

The Octopus of Arkansas:
The Life and Crimes of Logan Holt Roots

Cornelia den Hartog Irwin
History 4803: Seminar in US History
December 14, 2016

On March 26, 1841, Benajah G. Roots and Martha Sibley Holt celebrated the birth of their third child Logan Holt Roots. Martha gave birth in their home Locust Hill, near Tamaroa, Illinois.¹ Logan Holt Roots arrived in an age of immense economic development accompanied with raw social problems. These times Mark Twain coined, The Gilded Age, in his novel *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*.² This age bred some of history's most notorious and corrupt public officials. It also served to fortify the ruthlessness of some of this nation's most famous magnates; their great wealth helping to disguise them in a "gilding of gold." Referring to the corrupt nature of elections in New York, George Washington Plunkitt of the Tammany Ring said, "It's philanthropy, but it's politics too-mighty good politics. The poor are the most grateful people in the world."³ Historian H. W. Brands gives a stark example of the "gilding" of these men when he discusses George Pullman in his narrative the *American Colossus*. He outlines Pullman's "paternalistic" nature in the creation of the Pullman community, with its orderly rows of houses and trimmed lawns. However, that paternalism gave way to capitalism when profits were threatened. The suffering inflicted by this philanthropic magnate led to the Pullman Strike of 1894.⁴

The duality in the minds of many men of this era make it difficult to label them. The Ludlow Massacre that took place on April 12, 1914 in which miners, women and children were killed was followed by a public outcry in the country for restitution.⁵ The Day Book of Chicago Illinois outlined the feelings of many at the time with regard to Rockefeller and those in positions of authority in the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company and the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company. "We demand that steps be taken to indict and try the men who bought Colorado and hired scoundrels to crush and murder her working people."⁶ Yet it is very easy to find numerous instances delineating Rockefeller's philanthropy. The New-York Tribune printed an article on April 23,

1906 covering the money given by Rockefeller to build a camp to house the many people dispossessed by the great earthquake in San Francisco.⁷ What was the north and south of these men's moral compasses? The hope is that an attempt to gain an understanding of these men's dualistic characters will achieve a better understanding of America during the Industrial Age. Like these men, Industrialism turned a bright face of scientific innovation, lower unemployment, improved economic mobility for a greater number of people one moment, but the next moment its face was dark with clouds of smoke and pollution, workers being exploited and suppressed individualism.

This dichotomy in the natures of our leading figures is not only found on macrocosmic levels. When the microcosm of Arkansas is examined, parallels can and should be drawn. In drawing these parallels, the notable Arkansan Logan Holt Roots comes into focus. When consensus Arkansas history is compared with a broader and more realistic inquiry, it is impossible to view Logan Holt Roots simply as a prominent builder of the state. The dichotomy of his nature as a corrupt octopus and a philanthropic angel must be considered. By gaining a more encompassing and accurate impression of this Gilded Age Arkansan, a better understanding of what Arkansas was and how it came into being comes to light.

Academia generally remembers Logan Holt Roots as a prominent state builder and philanthropist of Arkansas. His father's role in the education system and as a "Free Soiler"⁸ laid the foundation for Roots as an intelligent, Republican entrepreneur. After graduating as valedictorian from Normal State University in Illinois in 1862, he joined the Union cause in the Civil War,⁹ and came to Arkansas by way of his involvement in the U.S. army.¹⁰ As an integral part of the raising of the 81st Illinois Infantry, Logan Holt Roots distinguished himself, attracting the attention of General Logan, General McPherson and General Grant. Promoted to

Commissary of Subsistence, Captain Logan Roots served under General William T. Sherman receiving further commendation and finishing out the war posted to Arkansas.¹¹ Col. Roots adored the state so much that he invested heavily and purchased what the *Morning Republican* called, “one of the finest plantations in the White River Valley.”¹² Roots, however, was not content in the plantation life; he ran for and was elected to the Fortieth Congress as representative of the First District of Arkansas.¹³ After his re-election in 1868, in which the *Morning Republican* trumpeted him as, “A noble specimen of American manhood,” elected to a district full of “...vipers and rebels,” of the Confederacy, he lent his political power to the contractors of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company. Their contract renewal through the help of Representative Roots and Speaker of the House James G. Blaine earned the company \$1,500,000 in state bonds.¹⁴

Unsuccessful in his third bid for congress in 1870 and following U.S. Marshal Britton’s retirement in 1871, the Honorable Logan Holt Roots was appointed by President Grant, as Marshal of the Western District of Arkansas.¹⁵ The *National Cyclopedia of Biography*, said this of Logan Roots’ end of tenure as marshal.

