

CARR, FRANK M.

INTERVIEW

#7515

168

CARR, FRANK M.

INTERVIEW. 7515

FIELD WORKER ALENE D. McDOWELL
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
September 10, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH BOB, Grat and Emmett
Dalton. In Interview with Frank M.
Carr 316 Seneca Avenue, Bartlesville,
Oklahoma.

Benjamin Dalton moved with his family consisting of his wife, nine boys and six girls, from Kearney County, Missouri, to the state of Kansas, in 1882, and settled four miles west of Coffeyville.

They were highly respected by all who knew them.

Through his father's influence, Frank Dalton was given a commission as United States Marshal, delivering prisoners to Fort Smith, Arkansas, the Indian Territory being under the jurisdiction of

this court. Judge Isaac Parker was the Federal Judge at Fort Smith.

In the early days, the United States Marshals would make a trip through the country gathering up prisoners for whom they had warrants. When they had a wagon load of prisoners they delivered them to the United States jail at Fort Smith.

CARR, FRANK M.

INTERVIEW. 7515

2

Frank Dalton was taking a prisoner to his main camp where he had other prisoners near Catóosa, Indian Territory. They had stopped to eat lunch and Frank set his Winchester against a tree and turned his back for a moment. His prisoner was handcuffed but he grabbed the Winchester. Frank heard him move but was too late to draw his sixshooter and the prisoner shot him through the right lung. A hunter heard the shot and found him, but before anything was done for him he bled to death.

Frank's brother, Bob, was 20 years old and helped his father on the farm west of Coffeyville. When he learned of Frank's treacherous murder he decided to bring the man to justice for his brother's death. After the funeral he went to Fort Smith and acquired a special appointment through the United States Marshal's office at Fort Smith Arkansas, and with a warrant for the murderer of his brother, with the description of the man he was after, he started on his long trail which lasted for six months. He

3

made a vow never to return without bringing the man to justice who was responsible for his brother's death. He trailed him on horseback through Kansas, Colorado, and Texas ^{and} finally caught up with him in Louisiana. In making the arrest he had to kill the man. He delivered the body back to Fort Smith where he received the reward. For this service he was offered a commission as United States Marshal, which he accepted. During his service as a United States Marshal for the next four years, he made an outstanding record for capturing outlaws and bringing them to justice in the old Cherokee Nation.

He appointed his brothers, Grat and Emmett, and my uncle, William Grant Rogers, as his deputies.

My uncle was the same age of Bob Dalton.

They would often stop at my father's ranch for three or four days when they were transporting their prisoners to Fort Smith for trial. They rode for the Fort Smith Court until 1889.

Bob Dalton was one of the most accurate rifle shots I ever saw. He never threw his rifle to his

4

shoulder, but always shot from the hip. I remember one time when they were camped on my father's ranch two and one half miles northwest of Bartlesville, with a bunch of prisoners, and I was at this camp. Bob asked me to throw a tomato can up in the air for a target. He threw his Winchester to his hip and put three holes in the can before it hit the ground. He was a natural born detective and would have made a wonderful record in detecting and bringing criminals to justice if he had stayed on the right side of the law.

He rode one year for the Wichita, Kansas, Court, transporting prisoners out of the Osage Nation and trying them for crimes committed in the Osage county. They were tried in the Wichita Court.

Bob claimed he was beaten out of something over \$900 that was due him in mileage fee, and other fees from the Court at Wichita which was

5

one of the reasons he turned against the law.

In 1890 he resigned his commission as United States Marshal for the Wichita Court.

Bob and Grat then went to California and in 1891 they robbed an express train on the Southern Pacific Railroad of \$60,000. Bob made his escape to the Wichita Mountains in Oklahoma. Grat was captured but broke jail and made his way back to Oklahoma and joined his brothers, Bob and Emmett, in their hideout on the North Canadian River where they planned their last raid in Coffeyville, Kansas.

Bob Dalton with his brothers, Grat and Emmett and two other companions, Texas Jack and Dick Broadwell, alias Evans, made their way north from their hideout on the North Canadian River on September 25,

1892. On their route north they came by Pete Perrier's Ranch north of Skiatook. Pete raised blooded horses, and they took two of his dapole gray horses and rode northwest to Gandy Creek, to a ranch. This ranch

6

was located about ten miles southeast of the present Woolfoc Ranch owned by Frank Phillips, President of the Phillips' Petroleum Company of Bartlesville. They stayed at this ranch for three or four days and made their preparations to rob the First National Bank and the L. M. Condon Bank, at Coffeyville, Kansas. While they were at this ranch they posed for their picture. Bob, the leader, was on one of the dapple gray horses Emmett was on his left, then Texas Jack, Dick Broadwell, alias Evans and Grat Dalton. I have one of these pictures in my possession, also one taken of them after their death.

On October they left the ranch on Candy Creek and rode northeast to the Timber Hills,

south and west of Coffeyville, a distance of about nine miles where they spent the night, and stationed their horses at this place. There were five horses, the two dapple grays and three others.

7

About 9:30 on October 2, 1892, they rode into Coffeyville to rob both banks. Their intentions were to leave their horses in the alley behind the First National Bank, on the east side of Main Street. They found the alley torn up so they rode west across Main Street, and tied their horses in the alley behind John Clair's livery barn where they all with the exception of Emmett, met death. Emmett was shot off his horse with a shot gun loaded with buck-shot while he was trying to rescue his brother, Bob, after he was given a death shot. Emmett was captured.

Bob and Emmett had robbed the First National Bank and had crossed Main street, and reached their horses before the shooting began.

Grant, Broadwell and Texas Jack were in the

L. M. Condon Bank waiting on the time lock. Bob and Emmett then crossed Main street from where their horses were stationed to the Condon Bank to help their partners, which caused the death of all, except Emmett.

8

who was captured. Bob was credited with killing the four citizens who met death in the pitch battle that followed the robbery. These citizens were killed when Bob went to help his brother, Grat, and the other two boys. Emmett had \$21,000 in a meal sack tied to his saddle horn and could have escaped, but was captured while trying to save his brother, Bob, after he was wounded.

Emmett was convicted and sentenced to prison at Lansing, Kansas, where he served fourteen years of his sentence. He was pardoned and came to Bartlesville where he made his home for some time. He later removed to Hollywood, California where he was in the real estate business for a number of years.

Emmett passed away in his California home recently. His body was cremated and the ashes returned to Coffeyville and buried in the family lot beside his brothers.

The next page gives a view of Coffeyville, Kansas, where the Dalton gang staged their last raid, October 2, 1892.

Alley back of
First National
Bank.

First National
Bank.

Main Street.

Flat Iron
Building.

C. L. Jordon's
Bank.

Seed rother's
Store.

Main Street.

John Clair's
Livery Barn.

Alley back of John Clair's
Livery Barn.

View of Coffeyville, Kansas,
where the Dalton gang staged
their 1st raid, October 8, 1932.

Hardenia B. Martin,

Wife of Geo. M. Martin

Born Sept. 2, 1855.

Gone Home

She died as she lived, a Christian.

Howard, Son of G. M. & H. B. Martin

Born Mar. 6, 1885.

Died Jan. 31, 1897.

Infant Dau. of Jas. M. & Neela Martin

Born and Died

Sept. 12, 1908.

Nellie A. Martin

Born Dec. 16, 1896

Died Apr. 2, 1932.

(Vault)
