

"WOMAN SCANS SKYLIGHT FOR FINGERPRINTS":

THE STORY OF OMAHA POLICE FINGERPRINT EXPERT EMILY BYRAM

BY DON ARP, JR.

Under cover of darkness on the night of May 10, 1921, a crew of burglars spirited itself across the roof of Salerno & Pattavina, an Omaha clothing retailer, and broke in via the store's skylight. The next day, another crew made its way to the roof. Not a crew of burglars, this team of investigators from the Omaha Police Department searched for clues. The team looked like any other from the Omaha Police, but for one member. Standing next to Detectives Barta and Aughe was one of the department's most talented criminalists and fingerprint experts: Emily Byram.

Trained by the federal government, Byram was one of the first female fingerprint examiners in United States law enforcement. She served as assistant superintendent of the identification

bureau during her brief but noteworthy career as a criminalist. Following the custom of the time, she left the profession once she married. When she died fifty years later, her obituary made no mention of her crime-fighting career, only that she was the spouse of a duck hunter.

Women entered the workforce during World War I, but seldom retained these positions after men returned to work. Byram was an exception, demonstrating that in some highly technical fields where expertise was based on practical experience, women were able to capitalize on their wartime service and hold on to these positions until they decided, usually in conformity with societal expectations, to leave employment upon marriage.

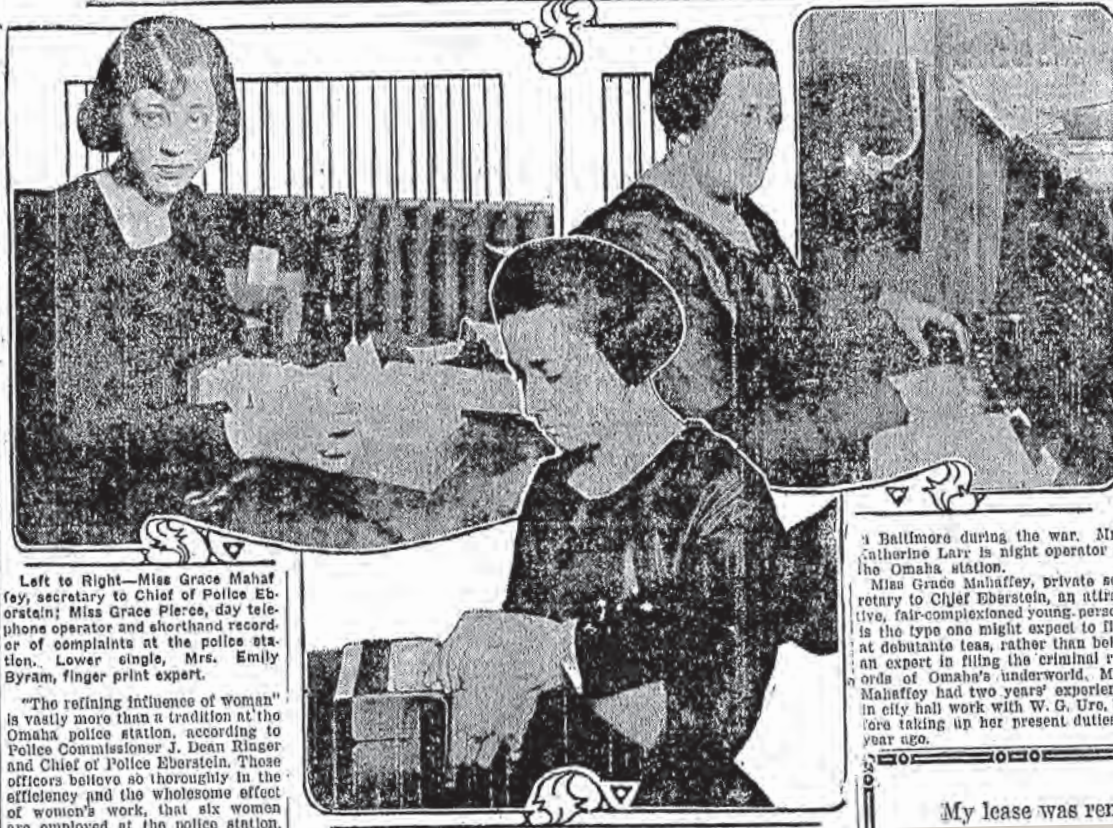
Emily Bridges' (Byram) senior yearbook photograph, Omaha High School, 1911.



