

The Coffeyville Daily Journal

Second Section

COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1912

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY THE DALTON RAID—THE ORIGINAL STORY ILLUSTRATED WITH OLD CUTS

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 1892
SHORTLY BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK THE BATTLE BEGAN

ALL OVER IN FIFTEEN MINUTES

FOUR BANDITS AND FOUR CITIZENS DEAD AND MANY WOUNDED

THE BATTLE IN "DEATH ALLEY"

Grat Dalton, Mortally Wounded, Propped His Back Against Barn and Killed the Brave City Marshal, C. T. Connelly

The men were undoubtedly on some peculiar mission as they were armed to the teeth and apparently disguised. Those persons are also firm in their declarations that the crowd consisted of six persons and the same number of horses.

One Bandit Deserted. Persons residing on Eighth street east of what is known as the Hickman property saw the party pass their residences. Of the large number who observed them, every one asserts that there were only five riders in the party as they passed over that thoroughfare. They were seen by parties all along the street up to Maple street, where eight and no one counted more than five horsemen. It is presumed that one of the party either backed out as they were about to enter the town or else diverged his course into a cross street and made a circuit through the southwest portion of the city in order to reach the plaza from the south and aid in stampeding the citizens from that point in case of an attack. The five men rode boldly and at a



THE ROSWELL HARDWARE STORE, ONE OF THE ARSENALS OF THE DEFENDERS, WHERE CONDON NATIONAL NOW IS

Man's lot (along side present office of Noel Plumbing Co.) and within a few feet of the temporary residence which he is now occupying. A store owner who was examining some rock lying near the city jail observed them riding into the alley and dismounting. They quickly formed into a sort of military line, three in front and two in the rear and walked closely together. The store cutter walked closely in the rear of the crowd as they passed from their horses through the alley until they reached the street, when he turned north to his work at the other end of the block.

Mekenna Spread Alarm. Alex Mekenna was on the pavement (sidewalk) in front of his place of business when the men came out of the alley and they passed within ten feet of where he was standing. He was close enough to detect the disguises of two of the men and he recognized one of them as a member of the Dalton family. After passing Mr. Mekenna the men quickened their pace and three of them went into Geo. M. Condon and Co.'s bank

"About this time all three of the men ran out the same door they had entered and ran across Walnut street, and up the alley whence they came and in the direction of the place where their horses were hitched. At the First National bank nearly the same scene occurred. When the two men entered the bank, Cashier Thomas G. Ayers and Teller W. H. Sheppard were in the front room behind the counter and J. H. Brewster was transacting business with the former. They covered all three of these persons with their Winchester rifles and addressed Mr. Ayers by name directed him to hand over all the money in the bank. At the same time, one of the men keeping his Winchester at rest, commanded, ran into the back room and drove Bert Ayers, the bookkeeper, into the front part of the building where the vault is located. Cashier Ayers very deliberately handed over the money and took the counter making a good delivery as possible in order to secure delay in hope of help arriving. The bandits then ordered Mr. Ayers to bring up the money that was in the vault. The cashier brought forth a package containing \$2000 and handed it over. About this time the fellow who was behind the counter discovered where the money was located and proceeded to help himself to the contents of the burglar proof chest all of which, together with the money taken in the first burglary, were stuffed in a common grain sack and carefully tied up.

Covered Charles Carpenter. When the three men entered Condon and Co.'s bank, Mr. C. T. Carpenter was also behind the counter. The first one quietly pointed a Winchester in the direction of Mr. Carpenter's head and sternly commanded him to hand over the cash on hand and tried him to be quick about it. He remained near the southwest door while the other two men took position, one on the inside of the southeast door of the bank and the other passed through the hall into a room having a door which leads to the stairway and out upon the street at the northwest corner of the building.

Bill Phipps to the Robber. "Bill Phipps, cashier of the bank, and Mr. T. M. Babo, a bookkeeper of the firm, were in the office. As he entered he covered them with his Winchester and ordered Mr. Babo to

Lucius M. Baldwin. Clerk in Read's store. First citizen slain.

The First to Fall. "They then undertook to get the three bankers out the front door but a shot from the outside just as Mr. Ayers reached the pavement, rendered them their plans as they hastily closed the door and drove Leary, Sheppard and Bert Ayers out the back door of the bank, covering their own persons with those of the teller and bookkeeper. When they reached the alley they turned the young men loose. Just at this juncture, Lucius M. Baldwin, a young man of exemplary character and supposed to have come out of the rear of Isham Bros.' hardware store and stepped into the alley with a pistol in his hands. One of the robbers drew up his Winchester

and propped his back against the brick building in the square and were not seen or recognized by any one until after they had passed around the corner of the building and joined their companions in crime at the junction of the alley that runs in the rear of Wells Brothers store between Slosson's drug store and McKenna and Adams' store. In the meantime where they could command the point of retreat of the highwaymen.

