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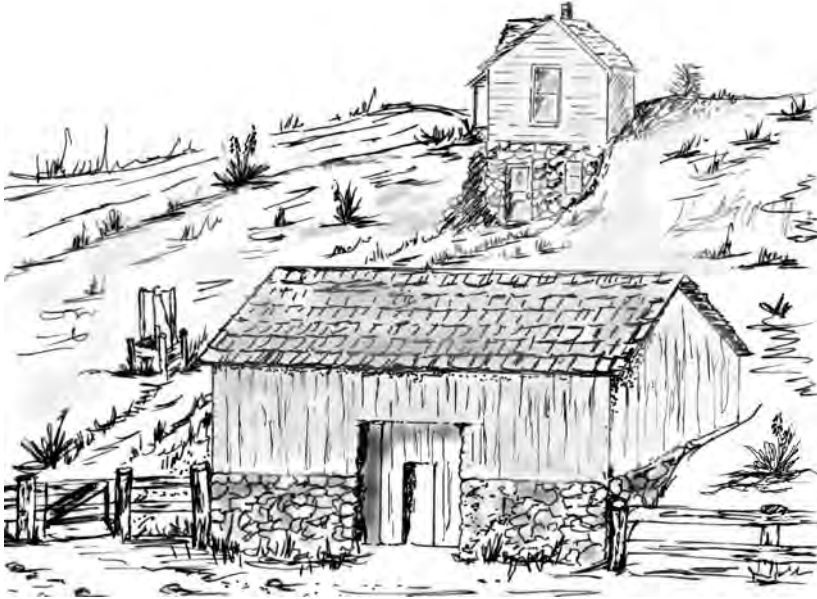
The Dalton Gang and Their Family Ties

by
Nancy Ohnick

with contributions by:
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The Preservation of an Outlaw Hideout

In the southern part of Meade, Kansas, four blocks south of highway 54, still stands the two-room house that was first occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J.N. Whipple. Eva Dalton, sister of the infamous outlaws, married J.N. Whipple October 15, 1887, at which time they moved into the newly constructed house Whipple had built for his bride. The house was on the outskirts of town in those days; the landscape dropped sharply from the house to a streambed to the south where water occasionally flowed into Crooked Creek to the east. A sharp bluff to the south of the streambed formed a canyon of sorts, later dubbed, “Gallop Away Canyon.” Taking advantage of the landscape, Whipple built his house half underground with one exposed wall and a door leading from the basement to the south. Their barn also was half sheltered by the earth in the hill below.

Eva Dalton came to Meade shortly after the town was established in 1885. She was engaged in a millinery business with Flor-

ence Dorland, who later married R.A. Harper, an early-day Meade County rancher.

Whipple operated a mercantile store on the northwest corner of the square. Fairly successful as a businessman, he was reported to have been a good poker player, often holding games at the Whipple home.

The Dalton brothers were reportedly seen several times in Meade before a price was set on their heads, but their sister was never heard to mention their names after they became famous.

The Whipples left Meade by early 1892, and their property was sold under foreclosure. Soon after, the H.G. Marshall family moved into the house. The new occupants discovered a tunnel from the house to the barn. Inside the house the mouth of the tunnel was hidden by a small closet beneath the stairway leading to the two-room basement of the place. The tunnel was constructed by placing beams of wood across a deep rain wash which were then covered with earth. It was barely large enough for a man to walk through in a stooped position. From the house the tunnel led into a small feed room in the barn, which hid the tunnel entrance.

One of the Marshall daughters, Mrs. Roy Talbott, often told the story that several times horseback riders came up the canyon to the barn; placed their hoses in the barn and came on into the house through the tunnel. When the surprised riders learned that another family occupied the house, other than the Whipples, they immediately fled back through the tunnel, mounted their horses and galloped away.

Legend has it that many of the old-timers of Meade were very friendly with the Dalton Gang and thus the gang never raided the Meade banks or committed any overt acts in this vicinity. Old timers were always tight lipped about the notorious brothers.

In 1934, the Wayne Settle family was living in the house. At that time an old man came through Meade from Ohio on



EVA & JOHN

by Nancy Ohnick



Looking into a person's past a hundred years later is quite an undertaking, as this editor discovered while trying to reconstruct events in the lives of Eva Dalton and J.N. Whipple as they took place in Meade, Kansas, in the years of 1885 through 1892.

I have been through all the local newspapers of the day (there were three of them in Meade Center at the time), through many records in the Register of Deeds' Office and the Treasurer's Office in the Meade County Court House, as well as all the history books I could find. The following is my conclusion supported by all the above.

