

ALEXANDER G. SLAGLE SAGA, MEMPHIS, TENN.

Slagle leaves DC and goes south to where his family seems to have originated.

- 1867, June 6: Memphis, Tn.: Notice: “Registry of Deeds and Mortgages. A.G. Slagle to Ames Beattie, mortgage on personal property to secure \$101.” [Daily Memphis Avalanche, p.3]
- 1868, June 7: Tn.: Memphis: Court: “Municipal Court: ... the following cases will be heard on trial: 7-34 The State vs. A. G. Slagle” [Daily Memphis Avalanche, p. not listed]
- 1868, Sept. 19: Tn.: Court: “Municipal Court:...Another petition for mandamus was filed on yesterday styled A. G. Slagle, attorney in fact for A. Gilwicks, vs. S. B. Beaumont, setting up the fact that the petitioner had taken out license as a lottery ticket dealer, paying one hundred dollars internal revenue to Collector Saunders, and that as B. Beaumont [sic] the house of petitioner, No. 30 Monroe street, giving the business the obnoxious and offensive name of Keno, and praying for a mandamus nisi [?]. The following fiat, indorsed on the petition by Judge Waldran, is a modification of the fiat for mandamus, indorsed on previous petitions: ‘To The clerk of Municipal Court of Memphis—to the prayer of the within petition on the petitioner [sic]giving bond and security for costs in the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars. Said mandamus will apply only to the vending of lottery tickets under and by virtue of petitioner’s said license from the U.S. Govt., and in no case will it apply, or be continued, or consider to apply to the game of Keno, but will act and apply only to the vending of lottery tickets. Geo. W. Waldran, Judge.” Sept. 18, 1868” [Memphis Daily Appeal, p.5] [NOTE: A mandamus is an extraordinary remedy and is issued usually only to command the performance of a ministerial act. It cannot be used to substitute the court’s judgment for the defendant’s in the performance of a discretionary act.]
- 1868, Oct. 9: Memphis: News: “Chancery Court...An injunction was issued on yesterday in the case of A. G. Slagle v s. S. B. Beaumont, restraining Beaumont from interfering with in any manner the said Slagle in the prosecution of his business at No. 30 Monroe street, as keeper of a keno* hall, or from arresting any of his guests, or any one connected with the establishment. The fiat was granted by Judge Hunter of the Criminal Court.” [Memphis Daily Appeal, p.4][*Keno is a lottery number guessing game]
- 1869, July: Harry Forrest Slagle is born in Tennessee to “Pop Slagle” and Elizabeth Slagle. His brother is Robert Lee Slagle, born . They live in Memphis at the race track. Their mother died in Tenn in 1878 of yellow fever. They move to DC. They live together with Elizabeth in 1880 in DC. Might this be Sarah E. = Elizabeth? Wallis Slagle? He is one of the half brothers Addison contacts in 1921 in DC.
- 1869, Aug.: Arkansas: Little Rock: IRS: Paid \$66.67 tax on lottery tickets & income \$20 on gross receipts unid. business [as Alex. G. Slagle]

- 1870, Oct. 4: Tenn.: Haywood: marriage to Josephine Rennalds by "A.G. Slagle"
- Ca. 1871: Robert Lee Slagle "Lee" is born in Memphis to Elizabeth and unknown father. Listed as bro. or half bro. to Harry Forrest born 1869, which see.
- 1872: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: saloon, cor. 2nd & Jefferson; h = 126 Beal. No one else Listed
- 1872, Apr. 27: Memphis: News: Slagle was on a trial jury. A Mr. Bennett Jones was shot dead by a jealous husband, Dr. William Dameron. [Public Ledger, Memphis, p.4]
- 1875, Apr. 21: Memphis: Court: "Criminal Court. The following cases are set for trial today... #305, A.G. Slagle" [Memphis Daily Appeal, p.5]
- [1871: DC CD: His former wife, Sarah E. W. Slagle, h = 626 H nw]
- [1877: DC CD: His former wife, Sarah Slagle, listed herself as "widow Alexander" h = 616 H nw, yet he is still alive. Perhaps presumed dead as gone for over a certain number of years and no divorce?]
- 1877: Slagle's 2nd wife [must be Josephine Rennalds] leaves him
- 1878: Slagle's 2nd wife died of yellow fever; her two sons Harry and Robert move to DC.
- 1880: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: Alexander G. Slagle, nog, 312 Main; h = 359 Main [no other Slagles listed]
- 1880: Census: Tenn.: Memphis: "A. G. Slagle, age "29", from D.C.; painter. Lives with wife Louisa age [21?] from Va. at 351 Main St. [NOTE: Wrong person or did he lie about his age?]
- 1881: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: nog, 293 Main; h = 359 Main
- 1884: Dessie was married to Arch Cooper in Memphis, she was less than 16 years old. Cooper deserted her after about 5 months as couldn't support her. She supported herself for a year then met Slagle. He proposed, she wasn't divorced, but he said if they were married in Arkansas it wouldn't matter. Aug. 1 she went with him to Marion, Ark. to get married Later court testimony in 1888 illuminates actions in 1884 including affair with Lulu Lenoir and her then living with the Slagle's. See transcription in 1888, which see.
- 1885, Aug. 1 or 2: **Marriage:** Marries Dessa T. Wall, Marion, Ark. [Ark. marriage index] [NOTE: Arkansas is just across the Mississippi River from Memphis]
- 1887, July 26: **DC:** News: "Transfers of Real Estate. Deeds in fee have been filed as follows: ...\$680, A. G. Slagle et al to Rebecca M. Windholz, parts 10 and 11 sq. 425" [Star, p.4]



[Dessa T. Wall Slagle; no photog., no date]

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE IN MEMPHIS, Tenn.:

- 1888: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: Alexander G. Slagle, painter, h = 3 Hernando; also at that

address are Elizabeth W., widow George C. Slagle; Harry Slagle, a clerk; Lee Slagle, a clerk, and Lizzie Slagle [sic]

[NOTE: Not found in BD under photog., artist, grocer, saloon, lawyer] then when her father told her she had married a professional gambler, she didn't believe it. If Slagle had treated her as he did in the first six months of marriage she would have forgiven his first deception.