Upon the expiration of his second term in congress, he was appointed by President Grant U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas, which position he filled until his removal from Fort Smith to Little Rock to take the position of president of the Merchant’s National Bank (afterward First National).¹⁶

In Little Rock, Roots, a booster of diversification, helped to push railroad building in the state. As part of a group of men that were extraordinarily varied in ability, he emerged as a leading citizen.¹⁷ His Memoriam remembers his efforts in the city of Little Rock in this way, “The pride of his life was to aid in building up the financial interests of the State of his adoption.”¹⁸ Logan Holt Roots did not simply diversify and push railroad production, he also

helped to secure the stability of the finances of the state through his nearly two decades at the helm of the First National Bank, which fell into ruin after he left its employ.¹⁹

On May 30, 1893, Little Rock newspapers sadly informed the public that the Honorable Logan Holt Roots was ill in his home. He died the next day. The *Arkansas Gazette* related the funeral as, “the most impressive,” and “the attendance as perhaps the largest ever seen in Little Rock on a similar occasion.” Anyone of means attended the funeral. The *Arkansas Gazette* reported that he died as a result of, “congestion of the brain,”²⁰ and eulogized Roots as, “one of Little Rock’s best citizens, one whose place would be hard to fill,” and who “would be missed forever.”²¹

Considering the tertiary and even secondary sources readily available, the above report could easily serve as an example of a research paper that might come across a college or high school instructor’s desk. However, a deeper, more thorough investigation into Logan H. Roots’ life paints a much more contrasting work of art. Compelled by academic integrity and with the intent of bringing light to past events which can illuminate the present, it is essential that academia remove the rose-colored consensus history glasses concerning Logan Holt Roots. An attempt to fully comprehend the working organism that was Arkansas in the late nineteenth century, requires a true awareness of Mr. Roots and men like him. Many of the same events in Logan’s life will be related. In the rendering of his birthplace, his education and invaluable service as a Union officer, no discrepancies are forthcoming, however we see the first hints of the untold story of Logan Holt Roots in his life as a post-Civil War civilian.

Nominated by an almost entirely Republican electorate following the Civil War, Logan Holt Roots made his way to Congress. Rumors that he bought that nomination circulated in the newspapers. The *Morning Republican* accused, “the cunning Logan Roots managed to buy up

the Arkansas delegation”, this however cannot be substantiated further.²² As mentioned, while in the House, Roots helped failing contractors renew their government contracts, but a more significant bill came to Congress by way of the Representative of the First District of Arkansas.

The Redistricting Act, approved by President Grant in 1871, authorized changing the location of Eastern District Court to Helena, Arkansas in addition to its being held in Little Rock, essentially dispersing judicial power to other parts of the state. An amendment to the bill also stipulated the Western District seat should be moved from Van Buren, Arkansas to Fort Smith, Arkansas close to Indian Territory. What is interesting about this allocation of judicial power to Helena and Fort Smith is the redistricting parameters that followed. The bill also stipulated that nineteen counties be moved from the Eastern to the Western District, one district specifically being Philips County where the seat of local government was Helena. This put two major judicial power seats in the newly created Western District.

Geographically, the re-located counties belonged to the Eastern District, but they were consolidated into the Western District. The territory that was thereafter considered the Western District was immense, had little federal oversight and had great potential to be a source of illegal revenue. Coincidentally, the day this bill became law, Logan Holt Roots’ second term as congressman ended and he was appointed by President Grant as marshal of this newly created, semi-autonomous and powerful Western District of Arkansas.²³ Considering that marshals and their deputies were paid according to the number of arrests they made and the fact that judges of the larger and more distant districts exercised greater power, these changes pushed by Congressman Roots and others were not surprising. By putting the seat of power closer to the Indian Territory the area under Root’s authority became much larger and had a far greater number of people to use to justify defrauding the government.

In Fort Smith, serving in a position he helped to create, a picture of graft and corruption with Logan Holt Roots at its center took form. This picture is one that is worthy of hanging alongside works created by Jay Gould and other Gilded Age tycoons. A complicated and far-reaching system of payments existed in this new Western District for federal employees. The judge was the only officer with a stable salary; marshals received token payments that were to be augmented by fees taken off the top of deputy receipts for working toward and making arrests, and per mile traveled payments. The federal government was also billed for the food, boarding, and clothes of those arrested along with any witness fees from trials conducted. Roots kept one-third of the money earned by deputies.²⁴ Marshal Roots appointed an army of deputies that functioned with great autonomy. They were not even required to have writs before making arrests. Roots instructed his deputies to, “‘work up business’ and (they) were sent out in the Indian Territory with instructions to hunt up all offenders and make arrests, ‘no matter how trivial the offense.’”²⁵

Not only did Roots send these men into the surrounding areas where they terrorized citizens to make money, he created fake accounts of men supposedly arrested and tried that he submitted to the federal government for reimbursement. Benjamin Duval, an Arkansas attorney and legislator was once a friend of Roots and wanted to defend him but was duty-bound after being commissioned by the government to investigate disproportionate expenditures from the district. He reported:

During the administration of Roots, the system of making out accounts for services as deputy marshal in the names of persons having no existence, and for posse in the names of fictitious parties, was perfected and carried to an enormous extent. The testimony shows that a roster of these myths was kept in the marshal's office; that deputies were encouraged to make out and certify false posse-accounts on the condition that they were to divide with the office, or " whack up to the office," in the language imputed to Roots by one of the witnesses. In addition to this, nearly all of the deputies who were examined by me swear that they were in the habit of signing the certificates to blank posse-accounts

which were afterward filled up with the names of parties as posse of whom they had no knowledge, and many of them pronounce their signatures to such accounts to be forgeries.²⁶

Despite overwhelming evidence of corruption and criminal activity, Benjamin Duval's criminal charges against Roots received no further attention and Roots was not indicted. Author and historian, Jeffrey Burton alludes to the idea that prosecuting Arkansas corruption could have brought attention to national corruption and that was something Washington leaders hoped to avoid. Burton states, "The atmosphere about Washington during Grants' second administration was so stiff with corruption that Attorney-General Williams himself was accused of being at party to Arkansas fraud."²⁷ Authors of the *Morning Republican* in Little Rock agreed and stated in their July, 2 article that, "As the thing now stands it looks very like Col. Roots was willing to accept the spoils of his office as hush money, and support Grant on condition of retaining his position."²⁸ However, after the results of these official inquiries were publicized authorities could no longer allow Roots to remain in office. He received no punishment but was terminated as a federal marshal.