Tom Was Unprepared. "We desire to state here in order to contradict some unfounded reports that have been sent out by some excited newspaper correspondents to the effect that the citizens were prepared for the attack, that when the robbers were discovered in the bank there was not a single solitary armed man anywhere in the neighborhood. Even Marshal Connelly had laid his pistol aside and was totally unprepared when the alarm was given. Every gun that was used with the exception of that which was brought into action by George Cahine, was procured in the hardware stores and loaded and brought into play under the pressure of the great emergency that was upon the people.

They Are All Down. "The firing was rapid and incessant for about three minutes, when the cry that the robbers were in the bank was raised. In an instant the firing ceased, several men who had been in the bank after the robbers sprang into the alley and then with their hands ordered them to hold up their hands. One hand went up in a feeble manner. Three of the robbers were dead and the fourth helpless. Between the bodies of two of the highwaymen, lying on his face and in the last agonies of death were Marshal Charles T. Connelly the bravest of all the brave men who had been in resisting the terrible raiders in their attempt to rob the bank. The bodies of the robbers and smoking Winchesters added to the horror of the scene. It took but a few minutes for the discovery of the desperadoes. Tearing the disguises from two faces of them, the ghastly features of Grat Dalton and Bob Dalton were revealed. The Coffeyville, and well known to many of our citizens were revealed. The other body proved to be that of Tom



BOB DALTON

bank, and George W. Cahine, a brave and faithful citizen, who was standing in the doorway of Slosson's drug store, a citizen, fell with a bullet through his left breast within two feet of the prostrate body of George Cahine. Mr. Cahine was looking in the direction of the shot that killed the former, when he became the third victim. The robbers turned him out of the door of the bank and he was elevated pavement at the northeast corner of the brick block at the corner of the plaza, the man raised his gun and fired the fourth shot. His victim this time was Thomas G. Ayers, cashier of the First National bank. Mr. Ayers ran into the fourth door of Isham's hardware store and seizing a Winchester took a position in the north doorway of that establishment facing in the direction of the bank and fired a shot from the left which fell below the eye and passed over his neck below the face of his skull and he fell bleeding and un-

One Nearly Got Away. "It was well known that one of the party had escaped and a posse was hastily organized and started in pursuit, some on foot and a few on horseback. Those who were mounted had only proceeded a half mile west of Eighth street when they came across the bandit lying beside the road and his horse standing near him. He proved to be the John Moore or "Texas Jack" of the gang. His proper name was Richard J. Broadwell and he is connected with one of the best families of Hutchinson. He was one of the most experienced and coolest of the gang and it was he who guarded the southeast corner of Condon's bank and fired a shot from the inside of that building at the men on Broadwell's avenue. It is simply impossible to describe the scenes that

followed. Excited men weeping women and screaming children thronged the square. Few cool heads were to be seen and a glass in the large window, another struck a churn on the outside but directly in front of Mr. Isham and a third went through the bottom of the window frame and lodged in the casing within two inches of where fifty pounds of dynamite were stored.

Grat Dalton's Death. "Grat Dalton, very badly wounded, leaned against the west corner of the barn and was evidently trying to brace up for a final effort just as the brave and dauntless Marshal Connelly, who together with J. J. Kiocher, C. A. Seaman and one or two others had run up Ninth street and through some vacant lots emerged into the alley and turned toward where the robbers were. Grat Dalton, with apparent great effort raised his gun to his side and poured a shot into the back of the faithful marshal. The latter fell forward on his face. Grat made another effort to turn his horse passing right by the prostrate form of his victim. He reached his face toward the pursuers when John Kiocher's rifle rang out and the eldest of the three Daltons fell on forms of the bandits could be plainly seen.

the Dalton boys entered the bank until four of their party were dead, and the remaining one mortally wounded and in the hands of the officers. Bob Dalton, the acknowledged leader of the outfit disguised in false mustache and gaiter accompanied by his younger brother, Emmett entered the First National bank and robbed it, whilst Grat Dalton disguised by black mustache and side whiskers led the raid on Condon and Co.'s bank. Bob and Emmett left the First National by a rear door passed around two blocks and across two of the principal streets and joined Grat Dalton and his party at the junction of the two alleys, within two hundred feet of where the latter had left the Condon bank by the same front door which they entered. It was at this point in this now historic alley that the daring highwaymen met their doom.

First Shot Fired. "The wait of three minutes for the time clock to go off in the Condon bank was the golden opportunity of the citizens' attitude. It may be stated in this connection that Mr. Ball's horse, which the latter had been on, was purely fictitious. It was set for eight o'clock and had opened at the hour. The fact that there was over \$40,000 in the chest induced the cool-headed cashier to let the robbers. Grat Dalton stood guard at the northwest door and John Moore was at the southeast entrance. The first shot was fired at 8:05 p. m. by Moore's gun. He sent a bullet through the window of Slosson's store in the direction of a party on the sidewalk awaiting of Broadwell's store. The ball passed through an open window and crashed into the clothing department and crashed into quansware in the shelves. Just at this moment Cahine's shot and one from a revolver in the hands of Expressman Cox rang out in front of the National bank. From that on the close of the war the firing was rapid and incessant. H. H. Isham and L. A. Triets had stationed themselves behind two coat stoves in the door of the hardware store where they had a commanding position over Condon's bank.