1888, May 10: BIGAMY etc. trial.

A Strange Story Told in Court. How a Gambler Beguiled a Fair Young Grass Widow. Mrs. Cooper Tells of Alexander Slagle's Wrong Doing—Both Parties Bound Over for Bigamy. [Story is accompanied with line drawing portrait of Dessie, based on a different photo]

On Monday last a bill of divorce of a sensational character was filed in the circuit court by Mrs. Dessie Slagle, alias Cooper, nee Wall, asking that the marriage between herself and Alexander Slagle be annulled. The petition recited that on march 3, 1884, when less than 16 years of age, she was married to Archie W. Cooper of this city. After living together about six months Cooper's inability to support her caused him to desert her. She supported herself until a year later when she met Slagle and he proposed marriage. She refused on account of having never been divorced from Cooper, and Slagle said the laws on bigamy did not apply in Arkansas and a marriage in that state would be proper and legal. The unsuspecting girl believed Slagle incapable of deceiving her, and consented. On the first day of August, 1885, she went with him to Marion, Ark., and they were married by a justice of the peace named Ferguson. Everything smoothly until about a year ago when Slagle accused her of unchastity and after a stormy scene struck her with his fist. She forgave him for the time being and the matter was forgotten until Saturday a week ago, when he again assaulted her.

This last cruel treatment caused her to refuse to live longer with as a wife. The bill asked that the marriage be declared null if legal and dissolved. If illegal, and she be given possession of the household furniture.

Since the filing of the bill Slagle has ordered her to leave the apartments they occupied in the building corner of Union and Hernando streets. Mrs. Slagle refused to obey and claims that Slagle threatened to kill her. For fear that he would carry this threat into execution she appeared before Justice Bitten berg yesterday and swore out a warrant for his arrest. Through her counsel, Gen. G. P. M. Turner, she also instituted suit to recover possession of the household furniture.

The evidence brought out in court brought to light a story of an unusual and interesting nature. Mrs. Slagle appeared and was accompanied by a faded and paralytic young woman named Lulu Lenoir, whose relations to the couple are peculiar, and who has been a central figure in the history of their four years of married life. The young woman who is the victim of the deception practiced by Slagle is strikingly pretty

and apparently several years younger than she really is. Her actions are those of a simple country girl, and the statement made by her was repeated in a manner that carried conviction of truth with it. She is twenty years of age.

Slagle is 45 and possesses but few visible charms for attracting the average maiden. Although unprepossessing and ungainly in appearance, his part record for capturing the affections of susceptible females is without a parallel.

He was first put on the stand and closely questioned by Gen. Turner and Assistant Attorney-General Brooks. He claimed that he had ordered his wife to leave their rooms on account of her receiving attentions from other men. Gen. Turner asked: 'Did you not order her out on account of the petition for divorce?'

His reply was unexpected and as follows:

'I did not know such a bill had been filed.'

'Do you know it now?' asked the attorney.

'I've heard so, but don't know positively.'

'Why, don't you read the papers?' asked the General

'No, I haven't for a week or two past.'

He also claimed that he considered himself the legal husband of the prosecutor and had treated her with the greatest kindness during the four years they lived together. He denied having ever struck her, but admitted having told her to get out of the house and refusing to let her take any portion of the household effects.

Miss A. Gertsy testified that she lived on the second floor of the building corner of Hernando and Union streets, and Mr. and Mrs. Slagle occupied rooms on the third floor. They had apparently lived together happily, Mrs. Slagle being properly provided and without cause for complaint. Sometimes they employed a servant, and at other times Mrs. Slagle did the household work. Miss Lenoir lived with the couple, and on account of her having lost the use of her limbs from a paralytic stroke required constant attention. Mrs. Slagle nursed her and cared for her as she would a helpless infant. The trio had lived in the house four years, and during this time she had never known of any trouble between them. Caring for the paralytic and attending to the duties of the family kept her at home almost all the time. The witness was asked if she ever heard of Mrs. Slagle's getting on her knees to her husband to prevent him from killing her. She knew nothing of such an occurrence, but had heard it spoken of.

Several women living in the building testified that Mrs. Slagle had been a dutiful wife to the man who had deceived her for the four years they lived there.

Mrs. Slagle was the center of attraction during the proceedings, and when she mounted the stand everyone in the large crowd of spectators directed their gaze at her. She briefly related the story of her marriage and the succession of deceptions practiced on her.

