosecutor Fred McClurg and County Sheriff Fred Carr accomplished on their trip out of this city last Saturday is unknown. They did state their business was pertaining to the solution of the recent murder. If their trip was made for the purpose of bringing the "stranger" in whose company Flynn was seen on the night he was killed, it surely proved futile as there have been no new boarders added to the county jail's list.

Another report current this morning was that they were awaiting the return of the revolver and finger print plates from an Indianapolis detective agency. When quizzed the authorities again stated they had nothing to make public.

In yesterday's issue the Rochester paper said: "It developed that Flynn had been brooding over the possibility of being killed by a certain 'gang' for several days before the fatal night. Strange noises had been heard around the Flynn home on two different occasions preceding the slaying of Flynn. During Flynn's stay in the local jail it is alleged by his closest associates, that interviews were held with the confined man, to prevent his 'squaking' in a recent fur theft which was committed at the south edge of Rochester. "The above supposition is but one of the two possible motives for the killing of 'Foxy' as advanced by members of the Flynn household. The other angle is the Shannon-Patchett-Flynn triangle. Flynn was known to be exceptionally friendly with both of the Patchett sisters; one a Miss Fern, who is at present residing at the Flynn home, and the other the estranged wife of Harold Shannon, a former resident of Winamac. Flynn on numerous occasions was said to have stated he feared Shannon would 'get' him.

"Mrs. Shannon resides at Logansport, and on the night that the murder was committed in this city, three men came up on the porch of her home and sought 'Bud' Knight. Knight, it was stated, was in the house at that time but sensing trouble did not answer to the knocks on the door. Relatives of Flynn advance the theory that the men then came on to this city and may have taken 'Foxy' for a ride."

**ROCHESTER MURDER  
STILL A MYSTERY**

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Feb 1927: 1&8. Microfilm.*

## Jewell divorces Harold

**GRANTED DIVORCE**

Mrs. Jewell Patchett Shannon was granted a divorce Saturday morning from her husband, Harold Shannon, of Medaryville, by Judge R. R. Carr, of Rochester, on the grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment, non-support and desertion. Mrs. Shannon was given the custody of their daughter. Mrs. Shannon has figured in the Rochester court on several occasions.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 29 Aug 1926: 3. Microfilm.*

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Case dismissed!

The following cases were dismissed at plaintiffs' cost and judgement for costs entered in same: Ernest Umbreit vs. Frank Downs. Drainage in Pulaski and Jasper counties by James Harmon et al. Alfred B. Lyon et al vs. Frank Haley et al. **Harold Shannon vs. Jewel Shannon.** Ora A. Coburn vs. Biven Coburn. Charles E. Lloyd vs. Margaret E. Lloyd.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Apr 1926: 6. Microfilm.

Paul sentenced to reformatory

### Paul Patchett Given Term in Reformatory

Paul Patchett of Monon, formerly a resident of the Winamac vicinity and later of Rochester, was given a reformatory sentence of two to fourteen years Monday morning by Judge John Smith in the Cass circuit court after the defendant had pleaded guilty to a charge of issuing fraudulent checks. Patchett has been in jail at Logansport for the past three months. His arrest came after he had posed as a federal prohibition agent. Patchett is wanted at Kewanha for writing bad checks and in other towns and cities in Cass and Fulton counties on the same charge. Sheriff William Zerbe took Patchett to the reformatory Tuesday.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 9 May 1929: 1. Microfilm.

Jury hung

### JURY FAILS TO AGREE IN PATCHETT DAMAGE TRIAL

A jury disagreement was the outcome of a damage suit tried at Logansport last week in which Preston Patchett, formerly living north of Winamac but now living west of Fulton, had sued the C. & O. railway for \$20,000 damages for alleged personal injuries. The jury was discharged by Judge John Smith on Sunday evening, when it reported that no agreement could be reached after 25 hours' deliberation.

The suit had been filed by Patchett for injuries which he received when a team and wagon in his charge were struck by a C. & O. freight train west of Fulton in August, 1925. Patchett declared that he had received permanent injuries in the accident.

Many doctors testified for both the plaintiff and the defendant. Their opinions differed greatly as to the extent of the plaintiff's injuries. The jury on Friday was taken to the railroad crossing by Sheriff William Zerbe, where they made a personal inspection of the ground.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Dec 1929: 6. Microfilm.

Preston starts a subscription to The  
Democrat

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* THE ADVANCE LIST \*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
P. M. Patchett of the Monon vicinity, by mail — new.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Mar 1930: 7. Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Preston's suit moved to Pulaski County

**Big Damage Suit Venued Here**  
The \$20,000 personal and \$600 property damage suit of Preston Patchett vs. the C. & O. Railroad was venued here after a round in the Cass Circuit, where it had been venued from Fulton. Mr. Patchett was struck by a C. & O. train near Fulton August 20, 1925, and claims that he was permanently disabled. The suit has been in various courts ever since January, 1926.

Winamac (IN) Republican 13 Mar 1930: 6. Microfilm.

Preston's new trial on calendar

**COURT CALENDAR.**  
The following cases have been set for trial during the term, those marked (J) being jury cases:  
April —  
28—Aetna Ins. Co. vs. Gordon.  
28—Aetna Ins. Co. vs. Vanbuskirk.  
29—Leach vs. Hellman.  
30—Thomas vs. O'Connell.  
May —  
2—Federal Land Bank vs. Lidgard.  
5—State vs. Gray. (J)  
5—Co-operative Co. vs. Malia.  
5—Co-operative Co. vs. Buckles.  
7—State vs. Steele. (J)  
8—State vs. Gutwein. (J)  
8—State vs. Mertis. (J)  
9—Inter. Harvester Co. vs. Medaryville Co-op. Co.  
12—State vs. Hoover. (J)  
13—Speicher vs. Chandler. (J)  
14—Patchett vs. C. & O. (J)  
19—McKipley vs. Farr.  
20—Chi. Garment Co. vs. Rosenberg.  
20—Darling vs. Potter.  
21—National Bank vs. Shine.  
22—Blue vs. Anderson.  
22—Keller vs. Anderson.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Apr 1930: 8. Microfilm.

Patchett vs. C&O scheduled

Monday, Sept. 22—Patchett vs. C. & O. Railroad; Penn. Railroad vs. Farmers Co-Op Elevator.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 Sep 1930: 1. Microfilm.