His removal was chronicled in an article run in the local newspapers. The *Fort Smith New Era*, its owner and editor a proclaimed friend of Roots, refutes the claims made by the *Missouri Republican* stating:

The United States courts in the Western district of Arkansas cost the government one year 240,000-being more than the expenses of the same courts in the entire state of New York for the same length of time. The president thinking this sum rather beyond value of Roots even under the most liberal estimate has suspended that gentleman's official functions... We find the above in a recent number of the *Missouri Republican*, and cannot conceal our astonishment.²⁹

Valentine Dell, chief editor of the *Fort Smith New Era*, believed that Logan Roots was removed due to his political affiliations. Those ideas are parroted by Author Orval Truman Driggs Jr. in his article, *Issues of the Powell Clayton Regime 1868-1871*, where he delineates Logan Roots as

a Brindle Tail who followed Joseph Brooks and opposed Elisha Baxter in the republican struggle for power in the state.³⁰ Governor Clayton, may have been happy to relieve Roots of his office as he was a member of the opposing faction, however Clayton had substantial legal grounds for doing so.

Unencumbered by any ramifications for his actions during his tenure as marshal, Logan Roots moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. There, he served the First National Bank. Also investing in and operating many fruitful endeavors. However, again, evidence displays the gilding of Mr. Roots and the dichotomy within this group of men who pushed capitalism and innovation benefiting their localities and countries but predominantly profiting themselves. Occasionally, their corruption came to light. In the *American Colossus*, H.W. Bands gives account of the Credit Mobilier scandal of 1872, involving the Union Pacific Railroad and Vice President Schuyler Colfax.³¹ Like Colfax, Logan Holt Roots was involved in railroad scandals and like Colfax he was congressionally investigated. According to the *New York Herald*, Logan Roots and John T. Chidester, a friend of Roots and fellow railroad investor, were to face trial in Little Rock, Arkansas beginning January 9, 1887. The article read, “The defendants were Star Route contractors, and the government seeks to recover nearly \$175,000 from them, alleging that the money was fraudulently obtained through “expedited” routes.”³² This case may have made it all the way to the court room, but like Colfax and many of his contemporaries, our Arkansas magnate did not meet chastisement. As reported by the *Dallas Morning News*, Judge Caldwell, formerly of Fort Smith, maintained that the federal prosecution had failed to make a strong enough case and dropped the charges against Logan H. Roots.³³

Again free from reprimand, Logan Roots continued to function with autonomy in business and the community. As stated, his involvement in the First National Bank of Fort Smith

and later of Little Rock was trumpeted as a boon to the state of Arkansas. The Merchants National Bank of Little Rock was chartered in 1866, as the first national bank of the city.³⁴ *A History of Banking in the United States* delineates the beginning of Col. Root's involvement. John Jay Knox describes the founding of The Merchants National Bank. It had been conceived in the midst of "the corrupt reconstruction regime" and had "acquired an unsavory flavor as a financial venture on a legitimate basis it never was a success"³⁵; Roots shrewdly tried to wipe away these dregs when he became president. He changed the name from the Merchants National Bank to the First National Bank of Little Rock and moved to new quarters in the business center of the city. For over two decades this bank served to bolster the burgeoning city of Little Rock.

The Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski County 1889, says this of the First National Bank and Col. Logan Roots.

No other corporation in the State has excelled this bank in aiding the advancement and material growth of the community. Its strong helping hand has ever been ready to advance every enterprise needing and deserving encouragement. Yet with all this praiseworthy liberality it has been most carefully and judiciously managed... The board of directors embraces the very best financiers in the State. Col. Logan H. Roots, its president, is a synonym of success.³⁶

However, in accordance with the aims of this inquiry it must be made clear the sources of the previous excerpt. This memoir, produced in 1889 by the Godspeed Publishing Company as stated in their own preface, allowed Mr. Roots and other prominent members of Pulaski County to tell of their and their community's history as they saw fit. It says:

In all cases the sketches were submitted by mail, and in most instances were corrected and returned by the Subjects themselves. Coming as they do from the most illustrious families of the State—all Worthy citizens from the upper, middle and lower classes—they form in themselves the most complete account of the Northeast Counties ever written, and their great value to future generations will be warmly acknowledged by all thoughtful people.³⁷

This account is of great value, much of the information is true and gives us insight into late 19th century Arkansas. However, when we are more broadly inclusive concerning source material it is clear that the whole truth is not included in this volume. A broad range of sources corroborate Logan's roll as an efficient manager of the First National Bank of Little Rock. What is interesting, however, is that the First National Bank of Fort Smith, which Logan Roots and Bernard Baer started, failed in 1872. According to a report by the Comptroller the same year Logan Roots moved to Little Rock and was given control of the Merchants National Bank.³⁸

Annual reports of the Comptroller of the Currency, John Jay Knox, in the years of 1873³⁹, 1874⁴⁰, 1875⁴¹, 1876⁴², 1877⁴³ and 1878⁴⁴ show the bank as sound, a benefit to the people of Little Rock with Logan Roots at its helm. It is not his management of the First National Bank of Little Rock between the years of 1872 and 1891 that would call for a deeper investigation; it is the role he played in the collapse of the institution in 1893. Here again confrontation with the dichotomy of human nature presents itself. It has been demonstrated that Logan H. Roots, through the bank, helped the people of Little Rock, which makes the following events more difficult to understand.

