

A Pictorial History of
THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
1895 - 1980

by Scott Mellott and Story Jones Sloane, III

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and CREDITS

If you have any further information or caption corrections for the photos contained in this work, or would like to purchase additional copies of this book, please contact Scott Mellott via www.houstonfirememorial.org. Request for permission to reproduce from this work should be addressed to Story Sloane's Gallery via www.sloanegallery.com.

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FOREWORD

A photograph places a face on our past. The pictorial history of the Houston Fire Department was designed to allow the photograph to help tell the history of the Department by placing a face on the Department.

My great grandfather was Drew Campbell King. He was captain of Fire House No. 7 for almost four decades. Over the years I have heard family stories about Drew but it was not until I met retired Fire Fighter Scott Mellott that those tales took form.

Scott has been working to preserve the memory of the Houston Fire Fighters who have died in the line of duty for a long time. His knowledge of the department is vast and his collection of historic photographs impressive. Scott shared with me images of Drew and Fire House No.7 that helped to complete those family memories. His photographs placed a face on my family's history. I realized that Scott's passion about

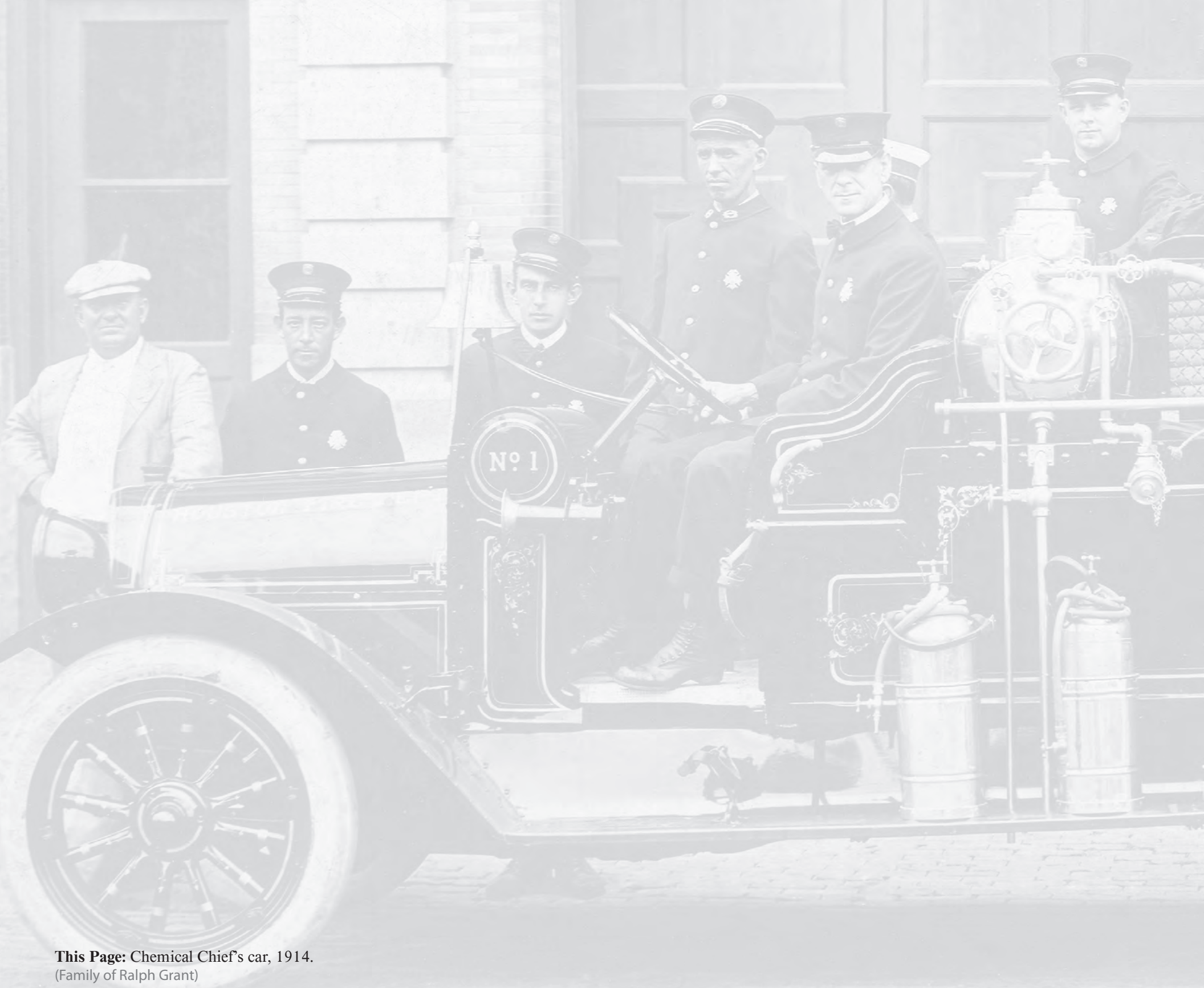
the Fire Department rivaled my passion about photography resulting in the perfect partnership for this project.

The images in this book show the development of the Houston Fire Department under the city of Houston beginning in 1895. Change in the department would come about with great speed and it was captured by photographers both professional and amateur. These rare photographs from our past highlight Fire Fighting technological advancements and the catastrophic fire events that changed the way society lives today.

Perhaps the most important aspect of these vintage images is that they illustrate the Houston Fire Department as being a family. Fire Fighters are a tight-knit group of dedicated public servants who willingly put themselves in harm's way for the greater good of the public.

- Story Jones Sloane, III





This Page: Chemical Chief's car, 1914.
(Family of Ralph Grant)



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