Patchett vs. C&O continued

**Action in Cases**  
The petit jury was called Monday morning for the Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway and the State vs. Ford cases. The first case was continued to Dec. 1 by agreement of the parties and the Ford case was continued to today. The jurors were therefore dismissed with orders to report again today unless otherwise notified.

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Sep 1930: 1. Microfilm.

Preston's case continued

**Damage Case Postponed.**  
The petit jury was called in Monday for trial of a damage suit brought by Preston Patchett against the C. & O. railway company, but the case was continued to next term and set for trial December 1.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Sep 1930: 1. Microfilm.

On the docket again

**Third Week**  
Monday, Dec. 1—Patchett vs. C. & O. Railroad; State vs. Doad; State vs. Budd; State vs. Stein.

Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Nov 1930: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Change of venue granted

In a damage suit brought by Preston Patchett against the C. & O. railway, set for trial this week, the company asked a change of venue from Judge Pentecost and Judge Ralph McClurg of White county was appointed special judge.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 Dec 1930: 1. Microfilm.*

Jury impaneled

The petit jury was impaneled Wednesday morning to try the damage suit of Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway. Judge Ralph McClurg of the White Circuit is sitting as special judge on this case, which is still in progress as we go to press.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 18 Dec 1930: 6. Microfilm.*

Preston's suit moves forward, for now...

## WEEK'S NEWS AT THE COURT-HOUSE

### Damage Suit by Patchett Against C. & O. on Trial by Jury.

A suit for damages brought by Preston M. Patchett against the C. & O. Railway went on trial in circuit court yesterday, before a jury. Judge Ralph McClurg of Monticello is sitting as special judge. It is expected that the trial will require all the remainder of this week and two or more days of next week.

The claim is for damages which Patchett alleges he sustained when a wagon in which he rode was struck by a train on the C. & O. near Fulton. Patchett, who formerly lived north of Winamac, was then a resident of Fulton county. He now lives near Monon. The case was originally started in the Fulton circuit court, taken to Cass on a change of venue and later sent to this county.

The jury is composed of Leo Hoover, Herman Bremer, Frank Overmyer, Charles Sutton, Isadore Podell, Urban Wank, Frank Marker, Fritz Weltzin, Oscar Lowry, George Metz, Stacy Bonnell and Frank Hummel. Several attorneys from other courts are here for the case, including Frank L. Dukes of Chicago, formerly of Winamac. He is an attorney for the railway, as are also Messrs. Cole of Peru and Bernetha of Rochester. Representing the plaintiff are Campbell & Emmons of Rochester and Horner & Thompson of Winamac.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Dec 18 1930: 1. Microfilm.*



November term continued due to trial

**WHO, WHY, WHEN  
WHAT AT COURT  
HOUSE THIS WEEK**

**November Term Continued with  
Special Judge on Account  
of Damage Suit**

Instead of closing Saturday, the November term of Circuit Court was continued into this week on account of the Patchett vs. C. & O. damage suit, which is being heard by Special Judge McClurg of the White Circuit.

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Dec 1930: 1. Microfilm.

Trial goes to jury

**WEEK'S NEWS AT  
THE COURT-HOUSE**

**Damage Suit Still on Trial  
in Circuit Court—State  
School Aid.**

The December term of circuit court ended Saturday, and Judge W. C. Pentecost left at once for Miami Beach, Florida, to spend two weeks with Mrs. Pentecost and their daughter, who have been there since autumn. Don Laramore, court stenographer, had planned to accompany the judge on the southern motor trip, but was unable to leave because the Patchett damage suit against the C. & O. railway was continued over into this week. Judge Ralph McClurg of Monticello is sitting as special judge in that case.

It was expected Wednesday that the hearing of evidence in the Patchett case would be nearly or quite completed by evening, and that court would then adjourn to Friday. Some of the attorneys suggested to the judge that it would be nice to include the day before Christmas in the vacation, but the judge left it to the jurymen and they announced that they would rather work Wednesday and thus reach the end of the session that much sooner.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Dec 25 1930: 1. Microfilm.

Preston awarded 5,500

**VERDICT FOR \$5,500.**

A verdict awarding damages in the sum of \$5,500 was returned Saturday forenoon by the jury which heard the suit brought by Preston Patchett against the C. & O. railway. It was stated that the railway company will appeal the case to the supreme court.

The evidence in the case was concluded last Wednesday afternoon. A recess was taken over Christmas Day, arguments of the attorneys heard on Friday, and the case given to the jury about 6 o'clock that evening. At least one jurymen was said to have favored an award of about \$10,000, and it was understood that the final figure was in the nature of a compromise after about sixteen hours' deliberation.

Patchett now lives near Monon but formerly lived north of Winamac. The family moved from here to Fulton county, and in 1925 a train struck a team which Patchett was driving across the C. & O. tracks. He filed suit for loss of the horses and for personal injuries. It was sent to Cass county on a change of venue, where the jury disagreed. The transfer to this county followed.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Jan 1931: 8. Microfilm.*

Preston wins!

## WHO, WHY, WHEN WHAT AT COURT HOUSE THIS WEEK

**Jury Awards Patchett \$5,500  
Other Rail Suits Are  
Filed**

Six years of court action came to an end, or at least to a decision, Saturday when a local jury awarded Preston M. Patchett \$5,500 damages in his suit against the C. & O. Railway for injuries suffered when he was struck by a train on that railroad. While no action has been taken to date it is expected that the railroad company will file an appeal. The case, which started in the Fulton Circuit Court, was venued to Cass county and finally to this county, was heard by Judge McClurg, of Monticello.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Jan 1931: 1. Microfilm.*

Here's another suit  
{What's this about?}

**Wednesday—Gross vs. Gross; Lutz vs. Potter; Patchett vs. C. & O. Railroad.**

*Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Feb 1931: 1. Microfilm.*

Paul put on probation

## Patchett Lad Placed on Probation by U. S. Judge

Paul Patchett, former Pulaski county lad, arrested by federal authorities several months ago for transporting a stolen automobile from East St. Louis, Ill., to Logansport, was sentenced to two years in federal prison at Leavenworth, Kans., by Federal Judge Thomas W. Slick of South Bend last Friday. Judge Slick, however, suspended the sentence for five years and placed the youth on probation.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Jul 1931: 1. Microfilm.*

