

# Salvation Army captain arrested in 1909

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banners and musical equipment, business was suspended."

**THE TASK FORCE** sent to arrest Mitchell could be called overkill. It consisted of the chief of police (no less) and two officers. Mitchell apparently went peacefully enough.

Also arrested were Crammer and Stevens. After they left the square, Mitchell's wife didn't take the hint. Said the *Telephone*, "Mrs. Mitchell and the rest of the band held their ground." The officers shortly returned and told the woman she would have to move to the corner of the courthouse yard."

Under protest she complied, but from her new location she told the crowd that the Salvation Army had always been welcome to hold its services anywhere, including "the steps

of the capitol building at Washington city, on the bowery of New York, in the levee district of New Orleans, in San Francisco, Chinatown, in any street corner of any city — without being molested."

Not all of Bloomington was on the square watching Mrs. Mitchell and listening to her valiant version of civil rights — 1909 style. News of the captain's arrest spread quickly, and the *Telephone* said, "Any number of prominent citizens went to the jail and also phoned that they would sign the bond of the three men, but Capt. Mitchell said he would accept no bond."

**THE WHOLE INCIDENT** must have made the police feel rather sheepish, but they were obliged to follow orders. Their arrest of Mitchell

was particularly awkward for them, since they had recruited him to assist them in a raid on a boarding house, where alcoholic beverages were being sold and women of the demimonde were said to have lived.

Mitchell had arrived in Bloomington to take up his duties a year or so before his arrest. The 1907-08 Bloomington city directory listed the Army headquarters as the Bowles Hotel at the corner of Sixth and College. Other addressees in the next couple of years were Third and College and Third and Walnut streets.

At the jail the captain displayed no signs of repentance. On the contrary, he was as adamant as his wife that precedence was on their side.

*Next week: Capt. Mitchell vs. the City of Bloomington.*