BRIDGES, EMILY, Elaine Soc. (1-2-3-4), Reporter (1), Latin Soc. (4), Eligible Commencement Comp.

Emily always takes her time, but gets there just the same.

"Less Cussing" Since Women Hold Jobs at Jail.



Left to Right—Miss Grace Mahaffey, secretary to Chief of Police Eberstein; Miss Grace Pierce, day telephone operator and shorthand recorder of complaints at the police station. Lower single, Mrs. Emily Byram, finger print expert.

"The refining influence of woman" is vastly more than a tradition at the Omaha police station, according to Police Commissioner J. Dean Ringer and Chief of Police Eberstein. Those officers believe so thoroughly in the efficiency and the wholesome effect of women's work, that six women are employed at the police station, and three at the city hall one block

in Baltimore during the war. Mrs. Catherine Larr is night operator at the Omaha station.

Miss Grace Mahaffey, private secretary to Chief Eberstein, an attractive, fair-complexioned young person, is the type one might expect to find at debutante teas, rather than being an expert in filing the criminal records of Omaha's underworld. Miss Mahaffey had two years' experience in city hall work with W. G. Uro, before taking up her present duties a year ago.

My lease was renew

The only known photo of Emily Byram (center) working as a fingerprint expert. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 19, 1920.

Early Life

Emily was born to William and Margret Bridges in 1893.¹ She attended Omaha High School and was a member of the Elaine Society (a literary club named after Lady Elaine, wife of Lancelot), Latin Society, and wrote an essay selected for reading at her senior commencement.² The high school yearbook, as was the custom for many decades, included a brief statement of the faculty's impression of each student. The statement accompanying Emily's photograph may be an early sign of the temperament that led her to undertake the detailed work of a fingerprint examiner: "Emily always takes her time, but she gets there just the same."³

After graduating in 1911, Emily attended college for a year before becoming a school teacher in Decatur, Nebraska.⁴ In Decatur, she met Henry Earl Byram, a pharmacist who worked in his father's store.⁵ Earl, as he was known, graduated from high

school in 1904 and then farmed for five years. In 1909 he enrolled in Creighton College, earning a pharmacy degree in 1911.⁶

Little is known of their courtship, but they married on June 27, 1917, in Emily's parents' Omaha home. The couple honeymooned at what the newspaper called the "northern lakes."⁷ The couple returned from their honeymoon on July 11, 1917, and made their home in Decatur.⁸ Life settled into a routine for a few months. On September 20, 1917, Emily returned from visiting her family in Omaha.⁹

Earl suffered what was called "a light stroke of paralysis" on September 22.¹⁰ Five days later he went to Clarkson Hospital in Omaha for treatment, and died around 6 p.m.¹¹ He and Emily had been married three months to the day.

According to a family history, Earl "was accidently thrown down a flight of stairs just before his wedding, severely injured his head and became ill and died while on his honeymoon."¹²

N° _____

Nom et prénoms : *M. Bertillon Alphonse*

Surnoms et pseudonymes : _____

Né le *22 Avril* 18*53*, à *Paris* cant. *H^e* dép. _____

Fils de *Docteur Louis Adolphe* et de *Marie Zoé Guillard* Profession : _____

Antécédents : _____ Motif de la détention : _____

Marques particulières et cicatrices.

I. _____	III. _____
II. _____	IV. _____
	V. _____
	VI. _____

Main gauche

Auriculaire g. Annulaire g. Médius g. Index g. Pouce g.

Age app^r _____ Age déclaré *59* N^e en *1853*

Taille <i>178.0</i>	long ^r <i>19.4</i>	Pied g. <i>27.4</i>	n ^e de cl. <i>3</i>	Cheveux <i>ch. m. gris</i>
Voûte _____	larg ^r <i>16.8</i>	Médius g. <i>11.9</i>	aur ^e <i>7.07 m.</i>	Barbe <i>bl.</i>
Enverg. <i>1.81</i>	xyz ^e <i>14.7</i>	Auric ^e g. <i>9.9</i>	pér ^e <i>card. v. m.</i>	Teint P ^o <i>9</i> S ^e <i>bl.</i>
Buste <i>95.2</i>	Oreille dr. <i>6.7</i>	Condi ^e g. <i>47.9</i>	part ^e _____	Main dr. _____
				Main g. _____

Distance du sujet 2 mètres : Réduction 5 = Point de vue de la photographie 0^e, 40.