The troubles of the First National Bank of Little Rock began in 1890 when ill health⁴⁵ forced Col. Logan Roots to sell his controlling shares to H.G. Allis.⁴⁶ Court transcripts chronicle the trail H.G. Allis suffered in 1894 because of his actions in the bank during this time. Per the transcript H.G. Allis issued fraudulent notes that he did not record on the First National Books, indebting the Bank to multiple other banking institutions. Suit was brought by United States National Bank of New York, specifying the conditions of the fraud. For example, through the First National Bank of Little Rock H.G. Allis, G.R. Brown and their Company the Electric Street-Railway Company borrowed fifteen thousand dollars on December 7, 1872. These

promissory notes were not repaid by Allis, Brown, the Electric Street-Railway company or the First National Bank of Little Rock. However, at the time, the First National Bank of Little Rock was in good standing so the First National Bank of New York confidently advanced payment. The transcript concludes with this statement, “It follows that the circuit court did not err in instructing the jury to find for the plaintiff, and judgment is affirmed.”⁴⁷ This judgment was rendered after the death of Logan Roots. Awareness of the corruption of this period might, for the present-day reader offset surprise, that after conviction and some time spent in prison, Mr. Allis found himself hiking freely through the Alaskan snows after he received executive clemency.⁴⁸ Blame falls easily on Mr. H.G Allis in the failure of the Bank, however that is not the entirety of the story.

A brief history of the beginning of the First National Banks problems is required to understand the involvement of our Arkansas magnate.⁴⁹ On January 9, 1893 after the fraud which was not yet known by the public had taken place, Allis decided to sell his shares and retire, citing that his Electric Street-Railway Company needed his full attentions. The drastic change in administration of the bank caused quite a sensation in the banking community and a great deal of uncertainty within the public. Two or three days after the change the Third National Bank of St. Louis demanded payment of a loan secured by the First National Bank, this caused the first run on the bank by depositors on Monday, January 19.

Fear of collapse instigated a meeting of the Associated Banks of Little Rock of which the First National Bank was a part. The First National Bank asked the associated banks for 50,000 dollars and upon collateral offered, this request was rejected. The Associated Banks offered 35,000 dollars which the First National initially refused and the meeting ended. However, the directors of the First National, knowing the peril in which they struggled, relented and provided

the collateral to secure the 35,000-dollar loan. Word of the deal between the Associated Banks was sent to other prominent banks and the First National was able to induce enough trust in their solvency to garner others support. The morning trains brought nearly 200,000 in cash currency that was to protect the bank against any further runs.

When the bank opened on Tuesday morning, January 17, there was a large run on the bank, as small depositors in the community became aware of the issues. By three o'clock at the banks closing, there was only about 15,000 dollars left in the vaults. Things may have improved had it not been for the failure of the McCarthy-Joyce Company which owed the First National 101,000 dollars. Again, the bank suffered a large number of withdrawals, but continued to function. Their troubles were far from over. On Thursday, the Press Printing Company made an assignment with a preference of over 20,000 dollars and this created another small run on the bank.⁵⁰

This is where Col. Logan Roots enters stage. On January 23, 1893 Nick Kuperle resigned and Logan Roots was elected and replaced him.⁵¹ In an interview by an Arkansas Gazette reporter, Mr. Roots was asked about the condition of the bank. This was his reply:

All I have to say is that before taking hold of it I made, in connection with the bank examiner, a careful examination of its assets and liabilities. That examination satisfied me that in point of fact the bank was fully able to meet all its liabilities, and on the faith of a personal examination of the affairs of the bank I have accepted the bank, and with the assistance of my friends will make it what it once was, the bank of the state. To that end I shall devote, not only my means but my personal attention.⁵²

Logan Roots' history as a prominent and capable financier would indicate that he was perfectly capable and able to properly discern the financial state of the bank, and that he truly wanted to help his bank and the city of Little Rock in his taking on of the presidency. Later developments, that will be discussed in greater in detail, will call into question his motives in taking on this responsibility.