Paul Patchett escapes sentence

## FORMER LOGAL YOUTH ESCAPES SENTENCE

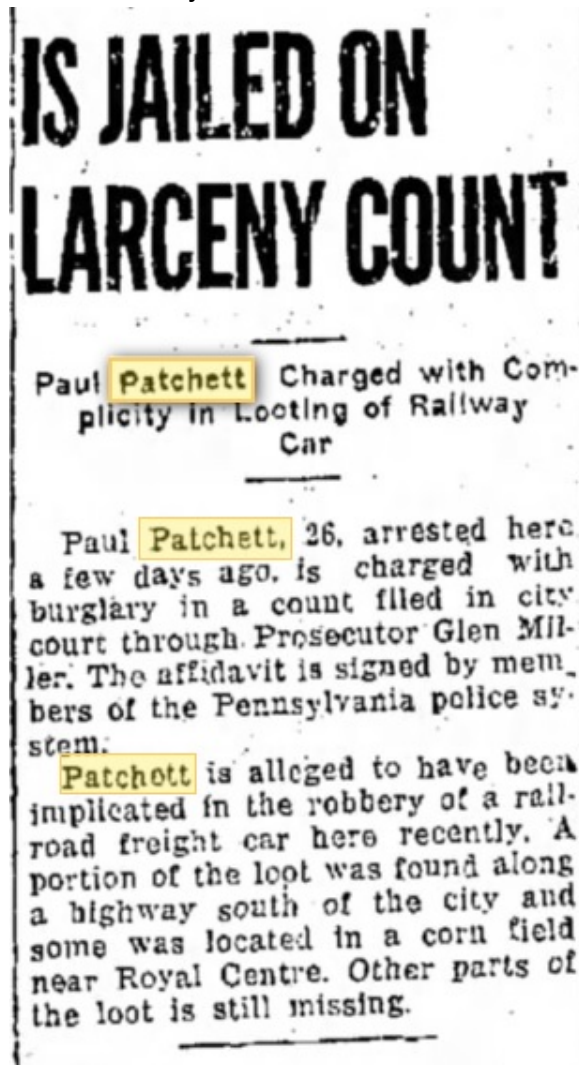
Paul Patchett, alias Paul Padgett, sentenced here in 1929 to a term of two to seven years in the reformatory at Pendleton for issuing forged checks, was given a suspended sentence in the Federal court at South Bend where he was taken immediately upon being released from the state reformatory, police were informed today.

When Patchett, or Padgett, was arrested here he had in his possession an automobile which had been stolen in East St. Louis. The charge against him in the Federal court was for this offense. Judge Slick suspended the sentence for five years, meaning that in case of the defendant's misbehavior within this period the suspended sentence can be invoked.

*Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 24 Jul 1931: 9.*  
Website (newspapers.com).

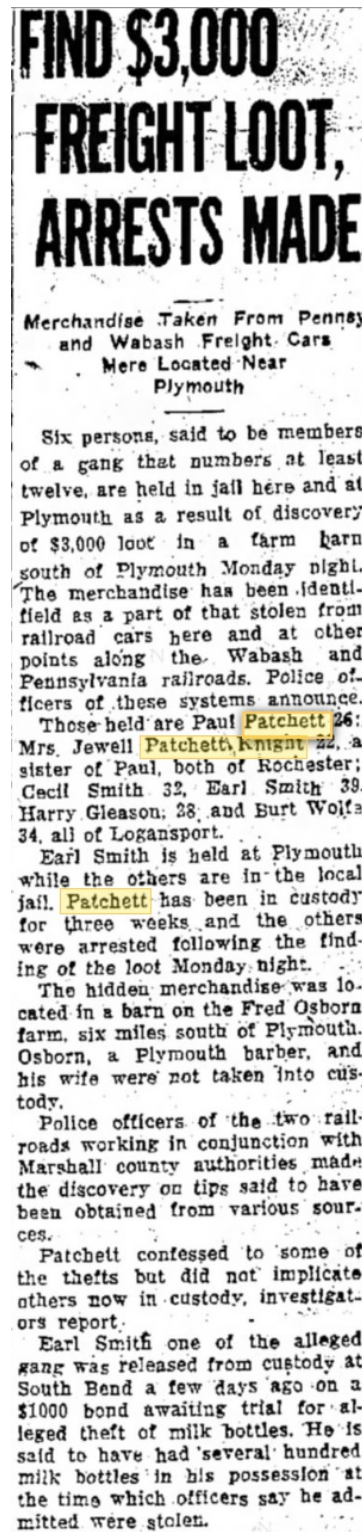


Paul Patchett jailed



Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 11 Nov 1931: 7.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Patchett kids arrested



Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 17 Nov 1931: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Paul and Jewell held for theft

## Woman, Brother, Sweetheart Held for Rail Thefts

Paul Patchett and his sister, Mrs. Jewell Patchett Knight, formerly residents of Winamac and vicinity, and Cecil Smith of Logansport, who was wounded in a sheriff's battle with rum runners north of Winamac four years ago, are members of a group of six persons under arrest for railway robberies at Plymouth and Logansport.

The arrests were made by William Strahle and other Pennsylvania railway detectives after loot valued at \$3,000 was discovered in a barn on the Fred Osborn farm, six miles south of Plymouth. The merchandise was identified as goods stolen from Pennsylvania and Wabash railway cars and included large quantities of gloves, dresses, shoes, blankets and other articles.

The other three persons under arrest are Earl Smith, Harry Gleason and Bert Wolfe, all of Logansport. Cecil Smith and Mrs. Knight are said to be sweethearts. She was formerly the wife of Harold Shannon and lived in Winamac for a time before they were divorced.

Paul Patchett, who recently completed a term in prison for car theft and impersonating a federal officer, was taken into custody by Logansport police for investigation. He was said to have had a Pennsylvania car seal in his pocket. Railway detectives were then notified.

### Car Thefts Total \$10,000.

Authorities said they believed the goods were being sold through a "fence" in Chicago. Car thefts estimated at \$10,000 have taken place during recent weeks in Logansport and vicinity.