Notes _____

Dressé à Paris, le *7 Octobre 1882*, par M. _____

Pouce dr. Index dr. Médius dr. Annulaire dr. Auriculaire dr.

Anthropometric data sheet from 1893 of Alphonse Bertillon (1853-1914), a police clerk in Paris, France, who invented the system of identification widely used by law enforcement agencies before the advent of fingerprinting.
Wikimedia Commons

Clearly, he did not die on the honeymoon, and though the extent of his injury is not known, it appears likely that it was connected to his paralysis episode and eventual death. Pre-existing health issues may have exacerbated the effects of the head injury. Earl's obituary notes that he attempted to join the military several times, but was rejected by both the army and the navy because of "physical defects."¹³ Physical issues may also explain his career change from farming to a more sedentary role as a pharmacist.

Little is known of Emily's life in the months immediately after Earl's death. However, by April 1918 she had moved to Omaha to live with her parents and, for reasons that remain unknown, began studying fingerprints under the direction of Hans Nielsen, a veteran Omaha Police officer and fingerprint expert.¹⁴ Byram remained in Nebraska until at least July 1918. The *Decatur Herald* reported that she and her mother visited a woman in Decatur on May 16, 1918, and was a guest of the same woman on July 18.¹⁵ The paper doesn't mention Byram's departure for the East Coast, where she trained as a fingerprint examiner for the Navy and worked for the War Department in Washington, D.C.

Fingerprints and Criminal Identification

Law enforcement had always struggled with identifying criminals. Like today, few criminals committed only one offense. Often they had long careers in crime, usually in several jurisdictions and sometimes under many aliases. Linking criminals to past and present crimes, and to criminal associates, was invaluable. Such work was difficult in an age before computers.

Alphonse Bertillon, a police clerk in Paris, France, created a system to identify criminals based on a series of body measurements, also called anthropometry. Starting in 1879, Bertillon developed a system that was first used in 1882 and continued to be the standard for criminal identification until 1914. As fingerprints became more accepted as a personal identifier, they were added to the measurements and photographs taken as part of the Bertillon system.¹⁶

In the 1890s and early 1900s, research began to improve the use of fingerprints, and experts developed classification systems to make fingerprint records more easily searchable and thus more useful. While researchers such as Sir William James Herschel, Henry Faulds, and Sir Francis Galton explored the existence, uniqueness, and potential value of fingerprints, it was an office worker who helped fingerprints become

the primary method of criminal identification.¹⁷ Juan Vucetich, working for the Central Police Department in La Plata, Argentina, began collecting prints from criminals in 1891 and used this data set to develop a classification system by which prints could be filed and retrieved for comparison with prints found at crime scenes. In 1892, a Vucetich-trained detective in Buenos Aires identified a murderer based on a thumbprint.¹⁸ In 1898, a case in India was the first in which a fingerprint secured a conviction in court.¹⁹ By 1902 fingerprint evidence was being used in court in the United Kingdom.²⁰

Anthropometry declined as fingerprints became more accepted. In 1903, the famous case of William West and Will West raised serious doubts about the Bertillon system. A man processed at Leavenworth prison matched an existing criminal based on Bertillon measurement. The man claimed not to have been arrested before, and a comparison of fingerprints proved he was correct.²¹

During the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Detective Sergeant John Ferrier of Scotland Yard demonstrated the importance of fingerprints as a personal identifier and trained personnel in several police departments in the United States.²² Court cases in the United States, including the first conviction in 1911, further cemented the acceptance of fingerprints as the most reliable personal identifier.

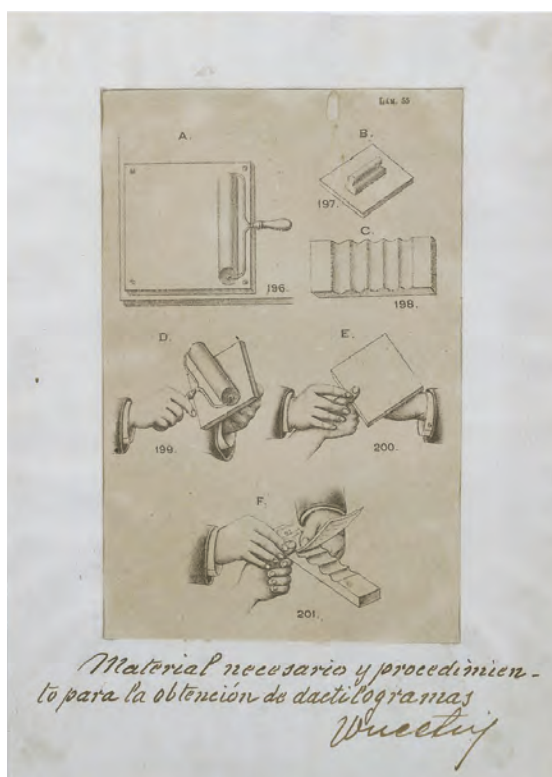
Despite the abandonment of the Bertillon system around 1914, the name continued to be associated with criminal identification. The first fingerprint specialists in the United States were known as "Bertillon clerks" at police departments and other agencies.²³ Although Byram most often worked in the Omaha Police Department's "Bertillon Room" and was noted as being an "aid to Bertillon expert," she was solely a fingerprint examiner and not trained in the Bertillon system.