On February 2, 1893, the Arkansas Gazette ran this title, *The First National Bank After Desperate Struggle Goes to the Wall*, declaring that, “the first National Bank will not open its doors this morning.” After the extent to which H.G. Allis had indebted the bank started to become evident to all Col. Logan Roots decided that the bank must be closed. In an interview concerning the closure of the bank and the effect it would have on the city, Logan Roots admitted to knowing that Allis had taken more than 450,000 dollars through the bank for which there were little securities.⁵³ He did not admit to knowing this in the earlier interview when he promised the people of Little Rock he could repair the bank. These discrepancies between interviews may be the first insight we get into his motives. Why would a banker with acumen take on a situation if he was at all familiar with the major issues knowing that the institution could not be saved? Further research reveals some plausible answers. Judge Sterling Cockrill accused that Logan Roots, the night before he ordered the bank officially closed in insolvency, withdrew money. He pulled out numerous deposits. These included those of the Eureka Springs Railroad Company of which he was treasurer;⁵⁴ his brother P.K. Roots’ deposits, and many others, thus reducing the capital with which the bank could have used to reimburse the deposits owed to the people of Little Rock.

These accusations were later given greater validity when Sterling Cockrill took the board of directors and stockholders of the First National Bank to the circuit court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. The bill names twelve men specifically as directors and stockholders of the bank. Two of which were Logan H. Roots and P.K. Roots. The bill charged in court that in 1890 the bank had capital stock of 250,000 dollars and that it was prosperous. Thereafter under the direction and guidance of H.G. Allis and with knowledge and consent of the board of directors and stock holders, the bank began a policy that soon impaired its capital and ultimately led to the

bank's failure. The bill further stipulated that the bank had become seriously impaired, to the point that it was not lawful to continue paying dividends to the directors and stockholders. However, it did. They continued to pay themselves a dividend of 4 percent. This amounted to 60,000 dollars that each director and stockholder received a portion of.⁵⁵ It is clear that in his interviews with the *Arkansas Gazette* Mr. Roots was less than honest. These actions do not speak of a man eager to help the bank succeed on the behalf of the city of Little Rock, but of one eager to protect himself.

This is not the end of it. While all of this was going on behind the scenes, Logan Roots functioned as the president and then the receiver for the defunct bank. In theory, the purpose, of a receiver or third party appointed by a court was to manage the financial affairs of a bank that had become insolvent. This third party was to keep the interests of the people who had invested and deposited in that bank, at heart. Logan Roots was not a third, uninvolved party, nor did he have the depositors at heart. Newspapers furiously screamed about the conflict of interest Logan presented, echoing the sentiments of the people of Little Rock who had suffered the most at the failure of the First National Bank. Those in Washington could no longer ignore the clamor. In an interview, even Logan Roots admitted that, "It is customary upon the failure of a large bank to appoint a receiver from outside the state". A whirlwind of news headlines preceded Logan Roots' removal. The *Arkansas Gazette* published on May 12, 1893 bellowed that there was "evidence on file at the department sufficient to, warrant his speedy removal."⁵⁶ Shortly thereafter this headline appeared. "Col. Logan H. Roots' resignation as receiver of the First National Bank has been requested by Comptroller Eckles, the resignation tendered and accepted and his successor appointed."⁵⁷ With the failure of the bank and its effects on the city, a political

and legal storm rumbled, and Col. Logan Roots' health waned. Fifteen days later Logan Holt Roots died.

It was not until 1899, many years after his death that his nefarious action concerning the First National Bank of Little Rock saw a courtroom. The defendants and Mr. John McClure who represented the deceased Mr. Roots, demurred to the bill and the accusations against them with several defenses.

“First, that it disclosed no equity: second, that it did not appear that the Comptroller of the Currency had procured a forfeiture of the charter of the Bank, pursuant to section 5239 of the Revised Statutes of the United States; third, because the bill was uncertain, indefinite, and insufficient in its allegations, and did not show what wrongs complained of had been committed by the respective defendants; and fourth because the action was barred by the statute of limitations of the state of Arkansas. The circuit court held that the first three grounds of demurrer were untenable, but that the fourth ground was well taken.”⁵⁸

They escaped justice because it had taken too long to drag them to court. This was in spite of all their defenses, none of which were a claim to innocence.

Similar to an octopus, Logan had his hands everywhere. Whether investing in towns like Eureka Springs, funding railroads, owning and managing stage coach companies in Texas, or acting as president of the First National Bank in Little Rock; his ambitions seemed to have had no limits. Philanthropy went hand in hand with all these endeavors. Perhaps, it was roles like the one he played in a Little Rock Sunday school which he ran and funded or his support of the Christ Church and Trinity Cathedral that clothed him in the gilding that protected him like other Gilded Age men and presents for us a study into the duality of the human nature. He wore a mask of philanthropy and was not impervious to bias. An interesting story that demonstrated his contributions to the community is found in the buildings of the city of Little Rock. The beautiful alter and windows behind it in Christ Church were paid for and donated by P.K. Roots and

Logan H. Roots respectively. After the Roots family moved their spiritual wellbeing from Christ Church into the hands of Trinity Cathedral, the Roots brothers paid off the remaining debt for the building. Oral tradition tells a story that explains the involvement of the Roots family in both churches. The rector of the Christ Church one Sunday morning is said to have physically barred the Roots family from entering the church, proclaiming, “We don’t worship with Yankees and carpetbaggers!” Due to this incident, Roots removed his family to Trinity Cathedral, and therefore evidence of his patronage is found in both buildings.⁵⁹ In studying Mr. Roots’ life, history depicts a family man, a god-fearing man, a financially savvy man, a corrupt lawman, a greedy business man and a controlling upper-class gentleman. When studying Arkansas’ past it does not encourage the furtherance of society to simply sell a rosy package to the public with regards to Roots. If society is blind to the past they will make decisions in the present with that same blindness. Arkansas could benefit from the truth.