The Knight woman has been working in Rochester restaurants for several months. Officials declared that Paul Patchett had con-

(Continued on Page Eight)

## PATCHETT GIRL HELD FOR THEFT

(Continued from Page One)  
fessed to some of the thefts but that he did not implicate others under arrest.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 19 Nov 1931: 1&8. Microfilm.

Those Patchetts again!

[Although Jewell's named, there's a Paul, instead of Fern.]

## FORMER RESIDENTS HELD IN ROBBERIES

A serious case of freight car robbing which has occupied officers of the Wabash and Pennsylvania railroads for several weeks was cracked wide open Tuesday with the arrest of eight of the alleged thieves and the recovery of \$3,000 worth of loot.

Those arrested were Cecil Smith, Jewel Patchett Knight, Harry Gleason, Bert Wolfe, John Miller, Earl Smith, Paul Patchett and Harry Blake. All gave their homes as Logansport. Jewel Knight is a sister of Patchett. Charges were placed against the gang today.

The merchandise which included radios, wearing apparel, blankets, heaters, underwear, caps and a number of gloves, was found at Bass Lake and Plymouth. At the latter place several thousand dollars worth of loot was found.

Officers uncovered the gang when Smith made a trip to South Bend and traded several packages of gloves for gasoline. Several of the gang were already suspected but Patchett was arrested first and implicated some of the others. More than 30 cars have been robbed by the gang.

The Knight woman, it is said, is about to become a mother and efforts are being made to send her to the home of her parents near Monterey.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Nov 1931: 1. Microfilm.

1931-11-27 - Paul was a fugitive! -  
Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune - p1 -  
Patchett

# VIOLATORS OF PAROLES ARE CLAIMED HERE

Two Men Held for Complicity in  
Freight Car Thefts Will Likely  
Be Returned to Prison.

Possibility that Paul Patchett  
and Harry Gleason, alleged mem-  
bers of the freight thief gang now  
in the county jail, must first serve  
sentences on which they are now  
under parole loomed today after  
parole officials conferred with the  
county authorities.

It was revealed by the officers  
that Gleason has nine years of a  
one to ten year sentence to serve  
at the state reformatory and that  
Patchett has twelve years of a two  
to fourteen year sentence to serve  
at the same institution.

Patchett is also under parole  
from federal court, the local offi-  
cers have learned.

Petition that the two be claimed  
as parole violators is expected to  
be filed by Cass county law en-  
forcement officers soon.

It is pointed out that even if the  
two were sentenced here they  
would be required to serve the  
other sentences first.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 27 Nov 1931: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com).

1931-12-02 - Paul returned to prison -  
Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune - p7 -  
Patchett

## Gleason Returned To Reformatory

Harry Gleason, member of the  
alleged gang of freight thieves held  
in jail here, was claimed Tuesday  
afternoon by officers of the state  
reformatory who returned him to  
that institution as a parole viola-  
tor. He has eight years of a ten  
year sentence to serve.

Paul Patchett and Fred Schreck  
enhaut, two other members of the  
gang, may be claimed by the state  
prison and federal officers as par-  
ole violators, local officers state.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 2 Dec 1931: 7.  
Website (newspapers.com).



Paul called as witness against his gang

# MILLER CASE BEFORE JURY

Defendant on Trial is Accused of  
Complicity in Railway Box  
Car Theft Ring

John Miller went on trial in the Cass circuit court today on charge of auto banditry and burglary. A jury consisting of A. R. Matthews, Harry Burrows, William McMillen, James G. Bingham, Ted Russell, Alfred Neff, Samuel Gerrard, George Holland, Dennis Leasure, Dale George, William Dehaven and Cleo Tousley is hearing the case.

Miller is alleged to be a member of the gang that is said to have stolen merchandise from railroad box cars.

Paul Patchett, another alleged member of the gang was the first witness called by the state.

Attorney Harold Mull and Frank McHale represent the defendant.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 20 Jan 1932: 1  
Website (newspapers.com).

Trial with Paul as witness nears end

# STATE NEARS END OF JOHN MILLER CASE

Prosecution Parades Array Of  
Witnesses Before Court To-  
day at Banditry-burglary  
Case

The state expected to rest before the close of the afternoon session today in the trial of John Miller charged with burglary and auto banditry.

Fourteen witness had been used at noon today, several of whom were recalled to testify. Those listed as having testified are Paul Patchett, Jewell Patchett Knight, Marie Osborn, Joseph Buckner, English Lake store proprietor; William Strahle, Floyd O'Neill, C. L. Moran, C. L. Hamilton, John Horne, H. R. Rhoades and Joseph Selzer, railroad detectives; William Zerbe, former sheriff and Gertrude Spillman.

During cross questioning, defense attorneys, Frank McHale and Harold Mull, brought out that in the alleged robbery for which Miller is being tried the defendant was not seen to break into, enter or leave the box car from which the merchandise was said to have been stolen.

After the court overruled defense objection to an alleged statement said to have been made and signed by Miller was admitted as evidence at the close of the Wednesday session of the trial.

Efforts are being made to complete the case Friday.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 21 Jan 1932: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Paul has counts added to charge

## **Additional Counts Filed Against Two**

John Miller, Paul Patchett and Cecil Smith, three box car case defendants are now charged with additional counts.

Additional papers alleging second degree burglary and auto banditry, three counts, were filed with the county clerk late Tuesday, by prosecutor Glen Miller.

The action came as John Miller prepared to be released on a \$2,000 bond given for the first charges against him.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 3 Feb 1932: 4.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Paul returned to South Bend for parole violation

## **TAKE PATCHETT TO SOUTH BEND**

Marshal takes Charge of Man held Here Since November As a Parole Violator

Paul Patchett, held in the Cass County jail since November, was taken to South Bend this afternoon by William H. Cordier, marshal of the United States court, as a parole violator.

Some time ago Patchett was convicted in federal court when tried on a charge of violation of the Dyer Act, but the judge placed him on five year probation, instead of sending him to prison.

Recently Patchett was arrested here for alleged participation in wholesale box car robbery.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 23 Feb 1932: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com).