Fingerprints and Military Identification

As the United States fielded a larger standing military, it needed a more reliable method of identifying service members, both to identify remains and to help capture deserters and criminals. The use of fingerprints for personnel identification, mostly of enlisted men, started in 1906 or 1907.²⁴ The use of fingerprints for identification of personnel was not completely new to the United States. In 1902, the New York Civil Service Commission used fingerprints to identify applicants taking examinations for government employment.²⁵



Above: Juan Vucetich's personal identification card (libreta de enrolamiento), 1911. A police clerk in La Plata, Argentina, Vucetich developed for police in Argentina a fingerprint identification system that eventually replaced the Bertillon system. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health



Left: Vucetich's fingerprinting instructions, about 1900. Dirección Museo Policial-Ministerio de Seguridad de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health

By 1917, the armed forces discontinued photographs and expanded fingerprinting to cover officers as well as enlisted personnel.²⁶ During World War I, 4,379,080 fingerprints were recorded and 989 fraudulent enlistments were found. Fingerprints were also found useful in identifying service members who bore no physical form of

Above Right: *Omaha World-Herald*, March 6, 1920

Below Right: *Omaha World-Herald*, May 12, 1921

identification on their remains, such as a dog tag. After the 1918 sinking of the SS *Tuscania*, fingerprints helped identify thirty-five service members.²⁷

To handle the volume of fingerprints, the Navy needed to greatly expand the size of its identification bureau. Expansion was easier said than done. Those hired had to be able to examine fingerprint cards, classify the fingerprints, and file the cards accordingly. Under the direction of J. H. Taylor, the bureau held an exam for experts in New York City. The results of the exam would provide women like Byram a path to wartime service and postwar careers. In a 1921 article recounting the growth of the bureau, Taylor told the following story:

I frankly admit we used to be prejudiced against women. When War was declared, we set about to increase our staff, for we knew our work would be increased manyfold (*sic*). Our idea, of course, was to get men. I went to New York to hold an examination for persons who could qualify as finger-print experts. Among the first applicants was a slip of a girl. As politely as I could, I tried to rid her mind of the notion that she could get into our bureau. I hinted that it was foolish for a woman to think she could do the work, and it was a waste of time for her to take the examination. She was one of the forty who took the examination, most of them men. Well, that girl—Miss Dahm—passed first! Had to give her a job, of course. Believe me, I have had no cause to regret it. She is one of the best in her line the government has.²⁸

According to accounts at the time, Marie S. Dahm, then twenty-two years old, was the first woman to qualify as an expert for the Navy. However, it appears that another woman, Mary Holland, has claim to this distinction. In a 1910 murder trial, four fingerprint experts were called to give opinions on the case's fingerprint evidence—one of those experts was Holland, who trained Navy fingerprint personnel and has been called the "first American female instructor of fingerprinting."²⁹

Eventually the Navy's bureau employed 115 fingerprint experts, of which about 110 were women. Other branches also used women as fingerprint experts, including the U.S. Army.³⁰ In order to find more experts, the Navy set up its own training school, of which Byram was a student. A few months

WOMAN WILL BE AID TO BERTILLON EXPERT
Mrs. Emily Byram, 1122 South Thirty-third street, has been appointed assistant to Hans Nielsen, superintendent of the police Bertillon bureau. She succeeds Julius Mansfield, recently promoted to desk sergeant.
Mrs. Byram is an expert in police identification work, having been connected for two years with this bureau in the war department at Washington.