My stepfather, Mr. Johns, who is a stone contractor, was working on the customhouse here when I met Mr. Slagle. He was stopping at the Gayoso Hotel, and myself and mother were with him. One evening Mr. Slagle and several other gentlemen ere introduced to us in the hotel parlor. Mr. Slagle said he was a wholesale clothing dealer and his place of business was opposite the Peabody Hotel, on Maini street. He called to see me several times afterward, and on several occasions took me to the theater. We passed the clothing store at the corner of Main and Monrie, and he pointed it out as his establishment. I saw the sign I. Jiedel & Bro. on the wall, and he explained that was an old sign that should have been erased. I thought him a respectable merchant, and never learned his real business until long after our marriage. Even then, when my father told me that I had married a professional gambler, I did not believe it. If he had continued to treat me as he did the first six months of our marriage I would have readily forgiven him for this first deception. How we were married was fully told in the bill filed by Gen. Turner for me.

It was a short while after father took the rooms at the Gayoso that he persuaded me to go to Marion, Ark., and marry him. When we returned to the city we engaged apartments over Haack's bakery on Beal street.

Nothing unusual transpired for six months afterwards. At that time our colored cook was standing on the sidewalk in front of the building one day, when a small negro boy passed, leading a dog that belonged to Mr. Slagle. My cook demanded the boy to release the dog, and he refused to do so, saying the dog belonged to Mrs. Slagle, a crippled woman living at the corner of Union and Hernando streets. This boy's reply caused my first suspicion, and inquiry developed that a woman occupied rooms in the locality named, and was known to everyone in the neighborhood as Mrs. Slagle. As my husband always went through Hernando street in going to town after supper, I concluded to follow him one evening.

I put on my hat and walker behind him on the opposite side of the street until the building mentioned was reached. In confirmation of my suspicious he disappeared in the doorway leading to the sidewalk and after waiting a moment I went after him. His footsteps had just ceased on the top story when I entered the door, and silently I climbed up the stairs in the same direction. After a few moments more I heard his voice and that of a females coming from one of the rooms. I burst in the room and found my husband lying on a sofa perfectly at home and smoking a cigar. The woman proved to be Miss Lenoir, the poor cripple who is now with me. Her crutches rested on the chair beside her and her thin, pinched face checked my first mad impulse. I upbraided my husband and a scene ensued.

The story he told was so unusual and touching that, while I was convinced, I could no longer trust him. I admired his devotion to the unfortunate woman. According to his story and what she has since told me, he had worked her ruin when a young girl, and to hide her shame she

married a worthless young man named Harry Lenoir. Lenoir afterward deserted her and she became Slagle's mistress. In the meantime he had married another woman, who is now living in Washington. Lulu excused her weakness by reasoning that Slagle could not marry her and that she devotedly loved him. Slagle's wife heard of his intimacy with his previous sweetheart, and left him. Slagle continued his relations with Lulu for thirteen years. During this time he again married and again separated from his wife. After this last separation Lulu became paralyzed, and Mr. Slagle has since provided for her. They only told me the part of Slagle's history that related to the cripple, and I believed it. The remainder I have learned from her lips. This story gained my pity for the woman, and I have since nursed and cared for as best I could. Mr. Slagle's first wife is now in Washington and is said to be very wealthy. She does not know whether he is living or dead. Their union resulted in two daughters, who are now grown and married. They move in the best society in that city.

Mr. Slagle's second wife died a year after leaving him. By her he had two sons. One of them died, I think, and the other now lived in Texas or Mississippi. Mrs. Lenoir bore him two children, who died in infancy.

[NOTE: What about the half brothers Harry and Robert? Addison gets in touch with later in life? They say they grew up in Memphis and lived at the old race track. Their mother died of yellow fever in 1878. Visited their father in 1888 and his 2nd wife (that they knew of!) and they had a son named ANDREW born ca. 1886. They have been in touch with Andrew and he is not Addison. Addison was born later, so that makes sense. There was a Harry Slagle living with A.G. in 1880 – same? OR might Addison just been trying to inveigle his way into \$\$ following his father's footsteps?]

Mrs. Slagle, or rather Mrs. Cooper, related the above story of her experience with the unprincipled Slagle with frequent interruptions. Her pretty lips quivered at intervals, and there was a decided moisture in her black eyes. Her conversation was that of a cultured woman, and the sympathy of the spectators was evidently aroused by the story of the wrongs she had suffered.

After hearing the evidence Justice Buttenberg rendered his decision with expressions of regret that he was compelled to act unfeelingly to a young woman who had already suffered so much from the acts of an unscrupulous scoundrel. 'But my duty is plain,' he said; 'the evidence clearly established that both parties have committed bigamy, on the woman's part, doubtless, through ignorance, but on Slagle's part, in direct violation of a knowledge of the law. I will bind you both over to the criminal court in the sum of \$1000,' was his final decision as he brought his gavel down on the desk.

In the suit to recover the household goods he withheld his decision until this morning.

Gen. Turner became surety for Mrs. Cooper, and Attorney John Johnson for Slagle.

Mrs. Cooper's demeanor during the trial and her conversation afterward convinced the listeners that her total ignorance of laws applying to bigamy rendered her a fit victim to Slagle's nefarious scheme.

She was born at Smithville, Miss., and is a grand niece of the late Probate Judge Z. E. Wall of Aberdeen.