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Paul sentenced to two years

# PATCHETT WILL SERVE 2 YEARS

Parole From Sentence Imposed  
Last June Is Revoked By  
Judge Slick

Paul Patchett, 27, removed from here to South Bend Wednesday to be taken before Judge Thomas Slick in United States court as a violator of a federal parole, must serve a two year sentence that was imposed upon him last June when he pleaded guilty to violation of the national motor vehicle theft law. Marshal Cordier of the court came here for Patchett.

Patchett's violation of his parole was his alleged implication in the wholesale thefts from railroad box cars.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 26 Feb 1932: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Jewell divorced by a Steve Knight (relative of rapist?) for desertion

A divorce has been granted to Steve Knight from his wife Jewell Patchett Knight, who had been charged with desertion.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 1 Mar 1932: 5. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/3878257/?terms=Patchett>

Preston to vacate

## NEW COURT SUITS.

The Lafayette Life Insurance Co. filed suit Monday against Preston M. Patchett for possession of a farm in the southeastern part of Jefferson township, alleging that the place was leased to Patchett a year ago but that he refused to move at expiration of the lease on February 28.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Mar 1932: 8. Microfilm.

Jewell 'buys then gives' hot dress to sister Lillian

## HOLD WOMAN FOR THEFT OF DRESS FROM STORE HERE

Bessie McCain, 29, was held in jail today for the alleged theft of a dress from a local department store Saturday. She was arrested Monday night and technically slated for investigation.

Chief of Police Carson said today that he had obtained a statement from Jewell Knight that she had bought the dress, worth about \$10, from the McCain woman, for \$1.50, and had given it to her sister, Lillian Patchett, 19, of Winamac.

Lillian Patchett was arrested Monday night when the dress was found in her possession, but was released.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 29 Mar 1932: 6.  
Website (newspapers.com).

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

One Patchett sister gives another a hot dress

**LOCAL WOMAN HELD**  
Bessie McCain, 29, was held in the Logansport jail for the alleged theft of a dress from a Logansport department store Saturday. She was arrested Monday night and technically slated for investigation.  
Chief of Police Carson said Tuesday that he had obtained a statement from Jewell Knight that she had bought the dress, worth about \$10, from the McCain woman for \$1.50, and had given it to her sister, Lillian Patchett, 19, of Winamac.  
Lillian Patchett was arrested Monday night when the dress was found in her possession, but was released.  
Jewell Knight was recently implicated in a series of alleged railroad car robberies.—Logansport Pharos-Tribune.

Winamac (IN) Republican 31 Mar 1932: 5. Microfilm.

Suit against Preston dismissed

The suit of the Lafayette Life Insurance Co. vs. Preston Patchett was dismissed at the plaintiff's request and costs.

Winamac (IN) Republican 28 Apr 1932: 1. Microfilm.

Preston loses

**Patchett Loses Damage  
Verdict Against C. & O.**

The Indiana appellate court has reversed a case tried in the Pulaski circuit court in which Preston Patchett was awarded a verdict for \$5,500 in a damage suit against the C. & O. railway.

The higher court's decision reviews the evidence, which showed that Patchett was driving a team and a wagon northward on a road in Fulton county; that the view eastward toward the approaching train was badly obstructed until the driver reached the right-of-way, sixty-eight feet from the track; that on reaching the right-of-way he could see down the track about 150 feet; that Patchett testified that he looked down the track when he reached the right-of-way but not again until the front feet of his horses were on the south rail, when he saw the train and the collision occurred.

The court holds that Patchett was guilty of contributory negligence, and that the evidence was not sufficient to sustain the verdict.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Mar 1933: 1. Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Railroad ruling reversed and worse

The Indiana Appellate Court reversed a jury finding of the local court when it handed down a decision in favor of the defendant in the damage suit of Preston M. Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway. The local jury found for Mr. Patchett and awarded him \$5,500 damages. The Appellate Court decision not only takes the \$5,500 award from Mr. Patchett, but throws the cost of the case onto him also. The suit resulted from injuries sustained by Mr. Patchett when he was struck by a C. & O. train at a crossing north of Kewanna in 1929.

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 May 1933: 1. Microfilm.

Maybe third time's the charm for Jewell

Jewel Knight, Logansport, daughter of P. M. Patchett, Winamac, and Henry Sherman, 716 Melbourne avenue, were married Monday night by Justice of the Peace James Reid, 100 West Ottawa street, at the Reid home. Mr. Sherman is a painter.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 16 Jan 1934: 8. Website:  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/2525936/?terms=Patchett>

Preston's suit to be retried

The damage suit of Preston M. Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway was returned by the Appellate Court for retrial here. When Special Judge Ralph McClurg refused to serve, Judge Pentecost gave the litigants the choice of Judge Robert Miller, of Fulton; Judge George Custer, of Cass, or Orville W. Nichols, of Starke.

Winamac (IN) Republican 8 Feb 1934: 1. Microfilm.

Re-trial schedule

**Re-Trial of Damage Suit**

A damage suit dating back to the year 1925, in which Preston Patchett sought \$10,000 damages for injuries sustained when his wagon was struck by a C. & O. train, has been set for re-trial here during the present term.

The suit was tried before a jury a little over three years ago and a verdict for \$5,500 returned. In March of last year the Indiana appellate court reversed the case and upheld the railway's motion for a new trial.

Judge Ralph McClurg of Monticello sat as special judge at the trial here, but he has resigned from further participation in the case. Judge Pentecost presented a list of other judges from which the attorneys in the case will select a new special judge.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Feb 1934: 1. Microfilm.

Case drags on

When the damage suit of Preston M. Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway came up before Special Judge George A. Custer Monday, the defendant was ordered to answer on or before March 5, the plaintiff was given until March 6 to obtain the deposition of Elmer Hires, of Huntington, and the case was set for trial April 23.

Winamac (IN) Republican 22 Feb 1934: 1. Microfilm.



Preston's suit begins

The \$15,000 damage suit of Preston M. Patchett vs. the C. & O. Railway was begun in Circuit Court Monday morning before Special Judge George Custer, of Logansport, in the absence of Judge Pentecost, who is sitting as special judge on a criminal case in the Cass Circuit Court.

Most of the day Monday was taken to obtain a jury, the final selection of jurors being Catherine Conway, Ralph Bishop, Oscar Simmermaker, Charles Reading, John C. Werner, Reinholt Lange, Ferdinand Seidel, Gilford Chapman, George Brown, John Bair, Fred Fitz and Charles Alberding.