WOMAN SCANS SKYLIGHT FOR FINGER PRINTS
Mrs. Emily Bryam, assistant to Hans Nielsen, police finger print expert, made an arduous climb yesterday in search of finger print clues of the robbers who Tuesday night broke into the clothing store of Salerno & Pattavina at 412 South Tenth.
The robbery was effected through a skylight. Piloted by Detectives Barta and Aughe, Mrs. Byram clambered over the roof to photograph and study any finger impressions which might have been left by the thieves on the glass of the skylight. None was found, however, and Mrs. Byram said she believed the robbers wore gloves as precaution against possible identification by the finger print method.
Nielsen was off for the day so it fell to Mrs. Byram to hunt for finger prints.

after accepting her position with the Omaha Police Department, Byram recounted her time learning in the bureau in a newspaper article about women in law enforcement: "I worked with Superintendent Taylor of the identification bureau in Washington and found him very helpful and encouraging. Mr. Taylor believes that Bertillon work affords a fine field for women, and it is one so far little occupied by them."³¹ Byram worked in Ford's Theatre (which at the time was used as an office building), reviewing thousands of fingerprint cards collected from service members and classifying them for filing.

Return to Omaha

It isn't clear when Byram returned to Omaha, but the downsizing of War Department staff after the armistice probably played a role. According to U.S. Census records, she worked as a schoolteacher before accepting a position with the Omaha Police, again working with her mentor, Hans Nielsen.³²

On March 6, 1920, the *Omaha World-Herald* announced that Byram was the new assistant to Nielsen, superintendent of the "Bertillon bureau." The article gave Byram's address as 1122 S. 33rd Street (her parents' house), and said she was "an expert in police identification work, having been connected for two years with this bureau in the war department." Byram replaced a man named Julius Mansfield, who was promoted to sergeant.³³ During her time working with Nielsen, Byram also learned photography so that she could take mug shots and record potential evidence.³⁴ She was one of the first women to leverage War Department fingerprint training into a postwar job. The War Department program was one of the few formal training options available for fingerprint examiners. For women, it was a unique opportunity to gain both training and the requisite job experience to be seen as a credible fingerprint expert.

Women at the Omaha Police Department


In December 1920, the *World-Herald* ran a story about women working in Omaha law enforcement. For the most part the article described the chief's secretary, the telephone operator, and the chief clerk, but two other women stood out. One, Sergeant Katherine Cox, was a detective and specialized in "wayward girls, and apprehending shoplifters, pickpockets and white slavers."³⁵ The other was Byram. The article is sexist and misogynistic by today's standards. Police Commissioner Ringer says, "These officers believe so thoroughly in the efficiency and the wholesome effect of women's work, that six women are employed at the police station."³⁶ While trying to compliment Byram, Ringer focuses not on her expertise, but on the mere effect of her presence: "In the Bertillon measurement rooms we have less trouble with criminals in being 'mugged,' simply because Mrs. Byram is there. The fellows swear less, and usually submit with fair grace to being photographed."³⁷

The same article quotes Byram recounting her War Department training and expertise. The reporter adds: "Mrs. Byram was the second woman in the country to take up this work, Mrs. Carl Lonergren of Minneapolis, being the first."³⁸ It isn't clear whether or not this was the case, but Byram was almost

**ALLEGED HOLDUP NOT
TO ESCAPE PRISON**

**Washington Authorities Want
Anderson When He Finishes
Jail Term.**

TELL OF DARING ESCAPE



John Anderson, charged with assault with intent to rob J. J. Spellman, grocer, 1102 North Seventeenth, on the night of August 13, escaped a penitentiary sentence at the hands of a district court jury yesterday afternoon, but when John Anderson, he finishes his confinement in the county jail, he will find a guard waiting to return him to the Washington state reformatory at Monroe, where he is "wanted badly," according to the police.

Omaha World-Herald,
October 8, 1921

certainly one of the first. Over the next few years other women would become fingerprint experts in police departments across the United States.

An Arduous Climb

Most of Byram's work with the Omaha Police Department probably occurred in the Bertillon room, where fingerprints and photographs of criminals were taken and where files were consulted for comparisons with evidence. Sometimes, however, Byram investigated in the field.