Slagle is a professional gambler, and blackleg, and the numerous intrigues by which he has ruined a number of young women have made him notorious." [Memphis Daily Avalanche, p.5]

1888, June 1: Court: "Criminal Court. Alexander Slagle, assault on his wife, fined \$10" [Memphis Appeal, p. 8]

Ca. 1888 – 1891: Dessa divorces Slagle and goes back and lives with Mr. Arch Cooper, her 1st husband. Her 2nd husband was A.L. Smith of Fayetteville whom she married (again?) and lived with him 6-7 months after she divorced Slagle, then divorces Smith or Cooper and remarries Slagle) CONFUSING! [see 1895 June 26 testimony]

1891: Dessa **remarries Slagle** in Brownsville, Tenn. after divorcing him [see 1895 June 26 testimony in murder witness case and divorce case Nov. 3, 1898]

1892, Jan.: Son Addison [Douglas] Slagle born to Dessie and Alexander Slagle [Census 1900]

1895, June 26: Court: Mrs. Slagle testifies in Tait murder trial. [Summary of her testimony in re marriages: They were Mr. Cooper of Dyersburg, Tenn.; Mr. A. L. Smith of Fayetteville. That being only two she explained she was **divorced from Slagle, lives with Cooper again and remarries him, then remarried Smith** 6-8 months and divorces him, then **Slagle again.**] "The next witness was Mrs. Slagle, who was one of the eye-witnesses of the tragedy. The testimony of Mrs. Slagle was damaging to the defense and was not materially affected by cross-examination, although the force of her evidence was somewhat broken by the facts adduced as to her career in the matrimonial market." ... "Mrs. Slagle Testifies. Mrs. Slagle is a very pretty woman, seemingly about 30 years of age. She lives at the race track, on Trezevant ave. Her place of residence is directly in front of the race track. It is on the East End line. She has lived there since last September. She is the wife of Grocer A. G. Slagle. She knows both the defendant and his father. Their place of business is close to her husband's." ... She gives testimony in re the shooting.

Gen. Peters started in on the cross examination:

"How many times have you been married?"

"Four times."

"Only four?"

"Yes, sir."

"How old are you?"

"Twenty-seven the 13th of August?"

"You were married four times before you were 24, were you not?"

"Yes, sir."

"About how old were you when you had been married four times?"

"About 24 years old."

"I thought you were only 21. Up to that time, of course, you were sometimes married and sometimes unmarried?"

"Yes, sir."

"How many husbands have you now?"

"Only one."

"Have you been divorced from the others?"

"Yes, sir."

"Who were these three you were divorced from?"

"Mr. Cooper of Dyersburg, Tenn.; Mr. W. L. Smith of Fayetteville."

"That is not but two."

"I was divorced from Mr. Slagle, and we were married the second time."

"How old were you at your first marriage?"

"About 16 years old."

"You have been before the Criminal Court a good deal?"

"Yes, sir." "Have you been involved in a shooting scrape, when one of your husbands shot at somebody about you?"

"Yes, sir."

"He shot at the young man because he was about your room too much?"

"No, sir. He never was about my room."

"He shot at him down there?"

"He wrote me a note."

"And were you not indicted in that matter?"

"No, sir."

"What have you been arrested for?"

"I don't know that I have been arrested for anything."

"This is Alexander Slagle you are now living with?"

"Yes, sir."

"You have appeared against him in this court?"

"Yes, sir."

"Isn't it a fact that he is charged with beating you because of your intimacy with other men?"

"Yes, sir, I think he was, as well as I remember."

"And about that time you went back and lived with Cooper?"

"Yes, sir."

"You lived with Cooper awhile and then you got a divorce from him and lived with Slagle awhile?"

"Yes, sir."

"And then you went back to Cooper and then Slagle bought you back, didn't he?"

"I don't know that he bought me back?"

"Didn't he give \$100 for you?"

“No, sir. Not that I know of.”
“You never heard of that?”
“No, sir.”
“Were you then divorced from Cooper?”
“Yes, sir.”
“Slagle was indicted for marrying you before you were divorced from Cooper?”
“Yes, sir.”
“You then had two husbands?”
“Yes, sir.”
“And you had one of them indicted for marrying you?”
“Yes, sir.”
“And then you made it up with the one you had indicted and got a divorce from the other?”
“Yes, sir.”
“Where did Smith come in?”
“How do you mean?”
“I mean along in these things, was he your husband or not?”
“Not then.”
“You were still Slagle’s wife?”
“Yes, sir.”
“Had you ever been divorced from Mr. Slagle?”
“No, sir.”
“When did you marry Slagle last?”
“About four years ago.”
“Had you married Smith then?”
“Yes, sir, and had got a divorce.”
“When did you get it?”
“Shorty before Mr. Slagle and I were married the second time.”
“How long did you live with Smith?”
“About six or seven months.”
“Mr. Slagle has had about as many wives as you have had husbands?”
“I couldn’t say.”
“You don’t know whether he has more than one wife or not?”
“That is the report.”
“Well, living with your liege lord and hearing the reports, did you never question him?”
“I have asked him several times.”
“Did he satisfy you on this subject?”
“He says he has been divorced from one and has one wife dead.”
“The crippled woman he was living with, was that his wife?”
“No, sir.”
“You came from Arkansas, didn’t you?”
“Yes, sir.”
“Your troubles met with your various husbands have always been about other men?”

“Well, that is what Mr. Slagle claimed. None of the rest ever did.”

“And in fact they claimed it with more or less truth?”

“I don’t know.”

“You don’t know how that is. If you don’t, nobody else does.”

“I say the report is false.”

“When did you conclude to say what you have testified to?”

“I told just what I saw.”

“You have talked about this to a number of people?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Didn’t you talk to a colored woman?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Didn’t you rush back and tell her that Mr. Slagle was shot?”