Tuesday morning the plaintiff's evidence was begun and continued until Wednesday evening. This morning the defendant began giving its evidence. The case was tried here originally, appealed to the Appellate Court, which returned it here. It is the result of Mr. Patchett being struck by a train several years ago near Kewanee.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Apr 1934: 1. Microfilm.

Preston tries again

## WEEK'S NEWS AT THE COURT HOUSE

### Nine-Year Old Damage Suit Again on Trial, Patchett vs. C. & O.

A rail crossing crash that occurred nearly nine years ago is the basis of a damage suit on trial in circuit court this week. It is the \$15,000 claim brought by Preston O. Patchett against the C. & O. railway, tried here once before, reversed by the state appellate court and sent back for re-trial.

Patchett's horses were killed, his wagon damaged and he was allegedly injured when his vehicle was struck by a train on a crossing near Fulton on August 20, 1925. A damage suit, filed in Fulton county a few months later, was venued from one court to another and finally tried here three years ago last January. The jury returned a verdict awarding him \$5,500.

The railway company appealed and the higher court reversed the case a year ago last month. The re-trial was set for this week and Judge George Custer of Logansport appointed special judge. Judge Pentecost is at Logansport holding court for Judge Custer. The plaintiff's evidence was completed last evening and attorneys stated this morning that the trial will likely require the remainder of the week.

#### Woman on Jury.

Composing the jury are Miss Catherine Conway, Ralph Bishop, Oscar Simmermaker, Charles Reading, John C. Werner, Reinholt Lange, Ferdinand Seidel, Gilford Chapman, George Brown, Fred Fitz, John Bair and Charles Alberding.

Attorneys engaged in the trial include Charles Campbell and Charles Emmons of Rochester, and R. E. Thompson of this city, for the plaintiff; Harvey Cole of Peru, Harry Bernetha of Rochester and J. G. Reidelbach of Winamac, for the railway.

Mr. Patchett and wife now live in a small house on Miss Emma Hoch's farm northeast of Winamac, having moved there recently from Indian Creek township.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Apr 1934: 1. Microfilm.

Preston tries again

**WHO, WHY, WHEN  
WHAT AT COURT  
HOUSE THIS WEEK**

**Special Judge Trying Damage  
Suit**

The \$15,000 damage suit of Preston M. Patchett vs. the C. & O. Railway was begun in Circuit Court Monday morning before Special Judge George Custer, of Logansport, in the absence of Judge Pentecost, who is sitting as special judge on a criminal case in the Cass Circuit Court.

Most of the day Monday was taken to obtain a jury, the final selection of jurors being Catherine Conway, Ralph Bishop, Oscar Simmermaker, Charles Reading, John C. Werner, Reinholt Lange, Ferdinand Seidel, Gilford Chapman, George Brown, John Bair, Fred Fitz and Charles Alberding.

Tuesday morning the plaintiff's evidence was begun and continued until Wednesday evening. This morning the defendant began giving its evidence. The case was tried here originally, appealed to the Appellate Court, which returned it here. It is the result of Mr. Patchett being struck by a train several years ago near Kewanna.

Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Apr 1934: 1.  
Microfilm.

Preston wins!

**Verdict for Patchett.**

The jury which heard the damage suit of Preston M. Patchett against the C. & O. Railway returned a verdict Tuesday evening awarding the plaintiff \$2,550. This is approximately one-half the sum awarded in a former verdict, which was later reversed by the appellate court.

The evidence in the case was concluded Saturday, and the jury was taken Monday to the scene of the accident near Fulton, where Patchett's team and wagon were struck by a train on a crossing nine years ago. He was injured. The railway's defense was that he he could have seen the approaching train if he had looked carefully.

The jury took the case shortly after noon on Tuesday and returned the verdict about 8 o'clock that evening. Trial of the case began Monday of last week, with Judge George Custer of Logansport sitting as special judge.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 May 1934: 1. Microfilm.

Preston vindicated!

**WHO, WHY, WHEN  
WHAT AT COURT  
HOUSE THIS WEEK**

**Judge Returns; \$2,550 Dam-  
ages Awarded Patchett**

After spending the first four days of the week at Logansport as special judge on an auto banditry case, Judge Pentecost returned here Friday morning and opened Court in the room adjoining the sheriff's office due to the fact the Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway damage suit was being heard in the Court room by Special Judge George Custer, of Logansport.

**Patchett Awarded \$2,550**

The Patchett-C. & O. damage suit came to an end Tuesday evening at 8:30 when the jury after 8 hours deliberation awarded Mr. Patchett \$2,550 damages. The case had been in progress since Monday of last week. This is the second time a local jury has awarded Mr. Patchett damages, the first award having been reversed by the Appellate Court.

Winamac (IN) Republican 3 May 1934: 1.  
Microfilm.

Not so fast, there!

**New Trials Asked**

The C. & O. Railway has filed a motion asking for a new trial of the damage suit of Preston M. Patchett. A jury on May 1 awarded Mr. Patchett \$2,550 damages against the railroad. This was the second time a verdict had been rendered in Mr. Patchett's favor.

Winamac (IN) Republican 7 Jun 1934: 1.  
Microfilm.

New judge in new trial

**Special Judge Qualifies**

Attorney George F. Stevens, of Plymouth, qualified Wednesday afternoon as special judge to try the Preston M. Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway damage suit. Judge Stevens will hear a motion for a new trial at 10 o'clock Monday morning.

Attorney Stevens was named special judge by Governor McNutt following the refusal of Judge Moses Lairy, of Logansport, to try the case. The case has been tried here several times and was returned here for a new trial by the Appellate court.

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Apr 1934: 1.  
Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

New judge

**Named Special Judge.**  
Judge George F. Stevens of Plymouth has been appointed special judge in the damage suit brought by Preston Patchett against the C. & O. railway. A jury which heard a re-trial of the old case last May returned a verdict awarding Patchett \$2,550 damages because of an accident some years ago when a train struck Patchett's wagon at a crossing in Fulton county. The railway company filed motion for a new trial, which is now pending.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 May 1935: 8. Microfilm.*

Preston's suit continued

**After a preliminary hearing Monday morning, Special Judge George F. Stevens of Plymouth continued the Patchett vs. C. & O. Railway damage suit to May 13.**

*Winamac (IN) Republican 2 May 1935: 1. Microfilm.*

New trial to start

**WEEK'S NEWS AT  
THE COURT HOUSE**

**Judge Reidelbach Takes Up  
New Duties; Orders Jury  
for Next Week.**

The 59th Indiana Judicial Circuit, comprising Pulaski county only, came into being Monday when the acts of the recent legislature were declared in effect by Governor Paul V. McNutt. The same day a commission was issued to John G. Reidelbach as judge of the court, whose first official act was to arrange for the drawing of a jury to serve next week.