On May 11, 1921, Byram made what the newspaper called an "arduous climb" to the roof of Salerno & Pattavina's store at 412 S. 10th Street in Omaha. The burglars entered the store via the skylight. Byram, "piloted" by Detectives

**Omaha Police Station,
June 29, 1921.** Durham
Museum, Omaha



Barta and Aughe, searched the skylight's glass for fingerprints, her camera ready to take photographs. Her investigation of the roof found no fingerprint evidence, leading Byram to conclude that the criminals wore gloves to avoid leaving evidence.³⁹

Like most articles covering Byram's work, the May 12 report fails to give her due credit. Headlined "Woman scans skylight for finger prints," it highlights not the work itself, but that a woman was doing it, while pointing out that she was an "assistant" to the police fingerprint expert, that she needed to be "piloted" by two men, and that she was only in the field because her male supervisor was unavailable. Yet the article published her opinion on the lack of evidence, treating her in that respect as a professional.

One of the detectives assisting Byram that day, Frank Aughe, was killed in the line of duty three years later. On January 31, 1924, Aughe, attempting to stop a fleeing robber who had already fired at detectives, fought with the man and was shot six times. His murderer was captured and received a life sentence. The suspect received a second life sentence for killing a state penitentiary employee during an escape attempt the next year.⁴⁰

A Short Career

Byram resigned her position after little more than a year. When her replacement, Detective Robert Donahue, was announced, Byram was identified by the *World-Herald* as the "Bertillon expert of the police department," and was said

to be leaving due to her impending marriage to Horace B. Ruffner, of Carter Lake, Iowa.⁴¹

Despite her expertise, Byram was always a subordinate to a male supervisor. When her mentor Hans Nielsen resigned as superintendent of the identification bureau at the Omaha Police Department to serve in a similar role for what was unofficially called the state sheriff's office in Lincoln, Byram was not promoted, even though she filled in for Nielsen and was often called the assistant superintendent.

Byram's wedding provides a clue as to how she was regarded by the police, especially the detectives she worked with on a daily basis. The wedding was planned for Tuesday, July 19, 1921, but Byram heard a rumor that detectives planned to kidnap her on her wedding day as a prank. Outsmarting her co-workers, she got the preceding Saturday.⁴² That she would be the subject of such a prank shows the level of acceptance the officers had for her. While they may not have seen her as an equal, they apparently saw her as a close co-worker, something beyond the status afforded to other female employees of the department, especially those in clerical roles.

It appears that Byram did not leave immediately after getting married, and was still on the job in August 1921. On the thirteenth of that month a man named John Anderson and an accomplice attempted to rob the grocery store of J. J. Spellman at 1102 N. 17th Street. During the

attempt, Spellman shot Anderson in the arm; Anderson was arrested at the hospital. Through processing Anderson, Byram found that he was wanted under the name Joe Garrison in the state of Washington, where he had escaped prison while serving a ten-to-twenty-year sentence for assault with intent to murder.⁴³ A newspaper article recounting the case after Anderson's trial later that year is the last time Byram's name (as Mrs. Emily Ruffner) appears in print as working for the Omaha Police.

The Working Woman

Byram's fingerprinting career presents a case study of how World War I "opened new job categories for native-born white women."⁴⁴ Employment opportunities for women expanded each year, even before World War I. In Omaha, 20 percent of the workforce consisted of women; the urban environment afforded them new opportunities.⁴⁵ This included technical fields such as medicine and science. Shortly before World War I, 8 percent of Omaha physicians were women, as were a little more than 10 percent of the city's "chemists, assayers and metallurgists."⁴⁶

Although it has been argued that the career growth afforded by the war simply accelerated an existing trend of women entering the workplace and did not represent "any major innovations," this was not true for all positions women held.⁴⁷ The growth was fueled with "relative ease because highly routinized skills in factories, offices, and retail stores could be quickly mastered."⁴⁸ However, women like Byram entered highly technical fields and could not rely on the translation of an existing skill set. And it was in these technical roles that women found some employment success after the war.

After the war ended, many women lost jobs to men returning from wartime service.⁴⁹ How did Byram and other women serving as fingerprint experts succeed during the postwar years? The answer lies in the complexity of their work. Just as women could translate routinized skills from existing roles into wartime positions, men could do the same upon returning home. Fingerprint work presented a different case. Women had more success keeping jobs where they possessed technical expertise that was unattainable without a lot of practical experience. This was a competitive advantage that was difficult for returning war veterans to overcome. Further, women had taken advantage of the fingerprint training courses that came into existence because of the war.

At no time prior to the war had fingerprint training been so systematized and large scale.

While women leveraged the expertise gained to maintain employment during the post-war years, they seldom had long careers, as they often left the workforce upon marriage. Although the employment rate of married women grew in the early decades of the century, women, especially white women, "overall tended to stop working after they married."⁵⁰ During the 1920s, between seven percent and nine percent of white women earned wages.⁵¹ Unmarried women entering the workforce became more accepted, but leaving the workforce at marriage was a product of a life plan, perhaps one still formed by patriarchy.⁵²

"Were any women finger print examiners?"