The founding of the state of Arkansas and the Gilded Age were dominated by giants; men who were heroes of industry yet villains of moral character. Men who birthed commerce, governmental structures, and financial institutions then lived parasitically on the backs of those children. As we study the Dr. Jekyll’s and Mr. Hyde’s of the Gilded Age, it is imperative that the portrait of Logan Holt Roots be hung alongside those of other magnates of this era. In the study of this group there exists both good and evil. To gain true understanding, the academic world must embrace the dichotomy of the octopus and the angel to avoid treating history disingenuously. It is only when these men can be studied without bias that they and the state of Arkansas can be understood. It is impossible to learn from the past and create a better future for the posterity of Arkansas if we use the “rose colored glasses” approach to history, and show the next generations an attractive package of history tied up in a pretty red ribbon. By examining the

moral, financial, governmental, and humanitarian failures of the past changes can be instituted that can help future generations steer clear of similar failures.

Endnotes

1. Nancy A. Williams, Jeannie M. Whayne, ed. *Arkansas Biography: A Collection of Notable Lives*. Fayetteville, Ar.: The University of Arkansas Press, 2000. Pp.249
2. Twain, Mark, and Charles Dudley Warner. *The Gilded Age: A Tale of to-Day*. Harper, 1901.
3. Jacob A. Riis, *How the Other Half Lives: Studies among the Tenements of New York*, ed. David Leviantin (1890; Boston/St. Martin's, 1996) pp. 77-91, 96-98. Talks about the price the poor paid for help was control of their vote by the ring.
4. H.W. Brands. *American Colossus: The Triumph of Capitalism 1865-1900*. 1st ed. New York, N.Y.: Anchor Books A Division of Random House Inc., 2010. Pp. 519-520
5. "Colorado "Over the Top" Leaguers Win Sweeping Victory In Primary Election With Ticket Headed by Collins for Governor." *The Nonpartisan Leader*. October 4, 1920 (The Nonpartisan Leader 1920)
6. "Put Them on trial!" *The Day Book*. July 5, 1915, last edition (The Day Book 1915)
7. "Beds made in Pews J.D. Rockefeller Gives Money to establish Camp." *New-York tribune*. April 23, 1906 (New-York Trinune 1906)
8. "Hon Logan H. Roots." *Morning Republican*. July 1, 1868, Vol: 2 Issue: 70
9. Williams, pp. 249
10. Carl H. Moneyhon. "The Creators of the New South in Arkansas: Industrial Boosterism, 1875-1885." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 55(4): 383-409 winter 1996 LV Number 1, no. Spring 1996 (n.d.).
11. "Col. Logan H. Roots." *Morning Republican*. March 23, 1886, Vol: 1 Issue: 289
12. "Hon Logan H. Roots." *Morning Republican*.
13. "ROOTS, Logan Holt - Biographical Information." Accessed March 24, 2016. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=R000434>.
14. George H. Thompson. "Asa P. Robinson and the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 1, XXXIX, no. Spring 1980 (1980).
15. S.W. Harman. *The Original "Hell on the Border; He Hanged 88 Men" : The Factual Story of Judge Isaac Parker, Federal Judge at Fort Smith Arkansas*. Revised, Unabridged. Fort Smith, Arkansas: Historical Fort Smith Inc., 1956. Pp. 39
16. *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography Being the History of the United States: As Illustrated in the Lives of the Founders, Builders, and Defenders of the Republic, and the Men and Women Who Are Doing the Work and Moulding the Thought of the Present Time*. Vol. V. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms A Xerox Company, 1967. Pp 95-96 The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography is a compilation of distinguished biographers from every state, revised and approved of by the most eminent historians, scholars and statesman of the day.
17. Carl H. Moneyhon. "The Creators of the New South in Arkansas: Industrial Boosterism, 1875-1885." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 55(4): 383-409 winter 1996 LV Number 1, no. Spring 1996 (n.d.).
18. *In Memoriam Logan Holt Roots: Born March 26, 1841, Died May 30, 1893*. Arkansas Democrat Company Printers and Binders, 1893.