The law establishing the new court provides that the first term shall begin on the Monday following the date on which the act became effective, which automatically postponed the formal opening of court to next Monday. Retrial of the damage suit brought by P. O. Patchett against the C. & O. railway is set to start that day, before George Stevens of Plymouth as special judge. Mr. Reidelbach has been an attorney in the case and is disqualified to sit as judge in it.

Reappointment of John Metz and Fred Borders as jury commissioners for this year was ordered by Judge Reidelbach upon assuming jurisdiction. They then drew the following names from the box for service during the coming term, and the petit jury was ordered to appear next Monday:

**Grand Jurors.**  
Albert Brucker and Edward Engle of Tippecanoe; Dale Lowry of Monroe; John Anliker of Salem; Arthur Kroft of Rich Grove; Roland Leslin of Franklin.

**Petit Jurors.**  
D. A. Skillen and Ray Clark of Van Buren; Herman Alberding of Monroe; Ed Horney of Beaver; Fred Hengle and Braxton Blasser of Rich Grove; Cecil Tiede of Salem; Wm. H. Kroft, Flem May and Charles Borders of Harrison; Roy A. Keller of Tippecanoe; Joseph E. Ryden of White Post.

**Extra Jurors.**  
Merrill T. Davidson of Indian Creek, Clarence Barnett of Monroe, Albert Blakely of Van Buren, A. F. Stewart of Franklin, Herbert Ames of Salem, Dennis Warfield of Harrison.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Jun 1935: 1. Microfilm.*

#### Court recessed

A recess was taken yesterday afternoon in the trial of the Patchett damage suit against the C. & O., for the funeral of Peter M. Buchanan at Rochester. Several Rochester attorneys are engaged in the suit. Mr. Buchanan was one of Fulton county's best known lawyers. He was in his eightieth year.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 20 Jun 1935: 8. Microfilm.*

#### Jurors drawn

With the opening of the June term of Court Monday morning a number of petit jurors were excused for various reasons by Judge Reidelbach. Those excused were: Cecil Tiede, Ray Clark, Joe Ryden, Merrill T. Davidson, Herbert Ames, Dennis Warfield, A. F. Stewart, Herman Alberding and Albert S. Blakely.

A new set of jurors were then drawn for the Patchett vs. C. & O. Ry. damage suit, which began that morning with George F. Stevens, of Plymouth, as special judge. The new jury consists of Cecil McCay, Arthur Gumz, Charles Severns, William H. Kroft, Fred Hengel, Frank Allen, Flem May, D. A. Skillen, Clarence Barnett, Roy Keller, Braxton Blasser and Albert Brucker.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Jun 1935: 1. Microfilm.*

#### Trial starts

## WEEK'S NEWS AT THE COURT HOUSE

### Ten-Year-Old Damage Suit on Trial Before Jury in Circuit Court.

The damage suit brought by P. M. Patchett against the C. & O. railway is on trial in circuit court here this week, with George Stevens of Plymouth sitting as special judge. It is based on an accident ten years ago the coming August, when Patchett's wagon was struck by a train on a crossing in Fulton county. A verdict awarded by a Fulton county jury some years ago was reversed by the appellate court, then the case was sent to this county. It was tried a year ago, when a jury returned a verdict awarding Patchett \$2,550, but a new trial was granted.

Composing the jury are William H. Kroft, Fred Hengel, Flem May, D. A. Skillen, Clarence Barnett, Roy Keller, Braxton Blasser, Albert Brucker, Cecil McCay, Arthur P. Gumz, Charles Severns and Frank Allen.

After a number of those drawn for the regular jury panel had been excused when court opened Monday, Judge Reidelbach ordered an additional venire of twelve names to be drawn from the jury box. Four of those—Messrs. McCay, Severns, Gumz and Allen—were retained for the Patchett case. Other names in the venire were those of Edgar Vanaman, Edward Lewis, Charles G. Brucker, Urban Wank, A. K. Galbreath, Otto Snyder, A. H. Richardson and R. B. Howard.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 20 Jun 1935: 1. Microfilm.*

Defendant Wins on Fourth Trial

**Defendant Wins  
On Fourth Trial**

**WINAMAC** Ind.. June 26—A jury in Pulaski circuit court late last night returned a verdict for the defendant in the \$20,000 damage suit of Preston Patchett vs. the C. and O. railroad. The verdict, sealed and opened in court this morning, was brought in after five hours deliberation of the case which started 10 days ago. It was the fourth trial of the case. Each time previously Patchett was awarded various sums but the railroad always won new trials.

*Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune Jun 26 1935: 1.*  
Website (newspapers.com)

Preston loses

**Verdict for C. & O.**

A verdict denying damages to Preston O. Patchett in his suit against the C. & O. railway was returned yesterday morning by the jury which had heard trial of the case through all of last week and the fore part of this. Taking the case Tuesday afternoon, the jury reached a verdict about midnight and reported when court opened next morning.

In addition to hearing evidence on both sides of the case, the jury was taken to a crossing in Fulton county to view the scene of the accident, which occurred ten years ago. Patchett's wagon was struck by a train and he was injured. One of the railway's principal claims was that there was nothing to obstruct his view of the tracks as the train approached.

It was the third or fourth trial of the case, the appellate court having reversed the verdict returned in the Fulton circuit court, after which the case was sent here on change of venue.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jun 1935: 1. Microfilm.*



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Preston loses

After seven or eight years of litigation, Preston M. Patchett was denied damages by a local jury Tuesday night. The trial had been in progress since a week ago Monday before Special Judge George F. Stevens of Plymouth. The case went to the jury Tuesday evening at 6:30 and they arrived at a verdict at 11:30 that night. Their finding was opened in Court Wednesday morning.