“No, sir.” [Testimony continues in re shooting, not Dessie. Grand jury adjourned until afternoon]

Afternoon session. There was Nothing New Developed by the Attorneys. Mrs. Slagle was put on the stand when court reconvened, and cross-examination was proceeded with.

“Did you omit the names of any of your husbands?” asked Gen. Peters.

“No, sir.”

“Did you mention the name of a Mr. Martin?”

“I never was married to any Mr. Martin.”

“Wasn’t he the first man to come to Tennessee with you?”

“I don’t know him, or any man by that name.”

“Who was the man who first came to Tennessee with you?”

“Martin Kinsey.”

“Wasn’t he arrested?”

“Yes, sir.”

“For what?”

“I object,” said the attorney general. “I hold no evidence that tends to prove a witness a common bawd, as we propose to try to prove this witness, is not incompetent,” retorted the attorney for the defense.”

“Did you live with Martin Kensey?” asked Gen. Peters.

“I did not. I was living with my stepfather, and he was cruel to me and Mr. Kensey took me to my aunt’s, or my grandmother’s. My mother had him arrested for taking me away from home. I was about 11 years old.”

“Who was your first husband?”

“A. W. Cooper, of Dyersburg, Tenn.”

“Where did you meet him?” “At the Gayoso Hotel. I was boarding there with my mother.”

“Have you not said a good many hard things about the Zonones since the shooting?” “No, sir; I have nothing more against the Zanones than against Mr. Tait” [Testimony continued in re the shooting]

Redirectly examined, Mrs. Slagle stated that she had always been a virtuous woman. She married Mr. Slagle at Marion, Ark., the first time, he telling her that a marriage in another State was equivalent to a divorce. The marriage question was brought up again.

[Testimony continues in re the shooting; Court adjourned until 9:30 the next morning.] [Commercial Appeal, p. 5].

- 1895, June 27: Court: Tait murder trial continues. Alexander Slagle testifies. He was in the back of the store in the bar room. Said he is 62 years old, was a gambler but quit to become a grocer but sells whiskey (or at least drinks). **Gambled about 25 years. He takes morphine** about two grains at a time. Says he's been married 3 times. He married Dessa in Ark. when she was married thinking it was ok. She got mad and was then Arch Cooper's wife. Got a divorce from Cooper. Then testifies about what he saw of the shooting.
- 1895, July 2: Court: Tait murder trial continues. "...Gen. Peters ...offered two indictments against Alexander Slagle for assault and battery upon the person of Dessie Cooper, committed in 1888, upon which he was found guilty and fined, and another against Slagle for bigamy, marrying Dessie Cooper. He was acquitted of that charge. ...read from the records of 1881 an indictment against Martin Kinsley for bringing a female into the state for purposes of prostitution. The case never came to trial however as Kinsley died in the meantime. Mrs. Slagle was then 12 years old."
- 1895, July 5: Court: Tait murder trial continues. More testimony but nothing personal about the Slagles.
- 1895, Aug. 1: News: A.G. Slagle says his wife Dessie attempted to kill him with a butcher knife. [See Sept. 26, 1895 news]
- 1895, Sometime between July 5 and Sept. 26 Dessa files for divorce from Slagle. See Sept. 26, 1895.
- 1895, Sept. 26: News: "Slagle is after his wife. He comes back at Mrs. Dessie T. in great shape. He charges her with having tried to kill him with a butcher knife..."

"From the developments of the past few months it does not seem that there is any chance for Mrs. A. G. Slagle to remain in oblivion. First, there was her connection with the Dominic Zanone case as the principal State's witness. **Then she filed a divorce petition** against her husband, containing many sensational charges. Yesterday her husband filed a cross petition, which was just as sensational as the one which the fair Mrs. Dessie T. made the medium of telling her woes to the public. [can these be found?]

From the cross petition of Mr. Slagle it would seem that Mrs. Slagle has a temper of her own, which she is wont to give vent to whenever the humor seizes her. He makes some ugly charges against the woman whom he married once in Arkansas while she was the wife of another man, and again after she had secured a divorce.

Mr. Slagle charges his wife with having attempted his life with a large butcher knife on August 1, 1895. He alleges that she was only disarmed after a desperate struggle, and that even after her weapon was taken away from her she persisted in her attack upon him, tearing his clothes off his person in her anger. He says that for months past she has refused to accord him that deference which is his due as a husband. He

asserts that she has repeatedly threatened his life, saying she would poison him. She further charges that after she secured the injunction restraining him from interfering with her in the possession of the home she is now occupying, she raided his store, taking therefrom several boxes of cigars and other goods.

In conclusion, Mr. Slagle prays a divorce, with the custody of the one child which was the fruit of his marriage with the woman, alleging that she is not a fit person to have its custody. He further prayed an injunction restraining her from invading his store or from in any way interfering with him. This injunction was granted.” [Commercial Appeal, p.3]