Bob Dalton Drops. Bob Dalton was the first to fall. He drew himself up to catch a

and propping his back against the building fired four shots in the direction of Isham's store. One of these was a high shot and struck a glass in the large window, another struck a churn on the outside but directly in front of Mr. Isham and a third went through the bottom of the window frame and lodged in the casing within two inches of where fifty pounds of dynamite were stored.

Corner of Condon National Bank After the Battle. "This account of the battle appears to have been written immediately after the raid. A later story is appended. Part of it follows: "In less than fifteen minutes passed from the time

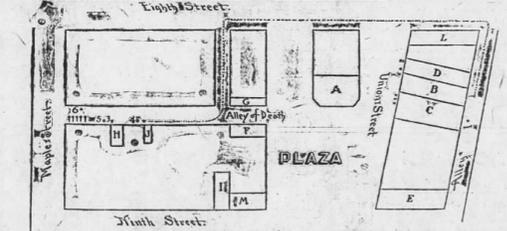


Diagram of the battle. 1, where Baldwin was killed; 2, where Cahine and Brown were killed; 3, where Marshal Connelly was killed; 4, where Bob and Emmett Dalton fell; 5, where Grat Dalton was killed; 6, where Bill Powers died; 7, where bandits horses were hitched; A, Condon bank; B, First National; C, Isham's; D, Slosson's drug store; E, Roswell hardware store; F, Slosson's drug store; G, McKenna and Adams' store; H, old barn where Grat Dalton stood when he killed Connelly; I, Lewark and Kiocher's livery; J, City jail; K, Mahan and Custer's store; M, Read Brothers store. Dotted lines show route taken by Bob and Emmett Dalton after leaving First National until they joined companions in "Death Alley."

bringing him the money out of the safe. The latter undertook to parley with him and told him the time book was on the safe, and that he could not get into the money chest. The fellow told him he would have to get into it as he would be compelled to kill him. Mr. Hall continued to remonstrate and in order to appease the unwelcome visitor he went to the vault and dragged out a sack containing about \$2,000 in silver. This did not satisfy him and he inquired how soon the time book would open. Mr. Ball told him it was set for 9:45. "That is only three minutes yet and I will wait replied the intruder. He armed himself for a moment or two by having Mr. Ball drag the silver around the floor in order to get it to a point where he could command a view of it.

The Innocent Depositor. "In the meantime Mr. J. D. Leykin, an aged gentleman and a customer of the bank, unaware that anything unusual was going on, stepped into the bank by the same door that the robbers had entered. Observing the men with their guns in their hands, he attempted to retreat but was dragged into the bank and compelled to lie down on the floor. The robber who had Mr. Carpenter in charge paroled the innocent depositor and he was passed over to him and carelessly stuffed into the inside of his vault. "Before the three minutes Mr. Hall had disappeared from the outside of the bank and the bullets began to come through the plate glass windows. Messrs. Ball, Carpenter and Babo threw their faces on the floor while the robbers turned their attention to matters on the outside and began firing at citizens on the plaza. A cut-throat struck one of the men on the outside and he cried out 'I am shot; my arm'.

Thomas G. Ayers Cashier of First National and One of the Wounded. "I have got to get that man fired. The ball entered Mr. Baldwin's left breast just below the heart and he fell dying in the alley. Several persons who were in the alley without arms, seeing the condition of affairs took refuge in an adjoining building, while the bandits ran north through the alley to Eighth street and thence went to Union street near Mahan and Custer's store, the one with the grain sack keeping in front of the others and the latter carrying the silver around the floor in order to get it to a point where he could command a view of it.

Emmett Dalton. "The firing was rapid and incessant for about three minutes, when the cry that the robbers were in the bank was raised. In an instant the firing ceased, several men who had been in the bank after the robbers sprang into the alley and then with their hands ordered them to hold up their hands. One hand went up in a feeble manner. Three of the robbers were dead and the fourth helpless. Between the bodies of two of the highwaymen, lying on his face and in the last agonies of death were Marshal Charles T. Connelly the bravest of all the brave men who had been in resisting the terrible raiders in their attempt to rob the bank. The bodies of the robbers and smoking Winchesters added to the horror of the scene. It took but a few minutes for the discovery of the desperadoes. Tearing the disguises from two faces of them, the ghastly features of Grat Dalton and Bob Dalton were revealed. The Coffeyville, and well known to many of our citizens were revealed. The other body proved to be that of Tom



ISHAM BROTHERS HARDWARE STORE FROM WHICH A DEADLY FIRE WAS POUROD ON THE PLAZA

EMMETT DALTON



CORNER OF CONDON NATIONAL BANK AFTER THE BATTLE



THE OLD CITY JAIL STILL STANDING IN REAR OF FERGUSON FURNITURE STORE, A CENTER OF THE BATTLE