The case resulted from an accident Oct. 25, 1925, when Mr. Patchett was struck by a C. & O. train at a crossing near Kewanna. The case first came here on a change of venue from Cass county March 13, 1930, and this was the fourth trial, which included an appeal to the Appellate Court, which reversed a finding in Mr. Patchett's favor.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Jun 1935: 1. Microfilm.*

Preston requests new trial

**Patchett Asks New Trial.**

A motion has been filed this week by attorneys for Preston M. Patchett asking new trial of the suit in which a jury recently denied him damages on account of a crossing accident on the C. & O. railway ten years ago. In a trial about four years ago Patchett secured a verdict for \$5,500, but that was reversed by the appellate court. In a subsequent trial here, the jury found that he was entitled to \$2,550. The railway asked and was granted a new trial, wherein the jury found against Patchett altogether. That was a month ago, and now Patchett asks another hearing.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Jul 1935: 8. Microfilm.*

Preston requests new trial

Preston M. Patchett has again filed a motion for a new trial of his damage suit against the C. & O. Railway. The case has been in and out of court for the past eight years, Mr. Patchett having lost in the recent trial here.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Jul 1935: 1. Microfilm.*

Paul E. Patchett Hurt in Accident

**PAUL E. PATCHETT  
HURT IN ACCIDENT**

Paul E. Patchett, 33, former local resident, is confined to the Good Samaritan hospital at Kokomo following an automobile accident south of Kokomo late Monday night. Patchett was so seriously hurt that an operation was performed in an effort to save his life.

The mishap occurred when Patchett's car left highway No. 31 near the Kokomo airport, turned over several times coming to a halt in an open field. Guy McDowell, Patchett's companion in the car, was also hurt but managed to extricate himself from the wreckage, drag Patchett into the open air and summon aid.

Logansport (IN) Press Mar 18 1936: 8. Website (newspapers.com).

Preston victim of hit&run

**PATCHETT HIT BY CAR**

P. M. Patchett, living northeast of town, has reported that he was struck by a hit-run driver north of town on State Road 29 Tuesday evening as he was walking to his home. His injuries consisted of painful bruises to his hip and back.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Oct 1936: 5. Microfilm.

Preston's a new subscriber, again!

**Preston M. Patchett, of Tippecanoe, is among the new subscribers to The Republican.**

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Nov 1936: 4. Microfilm.

Preston's three trials top \$1.000

**Patchett Case Costs**

A bill totalling \$1,111.55 for the expense of trying the \$10,000 damage suit of Preston Patchett against the C. & O. railroad has been sent to Fulton county, after having been figured up by Clerk D. C. Boulden.

The case was sent to Pulaski county for trial from Fulton county on a change of venue which had been asked by the plaintiff. The suit was filed several years ago after a team and wagon driven by Patchett had been struck by a train at a crossing near Fulton.

The suit was tried three times in the Pulaski circuit court before juries. The first jury gave Patchett a verdict for \$5,500. The second gave him \$2,500 and the third found for the railroad.

The bill for \$1,111.55 covers the court costs for the last two trials. A bill in the sum of \$574.70 for the first trial was previously rendered, making a total court cost of nearly \$1,700. This does not include witness fees, but is the expense of operating the court during the time consumed, and is payable by the county in which the case originates.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Dec 1936: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

Preston falls

**BADLY HURT IN  
FALL FROM TREE**

Preston Patchett, 72, well known farmer living northeast of Winamac, sustained a broken hip and broken ribs when he fell from a ladder while trimming a tree at his home Saturday afternoon. He was taken to the Woodlawn hospital at Rochester.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Mar 1938: 1. Microfilm.*

Preston's off to Longcliff

**Taken to Longcliff.**

Preston Patchett, Tippecanoe township man seventy-four years of age, was taken to Longcliff hospital this week, after a court hearing last Friday in which he was found in need of mental treatment. Mr. Patchett was injured about fifteen years ago when a C. & O. train struck the wagon in which he was riding. He secured judgment for \$5500 damages but the case was reversed by the supreme court. Nearly two years ago he was again injured in a fall from a tree.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 11 Jan 1940: 1. Microfilm.*

Preston adjudged insane

Preston Patchett, aged man living four miles south of Monterey, was taken into custody Thursday by Sheriff Daugherty when his wife became fearful at his actions. He was later adjudged insane and was taken to Logansport State hospital Tuesday afternoon by Sheriff Addison Daugherty.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 11 Jan 1940: 1. Microfilm.*



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
1924 – Preston and all his children

[Preston] dies near Logansport  
(from the collection of Hoosierboy56)



[unknown Rochester IN newspaper] Mar ? 1940.  
Website (ancestry.com).

Preston M. Patchett Dies in Logansport

## Preston M. Patchett Dies In Logansport

Preston M. Patchett, aged 74, farmer of near Winamac who formerly lived on a farm west of this city and near Kewanna died in a Logansport hospital Thursday night where he had been a patient for several months.

A postmortem was held yesterday after which the body was moved to the Harrison funeral home in Kewanna. The funeral arrangements had not been completed at the time The News-Sentinel went to press.

Survivors are the wife, Cora; four daughters, Mrs. Fern Biggs of Macy; Mrs. Jewel Calson and Lillian Patchett of New Haven, Conn.; Blanche Weiland of Logansport.

(Rochester IN) News-Sentinel Mar 30 1940: 1.  
Webpage (news.google.com/newspapers).

Preston dies in Longcliff



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 Apr 1940: 2. Microfilm.

Preston dies in Longcliff

[Longcliff was the regional mental hospital.]

**Preston M. Patchett**  
Preston M. Patchett, 74, farmer formerly living in Tippecanoe township, passed away Friday night at the Logansport state hospital, where he had been a patient for several months. Mr. Patchett became well-known here through a damage suit against the C & O railway several years ago.  
Survivors are the wife, Cora; son Paul; four daughters, Mrs. Fern Biggs of Macy, Mrs. Jewel

(Continued on Page 8)

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**RECENT DEATHS**

(Continued From Page 1)

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Carleson and Lillian Patchett of New Haven, Conn., and Blanche Weiland of Logansport.  
Funeral services were held Tuesday at Kewanna.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 Apr 1940: 1&8. Microfilm.