- 1896, March 12: Court: Zanone murder trial continues. Lots of questions again about how many times Mrs. Slagle was married, etc. Ditto re-examination of A.G. Slagle. Going over old territory. [Commercial Appeal, p.3]
- 1896, May 22: News: Criminal court. A. G. Slagle scheduled for May 25. [Commercial Appeal, p.3]
- 1896, June 7: Court: Cases against A. Zanone [father of murdered man; has place next door to Slagle which is next to the race track run by Slagle’s son] and A. G. Slagle. Violating the Four Mile Law. [no alcohol w/in four miles of race track]. Testimony from several people who bought drinks at Zanone’s and Slagle’s. The judge was understanding and found them not guilty. Well they were guilty but he didn’t think it was egregious. [Commercial Appeal, p.8]
- 1896, June 16. Zanone appeals to Supreme Court of Tennessee for conviction of murder in 2nd degree because of jury impaneling, validity and witness credibility. Decision is reversed. This case requotes many earlier testimonies by Dessie Cooper, likely using the court’s own records. Thus it includes new information not previously located in newspaper reports.
- “The third assignment of error is as follows: ‘The court erred in its rulings excluding the questions propounded on cross- examination by defendant to the state’s witnesses A. G. Slagle, Dessie Slagle, and Carrie Brown, and answers thereto,’ which questions are as follows: Mrs. Dessie Slagle was the first witness for the state. The record shows that the following questions were asked her on cross examination, and were excluded by the court: ‘How many times have you been married?’ ‘How many times have you been married to Mr. Slagle?’ ‘How many living husbands have you?’ ‘Did you not, while married to Cooper, cross over the Mississippi river, marry Slagle in Arkansas, immediately return to the city of Memphis, and reside there with two husbands, Cooper and Slagle?’ ‘Did you not also at that time know that Slagle had a living wife?’ ‘Did you not immediately thereafter, or soon thereafter, go back and live with Cooper, and have Alexander Slagle indicted in the criminal court of Shelby county because he had married you, being the wife of Cooper?’ The indictment referred to, against Alexander Slagle for knowingly marrying Dessie Cooper, the wife of Archie Cooper, was tendered, and

witness was asked, 'If that is not the suit against her husband for marrying her, which she prosecuted.' Again she was asked, 'If she did not have Martin Kensey, Archie Cooper, W. L. Smith, and A. G. Slagle, four husbands, all at the same time.' 'Did not your husband Alexander Slagle, in the city of Memphis, in your own room, shoot at a man because of his intimacy with you?' 'Did not your husband Archie Cooper leave you, and leave the city of Memphis, because of your intimacy with other men?' 'Have you been impeached as a witness in any court? Have you had, or not, witnesses to swear that they would not believe you on oath?' 'Had you not recently torn the clothes or the shirt off of your husband A. G. Slagle, drawn a butcher knife on his, calling him a damn son of a bitch, and say you were going to kill him?' Upon being recalled she was tendered the record in the divorce case of Dessie Slagle v. A. G. Slagle, and was asked if she filed the bill and made the allegations it contained, and if there was not a cross bill, and if she did not file the answer thereto, as it appears in the case. Also the following: 'Alexander Slagle is charged in the indictment with knowingly marrying Dessie Cooper, the wife of Archie Cooper. I wish to ask the witness if she is the Dessie Cooper therein mentioned.' 'And was not the verdict of not guilty entered in the case before the trial because she (the witness) had quit Cooper, and had got back and was then living with Slagle, and if that was not the reason the verdict of not guilty was entered?' The court was apprised that the answers would be such as to bring the witness into disrepute, and lower the standard of her moral character. The ruling excluding them was not based on the fact that the court was not aware of the nature and character of the answers the witness would give, but that it was not competent to assail the credit of a witness by such questions, and the answers thereto. The following questions were asked of A. G. Slagle, and excluded by the court, viz.: 'Here is an indictment against you for an assault and battery on one Dessie Cooper I want to ask you if Dessie Cooper at that time was not the lady who testified here this morning, and if she wasn't your wife, and if the charge against you wasn't that of beating your wife.' 'The witness was then asked if he had not been indicted for wife-beating in this court, or for assault and battery on his wife, and if Dessie Cooper was not then, and in 1888, his wife.' After reading the indictment charging him with marrying Dessie Cooper, then the wife of Archie Cooper, the witness was asked: 'Who is Dessie Cooper?' 'If Dessie Cooper was not then the wife of A. W. cooper, and isn't she the woman that is now living with you,--your wife?' 'Was not Dessie Cooper, upon whom you are alleged at that time to have committed this assault and battery, then your wife, and if this was not after the marriage, or the alleged marriage, in Arkansas?' 'Mr. Slagle, really, could you tell the jury how many wives you have at present?' 'I want to know if you haven't one wife living in Memphis, and one in Washington City?' 'And you have a divorce proceeding pending against you now, haven't

you?’ [The article then goes on to different aspects of the case not involving the Slagles.] [Southwestern Reporter, vol. 36, 1896, p. 713-714; google books:

https://books.googleusercontent.com/books/content?req=AKW5Qae7ZgPwYnXVtW_9xp5BHPfAssCgb9EXZD10cCv2uN7BCra0HNygX5q9pnI0INfY_O3xuOTeloOFAHI-mki5Ke6_yy29eIZTWcq9FbLIQxoqp1JkCpdZmEJcYwLkhMNgoOQ6BH DoydP67VcXg_-PjIXSLsas50NWzYLLOYRnIrbafSnN_WdvrwKLSRDHvXIe7jvmKSC4FDfBJPUk52nmReaYcNKwLY8LEyBeeYnAlZIGirOoaIQJu_fXsoVutSB1TbxCrPKeaDLAnD1MrQrPB-YjfN6HDg]