Finger Print Magazine, the leading publication for fingerprint experts in the United States in the early 1920s, ran several articles about women serving as fingerprint examiners. The magazine recorded the early history of the expansion of the Navy's identification bureau and the employment of women. In 1923, the magazine ran a short, letter-to-the-editor style column answering a reader inquiry: "Every once in a while somebody wants to know if there are or ever were any women F. P. E.'s [finger print examiners]."⁵³ The article lists twenty-three female fingerprint examiners working in local, state, and federal agencies.

The item, while highlighting women fingerprint experts employed by the federal government and local law enforcement, still makes some patriarchal comments. In discussing the acceptability of the career for women, the anonymous author notes that being a fingerprint expert "has none of the dangerous or disagreeable duties of the detective work which takes a man into all sorts of places at all sorts of time."⁵⁴ Further, it notes the possibility of field work and that the "woman F.P.E. may be called upon to go to the scene of a crime, but she need never go alone, and she will never be called upon to visit any place without protection of a male escort, if she so desires."⁵⁵ The article contends that a key reason women are well suited for the position is not because of talent, knowledge, and training, but because they are neat and careful: "One of the reasons why women make good finger print experts is that they do well with photography being naturally careful and neat workers in that line something which is very desirable and in which we regret to say some of the men experts do not excel."⁵⁶



The article provides a list of women working across the United States as fingerprint experts. Several are noted as working for the Navy, the state prison in New York, and police or sheriff's departments in New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Missouri. There is also a familiar name on the list: Emily Ruffner, listed as "assistant superintendent" at the Omaha Police Department. This article appeared in late 1923, but is based on outdated information, as she was no longer employed by the department.


Later Years

After leaving law enforcement, Emily transitioned into a quiet life as a wife to Horace. In 1966, in an article about her husband, a locally famous duck hunter, Emily comments that her favorite pastime is bridge, saying: "I'm sure he gets the same thrill out of hunting that I do from playing bridge."⁵⁷

Emily died on June 27, 1974, at the age of eighty-one. The small article noting her death is titled simply: "Mrs. Emily Ruffner, Hunter's Wife, Dies." She was survived by her husband, and there is no mention of any children, nor of her career as one of the first women fingerprint experts in United States law enforcement.⁵⁸

Conclusion

Emily Byram Ruffner led a life with tragedies and adventures before leaving the workforce and assuming a traditional wife's role. She was

apparently a resilient, driven woman who engaged a field that was male-dominated, highly complex, and potentially dangerous. It was also a field that was critical to law enforcement operations. She was a pioneer, intent on serving the war effort and returning to her hometown to continue her public service. Her career was part of the growing trend of women entering the workforce, and an example of the type of position in which women retained the progress made during World War I. The training and experience opportunities afforded to women who chose to pursue service as fingerprint examiners gave them a competitive advantage in the postwar years and established a new career area for the working woman of the twentieth century. 

NOTES

¹ United States Census 1920, District ED 88, Sheet 5B, Household 110, Line Number 91 (January 8, 1920).

² *High School Register: Annual 1911* (Omaha High School, Omaha, NE, 1911), 23. *High School Register: June 2011*, (Omaha High School, Omaha, NE, 1911), 20. Barry Combs and Jim Wigton, *Central High School Historical Timeline 1854-2008* (unpublished, 2011), 16.

³ *High School Register: Annual 1911*, 23.

⁴ Iowa State Census 1925. *Decatur Herald*, July 5, 1917.

⁵ "Bridges-Byram," *Decatur Herald*, July 5, 1917, 1.

⁶ "Obituary," *Decatur Herald*, Oct. 4, 1917, 1.

⁷ "Bridges-Byram," *Decatur Herald*, July 5, 1917, 1.

⁸ "Local Items," *Decatur Herald*, July 12, 1917, 5.

⁹ "Local Items," *Decatur Herald*, Sept. 20, 1917, 5.

¹⁰ "Earl Byram Dead," *Decatur Herald*, Sept. 27, 1917, 1; "Obituary," *Decatur Herald*, Oct. 4, 1917, 1.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² John Arnold Byram, *Byrams in America* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1996), 236.

¹³ "Obituary," *Decatur Herald*, Oct. 4, 1917, 1.