19. *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography Being the History of the United States*
20. "Logan H. Roots: Arkansas Leading Financier Died Suddenly Yesterday Afternoon." *Arkansas Gazette*. May 31, 1893.
21. "Laid to Rest. The Remains of Logan Holt Roots in Oakland Cemetery. Impressive Services." *Arkansas Gazette*. June 2, 1893.
22. "Brooks' Political History." *Morning Republican*. March 29, 1872, Volume: 5 Issue: 261.
23. Jeffrey Burton. *Indian Territory and the United States, 1866-1906: Courts, Government and the Movement for Statehood*. 1st ed. Vol. 1. Unknown vols. Legal History of North America 346.76601'3. Norman, Ok: University of Oklahoma Press: Norman and London, 1995. Pp. 52-53
24. Jeffrey Burton. *Indian Territory and the United States, 1866-1906: Courts, Government and the Movement for Statehood*. Jeffrey Burton. *Indian Territory and the United States, 1866-1906: Courts, Government and the Movement for Statehood*. pp 53, 59
25. Benjamin Duval. "Western Judicial District of Arkansas: Arkansas, Letter from the Attorney-General, Relative to Expenditures of the Marshals Office of the Western Judicial District of Arkansas." In *Congressional Series of United States Public Documents*, 18: xlii – 156. 175. U.S. Government Printing Office, n.d. pp. 6
26. Benjamin Duval. "Western Judicial District of Arkansas: Arkansas, Letter from the Attorney-General, Relative to Expenditures of the Marshals Office of the Western Judicial District of Arkansas." Pp. 7
27. Jeffrey Burton. *Indian Territory and the United States, 1866-1906: Courts, Government and the Movement for Statehood*. Jeffrey Burton. *Indian Territory and the United States, 1866-1906: Courts, Government and the Movement for Statehood*. pp 61
28. "The Democracy Sympathizing with Roots." *Morning Republican*. July 2, 1872, Volume: 6 Issue: 73, sec. Two of Two.
29. "Expensive Roots." *Fort Smith New Era*. July 5, 1872.
30. Orval Truman Driggs Jr. "Issues of the Powell Clayton Regime 1868-1871." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 8(1):1-75 spring 1949 VII, no. Spring 1948 (1948).
31. H.W. Brands. *American Colossus: The Triumph of Capitalism, 1865-1900*. 1st ed. New York, N.Y.: Anchor Books A Division of Random House Inc., 2010. Pp 356-360
32. "Suing Star Routers: The Government Trying to Recover Money from the Roots 'Combine.'" *New York Herald*. January 10, 1887, Issue: 10
33. "A Star Route Case: The Government Fails to Make a Case Against Chidester, Roots, Et Al." *Dallas Morning News*. January 15, 1887.
34. *Corner of the Tapestry: A History of the Jewish Experience in Ar 1820s-1990s (c)*. University of Arkansas Press, n.d.
35. Knox, John Jay. *A History of Banking in the United States*. B. Rhodes & Company, 1900.
36. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas: Comprising a Condensed History of the State... Biographies of Distinguished Citizens... [Etc.]*. Goodspeed publishing Company, 1889.

37. Ibid

38. John Jay Knox. "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Third Session of the Forty-Second Congress." Annual Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 2, 1872.

39. John Jay Knox. "The National Banks Eleventh Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., November 28, 1873.

40. John Jay Knox. "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Second Session of the Forty-Third Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 7, 1874.

41. John Jay Knox. "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the First Session of the Forty-Fourth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 6, 1875.

42. John Jay Knox. "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Second Session of the Forty-Fourth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 4, 1876.

43. John Jay Knox. "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Second Session of the Forty-Fifth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 3, 1877.

44. John Jay Knox. "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Third Session of the Forty-Fifth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 2, 1878.

45. Knox, John Jay. *A History of Banking in the United States*. B. Rhodes & Company, 1900.

46. "Logan H Roots Resumes Presidency of First Natl a LR." *Arkansas Gazette*. 1–25, 1893. Arkansas Tech University Library Russellville, Ar. Arkansas Gazette Index.

47. "AUTEN v. UNITED STATES NAT. BANK OF NEW YORK." LII / Legal Information Institute. Accessed September 18, 2016. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/174/125>.

48. Knox, John Jay. *A History of Banking in the United States*. B. Rhodes & Company, 1900.

49. "Account of Problems Facing First Natl of LR." *Arkansas Gazette*. 2, 1893. Arkansas Tech University Library Russellville, Ar. Arkansas Gazette Index.

50. Ibid. The entirety of the brief history of the beginnings of the banks problems is delineated in the article, "Account of Problems Facing First Natl of LR." Cited in the last note.

51. "Logan H Roots Resumes Presidency of First Natl a LR." *Arkansas Gazette*. 1–25, 1893. Arkansas Tech University Library Russellville, Ar. Arkansas Gazette Index.

52. Ibid.

53. "First National of LR Will Not Open Doors Today." *Arkansas Gazette*. February 2, 1893, sec. page 1 line 1. Arkansas Tech University Library Russellville, Ar. Arkansas Gazette Index.

54. *Annual Report of the Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners of the State of Missouri for the Year Ending ...* Tribune Print. Company, 1886.

55. "United States Circuit Court of Appeals Report: Reports Containing All the Cases Determined in All the Circuit Courts." United States Circuit Court of Appeals Report.

56. "Eckles' Eye." *Arkansas Gazette*. May 12, 1893.

57. Ibid

58. "United States Circuit Court of Appeals Report: Reports Containing All the Cases Determined in All the Circuit Courts." United States Circuit Court of Appeals Report, n.d. FIX

59. Beary, Michael Jay. *Black Bishop: Edward T. Demby and the Struggle for Racial Equality in the Episcopal Church*. University of Illinois Press, 2001.