It seems that J.N. Whipple and R.A. Harper had been friends for a long time. History tells us that Mr. Harper came to Meade County as early as 1884, when he came through on a cattle drive from Texas and decided to homestead here. I have no background on Mr. Whipple, but his ads for Whipple's Headquarters, "The Buffalo Store," start showing up in the local papers when they began in 1885. Some think he was the first merchant in Meade Center (as Meade was called in the early days). One local

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newspaper says he was formerly of Wellington, Kansas.

I mention them both because their lives seem to be intertwined throughout my story. They married best friends and seemed to remain close through the years I traced them.

John Whipple was a merchant. He had a mercantile store on the northwest corner of the square in Meade. From his ads we see he sold fancy groceries, fine clothing, boots, shoes and gents furnishings, wholesale and retail. It was named the "Buffalo Store" and a sign was displayed in the front of his building with a picture of a buffalo.

A bachelor in his mid-thirties, John Whipple was a well-respected businessman. He made the local "City News" any time he went away on business, had a mishap, or was taken ill. I first find John in this column when he served on the refreshment committee for the grand opening of the New Opera House. One article recommended him as good material for City Council in an upcoming election. He must have been friends with the newspaper editors as they referred to him as "Johnny Whipple" and "Whip" on several occasions.

We don't know when Eva Dalton and her friend Florence Dorland came to town. They were said to have come from Chetopa, Kansas, and that



The Dalton Family

by Nancy Samuelson

A lot has been written about the Dalton Gang, and much of what has been written is nonsense or pure fiction. Early writers invented “facts” and these “facts” have been copied and repeated by later writers. Some writers are still inventing new stories about the Dalton Gang family. Much of the literature in books and Western mag-

Nancy B. Samuelson, Lt. Col. USAF. Ret.

Nancy Samuelson was born November 12, 1940, in Dent Co. Missouri. She is the daughter of Raymond and Rosa Dalton McDonough. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harris Teacher’s College, St. Louis, Missouri and a Master of Business Administration from Syracuse University.

Nancy served in the United States Air Force from 1964-1984. She served in a variety of management and command positions in the logistics career fields for about fifteen years; then as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies in the Air Force ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program at the University of Connecticut. She is also the graduate of a number of professional military schools. Military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and Outstanding Supply Officer of the Year. Overseas tours of duty were in England and Thailand.

Nancy is married to Dr. Reid R. Samuelson (PhD Electrical Engineering) also a retired Air Force Lt. Col. The Samuelsons live in a 200 year old house in rural Connecticut.

Since retirement, Nancy keeps busy with research, writing and gardening activities. Research and writing projects focus primarily on women in the military, western history and genealogy. Her articles and book reviews had appeared in *Air University Review*, *Armed Forces and Society*, *Minerva*, *Quarterly Report On Women And The Military*, *The Herb Quarterly* and in a number of genealogical publications.

Her interest in the Dalton Gang began when she started researching her own Dalton family line. Both families came from the same general area of Virginia, but so far no common ancestor has been found.

Nancy Samuelson has published a book, *The Dalton Gang Story*, that contains a much more in-depth look at the Dalton family as well as copies of all the materials she used to document the facts she presented here. It is recommended reading for Dalton family members who want genealogical information. Shooting Star Press, PO Box , Eastford, CT 06242.

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azines such as *Real West*, *True West*, etc. is extremely inaccurate. *The Dalton Gang* by Harold Preece is a very readable book about the Daltons but it contains a lot of incorrect information.

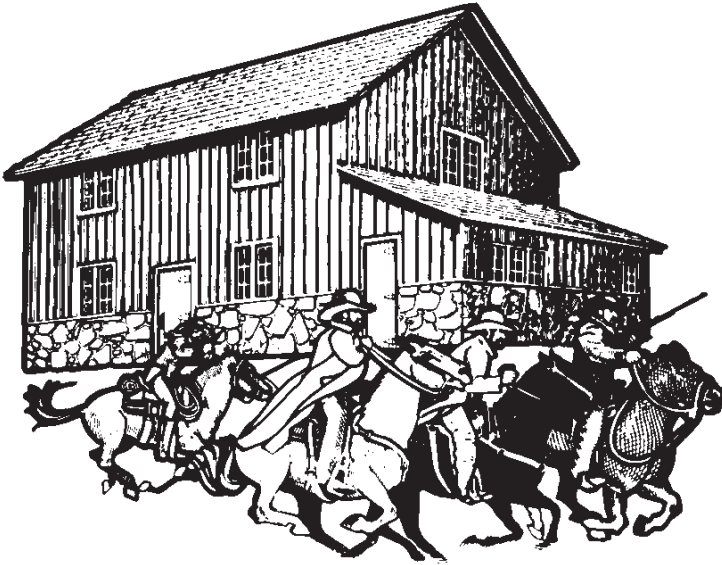
The best book to date about the Daltons is *Dalton Gang Days* by Frank F. Latta. Latta repeatedly interviewed Emmett Dalton, the brother who survived the Coffeyville, Kansas, bank robbery attempt; Littleton Dalton, an older brother of the outlaws; and numerous lawmen who were involved in attempting to bring the Daltons to justice.