- 1896, Nov. 3: News: Slagle’s old grocery store is still center of strife. It’s now owned by D. N. Ressler. Charles Hetley has a store near the race track near the old Slagle stand. The two are financially linked w/ default. According to the newspaper, “This is a story of a debt, an attachment (civil), two rival grocers, an attachment (amatory) a preacher, an irate father, a peace warrant and several other things.” [Commercial Appeal, p.3]
- 1898, Nov. 3: Court: Slagle vs. Slagle divorce/alimony. More details about what each did to the other. She wants counsel fees and alimony of \$30/month. He was cited to appear in court, but didn’t do so. Second time he was summoned, the last time for contempt. No trial he explained he didn’t have a cent and could not pay alimony. Her lawyers wanted to send him to jail, but the judge decided if he didn’t have any money he couldn’t be made to pay and dismissed the contempt proceedings. Divorce case set for Nov. 14. “Dessie Slagle was, prior to her marriage, Dessie T. Wall. She and Slagle were married in Brownsville in 1891. The fight in the divorce suit is for the possession of the child, a boy, Addison, aged 7 years. [Commercial Appeal, p. 3]
- 1898, Nov. 5: Court: Schedule for Nov. 12: R. Slagle vs. Slagle and Slagle vs. Slagle.
- 1898, Nov. 14 Did not locate divorce trial info.
- 1899: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: Alexander G. Slagle, nog; h = Trezevant ave n e cor Malcolm ave.
AND 2nd entry: Mrs. Dessie Slagle, milliner, rooms 113 Beal
- 1900: Census: Tenn.: Shelby: A. G. Slagle born March 1833, Va.; grocer, single, but lives with his son, Adison, age 8 born Jan. 1892 in Tenn.
- 1901, June 20: Notice: “Trustee Sale. Under and by virtue of the powers conferred upon me as trustee by three trust deeds, viz., one executed Nov. 20, 1891...one dated July 11, 1895... and the other dated April 30, 1896... all of which were made by A. G. Slagle and his wife...which said deeds were respectively made to me as trustee to secure the indebtedness therein described, I will at the request of the holder and owner of the indebtedness mentioned in said trust deeds, which is past due and unpaid, sell, at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, on the southwest corner of Main and Madison streets, in the city of Memphis, at 12 o’clock a.m. on Saturday July 20 [29?], 1901.” There follows exact locations of the

property on the west side of Trezevant ave. Signed W. H. Brewer,
Trustee. [Commercial Appeal, p.5][Notice runs thru July 29]

1901, July 31: Court: "Can not sell property. Judge Galloway enjoined A. G. Slagle
from disposing of a lot.

An injunction filed in the Chancery Court yesterday by Mrs. Bettie
Clark, administratrix of William Clark, deceased, charges fraud on the part
of the defendant, A. G. Slagle.

The bill alleges that prior to his death, William Clark loaned the
defendant various sums of money, aggregating the amount of \$1,140.95.
As security for same the defendant executed three different trust deeds,
covering a lot on the west side of Trezevant avenue, in the suburbs of the
city of Memphis.

The fraud, according to the bill, consists in the defendant having
described and conveyed in the deed of trust a wholly different and much
less valuable lot than was agreed upon between him and William Clark at
the time of the negotiation of the loans. It is claimed that the trust should
have embraced an improved lot, north of the one actually conveyed, and of
sufficient value to secure the loans. The property transferred was worth
only about \$200.

It is insisted that at the time of the delivery of the trust deeds Clark
supposed that the lot described therein was the more valuable one, and
thus a fraud was practiced upon him.

In accordance with the prayer of the bill Judge Galloway issued an
injunction restraining Slagle from disposing of the improved lot."
[Commercial Appeal, p.7][Goes to court May 22, 1903]

1901, Aug. 1: Notice: "Real Estate Transfers. A. G. Slagle to Addison D. Slagle (value
\$400): lot 4, block 1, Stratton & Rogers subdivision, west line Trezevant
avenue. 50 x 150 feet." [Commercial Appeal, p.9] [SEE Aug. 30, 1910]

1902, April 27: Court: Criminal Court Calendar docket has A. G. Slagle on May 3
[Commercial Appeal, p.3]

1902: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: Grocer

1903, May 16: Court: Second Circuit Calendar has Bettie Clark, administratrix vs. A. G.
Slagle. [Commercial Appeal, p.7]

1903, June 6: Court: Second Circuit Calendar has Bettie Clark vs. A. G. Slagle for three
cases to be held June 12. [Commercial Appeal, p.7]

1903, June 27: Court: Second Circuit Calendar has Bettie Clark vs. A. G. Slagle for
three cases to be held July 3 [Commercial Appeal, p.6]

1903, July 18: Court: Second Circuit Calendar has Bettie Clark vs. A. G. Slagle for July
24 [Commercial Appeal, p.6]

1903, Nov. 26: Notice: Real Estate transfer from A. G. Slagle to John B. Yarborough,
\$1,469.89, 25x150 feet on west side Trezevant ave. 430 feet south of
Young avenue. [Commercial Appeal, p.4]

1904, March 16: News: Memphis is starting parkway around Memphis. Four suits
instituted against this. One by A. G. Slagle. The property in question
fronts the west side of Trezevant ave., west of Montgomery Park race
course. [Commercial Appeal, p.4]

- 1904: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: Grocer
- 1905: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: Grocer; Trevezant ave 2 n of Malcolm ave.
- 1907, Jan. 20: Court: Circuit Court cases include City of Memphis et al vs. A. G. Slagle, and City of Memphis et al. vs. Bettie Clark [Commercial Appeal, p.8]
- 1907, Jan. 25: Ad: “Mrs. Dessie Slagle will learn something of interest by addressing undersigned, care Commercial Appeal. ‘Mississippi.’ ”[Commercial Appeal, p.12][Wonder what this is about. Runs several days. Blackmail?]
- 1909, Jan. 3: Court: Criminal Court Calendar: “Thurs. Jan. 7 – Young Man S. A. Slagle, alias A. D. Slagle, Old Man S. A. Slagle, alias A. G. Slagle” [Commercial Appeal, p.5]
- 1909, March 3: News: “Attempted Suicide. Anna Jones, 19, Found in Serious Condition at Bellmont Hotel.

