

# Worden Pope Small (1840-1906)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2002

July 12, 2002

Jerry Long  
Owensboro Public Library  
450 Griffith Street  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

Re: Mayor Worden Pope Small Dear Mr. Long:

Thank you for the information on Mayor Small. Fortunately, when the Owensboro mayor's office sent me some information on Mayor Taylor they also sent a list of mayors on which I noticed Worden Pope Small was listed.

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$1.20 for the four pages you mentioned.

You also mentioned that Cornelia Small might be in the Newbolt book. I see that Mayor Small's sister, Alice L. Small (1842-), married John Newbolt.

If possible, I would like to obtain a copy from the book on whatever information it might have on Cornelia and Alice and their descendants.

I did ask the Louisville Public Library if they could borrow the book. The only name I gave them was Newbolt Family book so I do not know if that was enough.

For what it is worth, Mayor Small was a great grandson of Benjamin Pope (1740-1816), of Bullitt County, who was a third cousin of Pres. George Washington. Benjamin Pope's father was Worden Pope (1700-49), of Westmoreland County, Va. I have been working on a Pope family book for twenty years.

Thank you again very much for your help.

Sincerely yours,  
James H. Barr III

100 Westwind Road  
Louisville, Ky. 40207

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History and Genealogy of the Newbolt - Small - Taylor Families in Kentucky 1769-1970, Julia Alverda (Shown) Newbolt, Owensboro, Ky., 1970, pp.108-115 :

#### NEWBOLT- SMALL

George Ann Newbolt, daughter of George and Elizabeth G. (Adams) Newbolt, was married to Worden P. Small, son of Richard and Minerva ( Yewell) Small, February 7, 1861 To this marriage was born three Daughters, one son.

Worden. P.Small was elected Mayor of Owensboro, in December 1898 [note: should be took office December 6, 1897] to December 2, 1901. He was very progressive and was a fine gentleman and leader of the people. It was under his leader-ship that street improvement began. Muddy streets were being replaced by paved streets.

About the turn of the century, when our first city hospital was built, Worden P. Small, then Mayor, became Chairman of the first Board.

George Ann Newbolt - b. June 8, 1843 Daviess County, Ky., d. June 30, 1903 Owensboro, Ky., m. February 7, 1861

Worden Pope Small – b. August 3 1840 Oldham Co. Ky., d. November 12, 1906 Owensboro, Ky.

Children:

Margaret Ann Small, b. November 21, 1861, d. September 4, 1945 Owensboro, Ky., m. William Henry Brannon (August 28, 1858 – October 3, 1938), March 24, 1880 in Daviess County, Ky. To this marriage was born three sons: Clifton B., Frank Small and William Henry Brannon, Jr.

Richard Small, b. April 19, 1866, d. August 17, 1867

Cornelia Small, b. May 26, 1868 Daviess County, Ky., d. October 26, 1953 Richmond, Virginia, m. William McFarland (May 14, 1867 – November 4, 1947), November 8, 1892. They had seven children: Ruth, Margaret N., Marianne M., Dorothy V., Daniel S., Hope Elizabeth and William S. McFarland.

Minerva Small, March 15, 1871, d. November 21, 1873

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Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 13 November 1906, p.1:

FORMER MAYOR SMALL IS DEAD  
Death Due To Attack of Typhoid Fever  
Was Concientious and Faithful Public Servant.  
Was A Native of Missouri  
But Spent All of His Mature Years in  
Daviess County – Arrangements  
For Funeral Not Made.

Worden P. Small, former mayor of Owensboro, cited at his home on Seventh street at 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon. Typhoid fever, from which he had suffered for ten days, was the immediate cause of his death, but he had been in poor health for the past twelve months. He was sixty-six years old.

Mr. Small was a native of Missouri, though a Kentuckian by ancestry and by residence. He was born in 1840, in Clark county, Mo., where his father Richard Simms Small, had moved from Kentucky a few years earlier. When Worden P. was about seven years old, the family returned to Daviess county, and he spent the remainder of his life here. He lived in the country a few miles from Owensboro until he attained the age of manhood.

By party affiliation Mr. Small was a Democrat, and one of the staunchest members of the party during most of his life he took an active interest in public affairs. He served several terms as a member of the city council. In 1897 he was nominated by the Democrats for mayor and elected.

During the four years he served as mayor, W. P. Small devoted his entire attention diligently and unselfishly to the public interests. He knew where every dollar paid out of the treasury went. He was not always entirely in harmony with the common council, but between them they managed to get Owensboro started on an era of progress which has made it one of the most beautiful cities in the state

#### Nominee Second Time.

Last year Mr. Small was again nominated for mayor, but was defeated by W. M. O'Bryan, the present mayor.

In the earlier years of his life Mr. Small engaged in several enterprises, in all of which he was reasonably successful. For a number of years he was engaged in the tobacco business. After the expiration of his term as mayor he formed the partnership of Small & Hendricks and engaged in concrete construction work. 1 Miles of Owensboro's white pavements, which he had planned during his term as mayor, were put down under his direction.

Mr. Small, by religious belief was a Baptist and during all of his mature years was a member of the First Baptist church. He was devoted to his church. He was one of the most charitable of men, but his charity was dispersed with such scrutiny that none of it went to unworthy pretenders.

Mr. Small was twice married. His first wife was previous to her marriage, Miss Georgiana Newbolt. She died a number of years ago. In January of this year Mr. Small was married to Miss Grace Hall, who survives him. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. W. H. Brannon, of Owensboro, and Mrs. William McFarland, of Newport News, Va., one brother. J. Y. Small, of Owensboro, and two sisters, Mrs. O. P. Skillman, of Pleasant Ridge; and Mrs. Annie Coats, of Owensboro. The last named is now in New Mexico. The late Hon. J. A. Small was a brother.

#### No Arrangements For Funeral.

Arrangements for the funeral have not been made and will not be until Mrs. McFarland arrives from Newport News. It is certain, however, that the funeral will be held from the First Baptist church, probably Wednesday morning. The Rev. T. N. Compton, if he reaches Owensboro in time, will conduct the services.

The common council in special session last night, adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved by the common council of the city of Owensboro that it has learned with sincere regret of the death today of Mr. Worden P. Small, who was elected to, and most faithfully, honorably and diligently performed the duties of the office of mayor of the city of

Owensboro for a period of four years from 1897 to 1901. His reputation for the integrity and all that goes to make up the measure of good citizenship was of the highest and best. In his death this community has sustained an irreparable loss,

That the common council respectfully tenders to his bereaved family its sincere condolence.

That the mayor and common council and officials attend his funeral in a body.

That these resolutions be spread on the records of the proceedings of the council and an engrossed copy, signed by the mayor and the members of the council, and attested by the clerk under the seal of the city, be furnished to his widow.

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