¹⁴ "'Less Cussing' Since Women Hold Jobs at Jail," *Sunday World-Herald*, Dec. 19, 1920, 9.

¹⁵ "Local Items," *Decatur Herald*, May 16, 1918, 5; "Local Items," *Decatur Herald*, July 18, 1918, 3.

¹⁶ Barnes, "History," 12.

¹⁷ Ibid., 13-14.

¹⁸ Ibid., 14.

¹⁹ G. S. Sodhi and J. Kaur, "World's First Conviction on Fingerprint Identification," *National Crime Records Bureau Gazette* (Vol. 15, No. 2, 2003): 1-3.

²⁰ G. Lambourne, *The Fingerprint Story* (London: Harrap 1984), 67-68.

²¹ Barnes, "History," 16.

²² John Berry and David Stoney, "History and Development of Fingerprinting," *Advances in Fingerprint Technology*, eds. Henry C. Lee and R. E. Gaensslen (Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2001), 36.

²³ Simon Cole, *Suspect Identities: A History of Fingerprinting and Criminal Identification* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 2001), 194.

²⁴ *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War—Zone of the Interior: Organization and Activities of the War Department* (Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., Volume 3, Part 1, 1988): 88; T. G. Cooke, "The Navy Bureau of Identification," *Finger Print Magazine* (Vol. 2, no. 6, December 1920), 4.

²⁵ H. P. Deforest, "The First Finger-Print File in the United States" in *Finger Print and Identification Magazine* (No. 19, 1938): 16-20.

²⁶ *Order of Battle*, 88.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ "Two Experts in the Navy Department" in *Finger Print Magazine* (Vol. 2, No. 7, January 1921): 4.

²⁹ Barnes, "History" 17.

³⁰ Lyna Tucker, "How women helped win the Great War," U.S. Army (November 10, 2008, accessed June 15, 2016: https://www.army.mil/article/14061/How_women_helped_win_the_Great_War/)

³¹ "'Less Cussing' Since Women Hold Jobs at Jail," *Sunday World-Herald*, Dec. 19, 1920, 9.

³² United States Census 1920, District ED 88, Sheet 5B, Household 110, Line Number 91 (January 8, 1920).

³³ "Woman Will Be Aid to Bertillon Expert," *Evening World-Herald*, March 6, 1920, 1.

³⁴ "'Less Cussing' Since Women Hold Jobs at Jail," *Sunday World-Herald*, Dec. 19, 1920, 9.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ "Woman Scans Skylight for Finger Prints," *World-Herald*, May 12, 1921, 4.

⁴⁰ "Detective Frank S. Aughe," Officer Down Memorial Page, <http://www.odmp.org/officer/1344-detective-frank-s-aughe>; accessed May 24, 2016.

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⁴² *World-Herald*, July 19, 1921, 3.

⁴³ "Alleged Holdup Not to Escape Prison," *Evening World-Herald*, Oct. 8, 1921, 1.

⁴⁴ Kimberly Jensen, *Mobilizing Minerva: American Women in the First World War* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008), 13-14.

⁴⁵ Lawrence Larsen, Barbara Cottrell, Harl Dalstrom, and Kay Calamé Dalstrom, *Upstream Metropolis: An Urban Biography of Omaha and Council Bluffs* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007), 203.

⁴⁶ Larsen, *Upstream Metropolis*, 203.

⁴⁷ Maurine Weiner Greenwald, *Women, War, and Work: The Impact of World War I on Women Workers in the United States* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1980), 13.

⁴⁸ Greenwald, *Women, War, and Work*, 13.

⁴⁹ Jensen, *Mobilizing Minerva*, 158; Greenwald, *Women, War, and Work*, 243.

⁵⁰ Martha H. Patterson, *The American New Woman Revisited: A Reader, 1894-1930* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press 2008), 12.

⁵¹ Carrie Brown, *Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women Workers of the First World War* (Lebanon: UPNE 2002), 187; Patterson, *American New Woman Revisited*, 12.

⁵² Brown, *Rosie's Mom*, 187.

⁵³ "Why, Certainly!" *Finger Print Magazine* (Vol. 5, No. 5, October 1923), 13.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ "Spry Old Ruff, 77, Takes Rough Life on River for Duration of Duck Fun," *Sunday World-Herald*, Nov. 6, 1966, 10-C.

⁵⁸ "Mrs. Emily Ruffner, Hunter's Wife, Dies," *Omaha World-Herald*, June 28, 1974, 33.

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