Anna Jones, 19, attempted suicide [sic] early this morning by taking an overdose of morphine [must have gotten from Slagle] in her room at the Bellmont Hotel, 72 Adams ave. The girl was found in a serious condition by a physician, who was summoned, and had her taken to the city hospital in the ambulance. Her chances for recovery are very slim.

J. C. McCleary, manager of the Bellmont Hotel, stated last night that the girl came there yesterday morning about 10 o’clock, in company with a man, who registered as A. B. Slagle [alias of A. G. Slagle] and wife. They went out to supper early in the evening, and returned to their room about 8 o’clock. Mr. McCleary said that Slagle came to the office about midnight stating that his wife was ill and he wanted a physician. One was telephoned for immediately, and found that the woman was in a serious condition. She refused to make a statement, although Slagle is reported to have told the physician that the girl had grown despondent because of ill health, and he believed this was the cause of her attempting suicide.” [Commercial Appeal, p.11]

- 1909, May 27: News: “Real Estate Transfers. ...Addison D. Slagle to Dominic J. Zanone, \$315, [sic] lot 4 block A. Mt. Arlington subdivision, northwest former of Malcolm and Trezevant avenues.” [Commercial Appeal, p. 5]
- 1909: Tenn.: Memphis: CD: nog; h = S. Trezevant 2 n of Malcolm ave.; also at that address is Anderson G. Slagle
- 1910, Aug. 30: Court: “Impeaches Father’s Act. Addison Slagle, Minor, Enters Twice in Chancery.

Addison D. Slagle, who says he is a minor, 18 years of age, through his next friend, R. F. Malone, yesterday filed two suits in the chancery court. One of the suits is against Dominick J. Zanone, and the other against the City of Memphis, L. P. Thompson, clerk of the circuit court, and A. G. Slagle, who is the father of the plaintiff.

In the first suit it is claimed that the father, who is made a defendant in the second suit, deeded him a certain parcel of land which he values at \$2,000 to \$2,500, and that the defendant, Dominick J. Zanone, who is described as a man of affairs, a money-maker, and skilled in business, induced him to part with for what he says was the whollyly [sic]

inadequate sum of \$515, and that he has not been able to collect more than \$315 of that sum.

It is claimed that advantage was taken of his youth and inexperience, and childish wants and impulses, and that he has now spent the proceeds, thus far collected, for such notions and fancies as appeal to persons of his immature years. He claims he was imposed upon by fair and flattering speeches, and asks the court for relief.

[NOTE: Nov. 12, 1910 court decided Zanone was taxed with costs up to and including filing of plea in abatement]

In the second suit it is claimed that the city condemned for park purposes a certain property which had been granted him by his father.

[NOTE: Dec. 13, 1910 the bill against the city, the city demurred]

Upon an order of the court, in Judge J. P. Young's division, damages in the amount of \$559 were allowed.

He claims that his father, as the tool of designing persons, falsely alleged that the plaintiff had attained the age of 21 years and had deeded the property to him, and therefore the father arrogated the right to receive the damages ordered paid by the court.

Plaintiff says he is not now 21 years of age, and had at the time of the contested transaction attained only the age of 16, and that he had not vested in his father the title to the property.

He says that his father is addicted to the morphine habit, and is now an inmate of the Shelby county asylum for the poor and insane.

It is not denied in the bill that the money paid over to his father by L. P. Thompson, clerk of the circuit court, was by order of the judge of the circuit court.

Young Slagle says that his father is a wreck mentally and physically and was not in possession of his faculties when the alleged transaction took place." [Commercial Appeal, p.4]

[NOTE: Likely he dies soon after this.]

- [RED HERRING: THE following is not to be same person, but probably related. First story said, "A. G. Slagle" but that was wrong. A.G. Slagle is still alive in 1909.
- 1909, Aug. 29: BODY OF **A.J. SLAGLE!** found in French Broad River five miles from Newport near Bridgetown. Murdered. [New Port Plain Talk, May 30, 1912, p.2]
- 1912, May 30: Recounts Slagle murdered; insurance fraud etc. page 3 of article not located.
- 1913, June 19: Story of the other Slagle's murder]
- 1921, May 16: Addison makes contact with his brothers Harry and Robert Slagle in Wash., D.C. who must be the children of Slagle's first marriage to Sara Wallis Shafer. They didn't know they had a brother. [Wash. Herald, p.2]
- 1941, Aug. 12: Memphis: Notice: Real estate transfer Addison D. Slagle to Wm. C. Clark 30 tax, \$10 paid, all interest in lot west side Park, 325 feet south of Maple. [Commercial Appeal, p.23]

BIO INFO ON ADDISON Douglas Slagle:

Born Jan. 5, 1892 to Dessa T. "Dessie" Wall

1913: Has son, Addison Douglas Slagle II

1920: Lives in Los Angeles

1945, Nov. 17: Died in Los Angeles

1/21/25