



We Honor Those Who Have Gone Before



Officer (Private) Thomas J. Martin

Charleston Police Department

July 22, 1870

Shortly before midnight on Thursday, July 21, 1870, Charleston City Police Officer Thomas J. Martin approached several soldiers who were creating a disturbance on King Street, between Burns Lane and Calhoun Street. Officer Martin ordered the men to quiet down, but they refused to do so. After signaling officers nearby by rapping his nightstick against a post, Officer Martin approached the group. While being confronted, Sergeant William A. Johnson drew a concealed pistol and shot Officer Martin in the chest. Officer Martin was moved to a house across the street and when doctors arrived, the wound to Officer Martin was declared mortal. Officer Martin was taken by ambulance to his home where he succumbed shortly thereafter. Officer Thomas J. Martin was the first African-American officer with the Charleston Police Department to die in the line of duty.



Deputy Constable William G. Durant

Fort Mill Police Department

February 5, 1884

On February 4th, 1884, while serving as a Special Constable for Trial Justice T.C. Culp, Deputy Constable William G. Durant received a telegram from the Chief of Police in Charlotte, requesting him to arrest Foard Knox for horse stealing and for the shooting of Constable Samuel Pressley in Cabarrus County. After receiving information that Knox was working at the plantation of William E. Kimbrell, Constable Durant assembled a posse of five or six men to accompany him in the search. Knox was working with a crew cleaning out ditches when the posse rode up on him. Constable Durant stayed in the saddle as he called for Knox to surrender. When asked about weapons, Knox handed over his knife and a pistol with one shot left in it. Constable Durant covered Knox with his pistol as he tried to tie his hands. Knox wrenched the pistol from the officer's hand, stepped back and fired, striking Constable Durant in the abdomen. Constable Durant reeled in the saddle, drew another revolver and fired at Knox as he ran away. He then rode to a nearby house where doctors were called to treat him. Finding his wound to be hopeless, Constable Durant was moved to his home in Fort Mill where he died the following morning.



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Special Deputy U.S. Marshal William Nathan "Buck" Turner
Western District of South Carolina - Walhalla, S.C.
November 29, 1895

William Nathan "Buck" Turner served as a Special Deputy Marshal for the Western District of South Carolina, enforcing the Revenue Act against illegal distilling. While in Walhalla, on November 29, 1895, he had an altercation with John Perry McCrary early in the afternoon. Later in the day, the two met again on Main Street in front of the Post Office. McCrary walked up to Deputy Marshal Turner, pulled out a pistol and shot him twice in the chest. McCrary fled into C.W. Pitchford's store with Deputy Marshal Turner in pursuit. Deputy Marshal Turner collapsed and died about twenty feet from the door. McCrary was arrested on the spot and following considerable resistance was lodged in jail.



Officer Robert G. Johnston
Rock Hill Police Department
January 19, 1906

At around 3:00 in the morning on January 18, 1906, Rock Hill Police Officer Robert G. Johnston was making a fire in the City Council Chambers. As he stooped over to shovel coal in to the stove, his .41 caliber Colt revolver slipped from its holster and fell onto the coal pile. It landed in such a manner that the hammer on the revolver struck a large piece of coal causing it to discharge. The bullet hit Officer Johnston, paralyzing him from the shoulders down. Officer Johnston was taken to the hospital where he died early the following morning. He was 50 years old and had previously served for twelve years as the Chief of Police in Fort Mill.



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Officer Robert Morrison McFadden

Rock Hill Police Department

November 3, 1933

On November 3, 1933, Motorcycle Officer Robert M. McFadden, Chief B.F. Hood and Constable W.J. McCarter were responding to the scene of a traffic collision in the department's touring car. Chief Hood was driving, Officer McFadden was in the front passenger seat and Constable McCarter was in the back seat as they followed the ambulance to the wreck. The police car skidded off the slippery highway, overturned several times and landed upside down with the officers pinned underneath. Officer

McFadden died as a result of the wreck. He was thirty six years old and had served with the Rock Hill Police Department for ten years.



Chief Solon B. Lewis

Nichols Police Department

October 3, 1949

On Sunday, October 2, 1949, Nichols Police Chief Solon B. Lewis, along with Federal Agent John D. Bryan and S.C. Highway Patrolman William Griffith conducted three illegal liquor still raids in the rural areas surrounding the Town of Nichols. Later in the afternoon following the raids, Chief Lewis, complaining of "indigestion," stopped by the Palace Drug Store in Mullins to get some milk of magnesia. The Pharmacist, James Corley, told Chief Lewis, "Solon that sounds like your heart." The Chief replied,

"No, I've had that checked. It's as sound as a dollar."

Chief Lewis then went home, had supper and went to bed. He suffered a massive heart attack overnight and died at 1:00 a.m. on October 3rd. Chief Solon B. Lewis was 53 years old.

He had previously served as a Deputy Sheriff in Marion County, and was shot in the line of duty in 1927. After he recovered, Solon Lewis served as Chief of Police in Marion and as a Rural Policeman. In 1930, he joined the S.C. Highway Patrol and later served as a member of the State Constabulary under Governors Johnston, Williams and Thurmond. Solon B. Lewis was scheduled to be sworn in as a Deputy U.S. Marshal, the following January.



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Deputy Levis Thomas Sexton

Anderson County Sheriff's Office

May 15, 1965

Deputy Levis Thomas Sexton was assigned to the Anderson County Jail on May 5, 1965. That night he was in the process of placing an inmate into a cell when a struggle ensued. During the struggle, Deputy Sexton received head injuries. Deputy Sexton went home and when he awoke the following morning he showed signs of cognitive impairment. He was transported to Anderson Memorial Hospital where he was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm. Deputy Sexton was transferred to Greenville General Hospital, where he died ten days later. Deputy Sexton was sixty four years old.

He had previously served as a motor officer with the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety, where he had been run over by a vehicle and sustained three gunshot wounds in the line of duty.



Patrolman Frank Henry Knapp

Walterboro Police Department

November 16, 1968

Patrolman Frank Henry Knapp, with Sgt. Douglas Bazzle riding along, was patrolling the Forest Hills area of Walterboro on the night shift. At about 12:30 a.m. on November 15th, 1968, Patrolman Knapp was driving along West Washington Street when he turned into the side of an Atlantic Coastline train. The police cruiser struck the moving train between two coal cars and was thrown into a shallow ditch along the tracks. Patrolman Knapp and Sgt. Bazzle were both seriously injured and taken to the Colleton County Hospital. Patrolman Frank Henry Knapp died as

a result of his injuries on Saturday, November 16, 1968. Patrolman Knapp was forty eight years old and had served with the Walterboro Police Department for three years, following his retirement from the United States Air Force.



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Private First Class Michael Shawn Latu

Marion County Sheriff's Office

December 17, 2019

After midnight on December 17, 2019, Private First Class Michael Latu, along with two other officers, was refueling his patrol vehicle when they heard another officer calling for assistance over the radio. Responding with lights and siren, PFC Latu was involved in a single vehicle wreck on Highway 76. PFC Latu was transported via helicopter

to the MUSC Emergency Room in Marion where he died as a result of his injuries. PFC Michael Shawn Latu was 34 years old and had worked as a dispatcher for Marion County for three years before joining the Marion County Sheriff's Office in 2015. He was a dedicated deputy and was selected by command staff as the 2018 Patrolman of the Year and by his peers as the 2018 Deputy of the Year.