Bibliography

- “Account of Problems Facing First Natl of LR.” *Arkansas Gazette*. 2, 1893. Arkansas Tech University Library Russellville, Ar. Arkansas Gazette Index.
- Annual Report of the Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners of the State of Missouri for the Year Ending ... Tribune Print. Company, 1886.
- “A Star Route Case: The Government Fails to Make a Case Against Chidester, Roots, Et Al.” *Dallas Morning News*. January 15, 1887.
- Atkinson, James H. “The Adoption of the Constitution of 1874 and the Passing of the Reconstruction Regime.” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 5(3):288-296 Fall 1946 V Number 1, no. Spring 1946 (1946).
- “Beds made in Pews J.D. Rockefeller Gives Money to establish Camp.” *New-York tribune*. April 23, 1906.
- Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas: Comprising a Condensed History of the State... Biographies of Distinguished Citizens... [Etc.]*. Goodspeed publishing Company, 1889.
- Brands, H.W. *American Colossus: The Triumph of Capitalism, 1865-1900*. 1st Ed. New York, N.Y.: Anchor Books A Division of Random House Inc., 2010.
- “Brooks’ Political History.” *Morning Republican*. March 29, 1872, Volume: 5 Issue: 261.
- Congressional Series of United States Public Documents*. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1875.
- “Colorado "Over the Top" Leaguers Win Sweeping Victory In Primary Election With Ticket Headed by Collins for Governor.” *The Nonpartisan Leader*. October 4, 1920.
- Driggs, J Orval Truman r. “Issues of the Powell Clayton Regime 1868-1871.” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 8(1):1-75 spring 1949 VII, no. Spring 1948 (1948).
- Du Quion (Illinois) Tribune. “Col. Logan Holt Roots.” *Morning Republican*. March 23, 1868, Vol. 1 Issue 289 edition, sec. Page 2.
- Duval, Benjamin. “Western Judicial District of Arkansas: Arkansas, Letter from the Attorney-General, Relative to Expenditures of the Marshals Office of the Western Judicial District of Arkansas.” In *Congressional Series of United States Public Documents*, 18: xlii – 156. 175. U.S. Government Printing Office, n.d.
- “Eckles’ Eye.” *Arkansas Gazette*. May 12, 1893.
- “Expensive Roots.” *Fort Smith New Era*. July 5, 1872.
- “First National of LR Will Not Open Doors Today.” *Arkansas Gazette*. February 2, 1893, sec. page 1 line 1. Arkansas Tech University Library Russellville, Ar. Arkansas Gazette Index.

- Harman, S.W. The Original "Hell on the Border; He Hanged 88 Men" : The Factual Story of Judge Isaac Parker, Federal Judge at Fort Smith Arkansas. Revised, Unabridged. Fort Smith, Arkansas: Historical Fort Smith Inc., 1956.
- "Hon Logan H. Roots." *Morning Republican*. July 1, 1868, Vol: 2 Issue: 70.
- In Memoriam Logan Holt Roots: Born March 26, 1841, Died May 30, 1893*. Arkansas Democrat Company Printers and Binders, 1893.
- Knox, John Jay. *A History of Banking in the United States*. B. Rhodes & Company, 1900.
- Knox, John Jay. "Annual Report of the Comptroller of Currency to the Second Session of the Forty-Fifth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 3, 1877.
- . "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the First Session of the Forty-Fourth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 6, 1875.
- . "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Second Session of the Forty-Fourth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 4, 1876.
- . "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Second Session of the Forty-Third Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 7, 1874.
- . "Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency to the Third Session of the Forty-Fifth Congress." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., December 2, 1878.
- . "The National Banks Eleventh Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency." Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency. Washington D.C., November 28, 1873.
- Legal Information Institute "AUTEN v. UNITED STATES NAT. BANK OF NEW YORK." Accessed September 18, 2016. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/174/125>.
- LeMaster, Carolyn Gray. *Corner of the Tapestry: A History of the Jewish Experience in Ar. 1820s-1990s* (c). University of Arkansas Press, n.d.
- "Logan H Roots Resumes Presidency of First Natl a LR." Arkansas Gazette. 1–25, 1893. Arkansas Tech University Library Russellville, Ar. Arkansas Gazette Index.
- Moneyhon, Carl H. "The Creators of the New South in Arkansas: Industrial Boosterism, 1875-1885." Arkansas Historical Quarterly 55(4): 383-409 Winter 1996 LV Number 1, no. Spring 1996 (n.d.).

“Put Them on Trial!” *The Day Book*. July 5, 1915, last edition

Riis, Jacob A. *How the Other Half Lives*. Penguin, 1997.

“ROOTS, Logan Holt - Biographical Information.” Accessed March 24, 2016. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=R000434>.

“Suing Star Routers: The Government Trying to Recover Money from the Roots ‘Combine.’” *New York Herald*. January 10, 1887, Issue: 10.

The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography Being the History of the United States: As Illustrated in the Lives of the Founders, Builders, and Defenders of the Republic, and the Men and Women Who Are Doing the Work and Moulding the Thought of the Present Time. Vol. V. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms A Xerox Company, 1967.

“The Democracy Sympathizing with Roots.” *Morning Republican*. July 2, 1872, Volume: 6 Issue: 73, sec. Two of Two.

Thompson, George H. “Asa P. Robinson and the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad.” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 1, XXXIX, no. Spring 1980 (1980).

Twain, Mark, and Charles Dudley Warner. *The Gilded Age: A Tale of to-Day*. Harper, 1901.

“United States Circuit Court of Appeals Report: Reports Containing All the Cases Determined in All the Circuit Courts.” United States Circuit Court of Appeals Report, n.d.

Williams, Nancy A., Jeannie M. Whayne, ed. *Arkansas Biography: A Collection of Notable Lives*. Fayetteville, Ar.: The University of Arkansas Press, 2000.