

THE FIRST CINCINNATI TRUANT OFFICER'S BADGE



The 1891 City Guide for the school year 1890-1891 lists A. B. Clement as the truant officer. The school board office was in the Public Library Building on Vine Street between Sixth and Seventh streets. In 1850, the superintendent of schools was appointed by the City of Cincinnati. The school system remained part of the city services until the schools separated from city government in 1873. The letter that came with the badge (written by Ms. Clarence Hunter, 316 Joselin Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220)

states that Major Clement gave the badge to her in the 1920s.

Research by Steve Barnett, director of Community Relations, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, revealed an article in the Cincinnati Enquirer dated September 9, 1923. "Major A. B. Clement, the first truant officer in the Cincinnati Public Schools and a member of the school system for the last 33 years died at his home 925 Paradrome St. early yesterday. After working for four years in the public schools, Major Clement became the first truant officer, March 10, 1890. For the past 10 years he served as the chief court officer of the board in handling cases of school children in juvenile court. He was one of the first volunteers from Ohio in the Civil War... he was at the battles of Chattanooga, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and the battles fought in West Virginia."