Latta had to wait until after Emmett's death to publish his book because Emmett refused to allow anything to be published that disagreed with his two books, *When The Daltons Rode* and *Beyond The Law*. Emmett's books contain a lot of fiction and they do not always agree with each other. *West Of Hell's Fringe* by Glenn Shirley is a well-researched and documented book and contains a lot of material on the Daltons.[1]

The Dalton Gang consisted of Robert, Gratton and Emmett Dalton, and various other men who rode with them when they robbed trains. The entire outlaw career of the gang lasted just about two years. The first robbery attempt was in Alila, California, in February, 1891, and the gang's activities ceased in October, 1892, when they attempted to hold up two banks at the same time in Coffeyville, Kansas. Robert, Gratton and two other gang members were killed in the Coffeyville raid. Emmett was badly injured; he received about twenty bullet wounds. He was sentenced to life in prison but was pardoned after serving fourteen and a half years.

Robert, Gratton and an older brother, Frank, had all served as U.S. deputy marshals out of Fort Smith, Arkansas, before the younger brothers turned to crime. Emmett had also served as a posseman with his brothers. Frank Dalton was killed while trying to arrest whiskey runners in the Indian Territory. After his death the other three brothers were accused of stealing horses. The ex-police Daltons then left the Oklahoma Territory and joined the older brothers in California and shortly after turned to robbing trains.

Bill Dalton was the fourth of the Daltons to turn outlaw. He was not a member of the Dalton Gang, but after the Coffeyville raid he joined the Bill Doolin Gang. After several robberies with the Doolin



When the Daltons Rode

By Bill Phillips

Bill Phillips is the grandson of Elizabeth Dalton, sister to the notorious outlaws. At the time of this writing, Bill still lived in the "Territory of Oklahoma" where so many of the family ended up. The following is his story of the Daltons and his family ties.

The Dalton brothers, there were ten of them, will always be remembered for the misdeeds of the four bad ones, Grat, Bob, Emmett, and Bill. They rode across the Cherokee Strip a century ago and provided a never-ending source of stories for the newspapers of the day, while most of the Dalton family led honest and sedentary lives in the Kingfisher area. The three brothers were credited with shootings and robberies from one end of the country to the other.

The rumor that the Daltons might be headed for a particular town struck terror in the hearts of its businessmen. Those who claimed to

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know said one good reason why the Daltons were the way they were was because of their bad blood.

Adeline Younger Dalton, mother of the clan, was the aunt of another family of outlaws, the Youngers. Her nephews, Cole, Bob, and Jim, rode the outlaw trail in the fashion of some more of their relatives, Frank and Jesse James.

The Dalton boys were the sons of James Lewis and Adeline Younger Dalton, who had brought them out of Missouri at the start of the Civil War and settled the family on a farm near Coffeyville, Kansas, just north of the Indian Territory. It was a wild and lawless frontier town where the young boys grew up on the tales of their outlaw relatives.

When the new Oklahoma Territory was opened in 1889, the Dalton family joined the land rush and the father and older sons obtained claims near Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

The claim that James and Adeline Dalton chose was the SW 1/4 of sec. 11, in township 17, north of Range 8, west of the Indian Meridian in Oklahoma. This claim contained 160 acres, all bottom land, 6 miles northeast of the town of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Times were hard in the new raw land. James Lewis Dalton, father of the clan, returned to Kansas to work in Coffeyville while Mrs. Dalton remained on the claim with the children to prove it up.

James Lewis Dalton died in 1890, leaving the family on their own. He was buried at the Robbins Cemetery in Dearing, Kansas, near Coffeyville.

Four of the sons served as deputy marshals from time to time while the fifth moved to Montana and eventually to California. Bill Dalton served with the State of California two terms. Charles, Ben and Littleton Dalton took claims near Kingfisher. Henry Coleman Dalton participated in the Cherokee Strip land rush and took a claim near Enid, Oklahoma.

Frank, one of the elder of the brothers, was killed in 1887 while serving as a deputy in a fight with Indian horse thieves in Indian Territory. Another brother, Gratton, usually called Grat, also became a lawman. He was wounded while on duty in 1888. Bob and Emmett served as deputies for a time, but gradually they drifted to the other side of the law.

Bill Dalton, Bill Doolin and the Wild Bunch

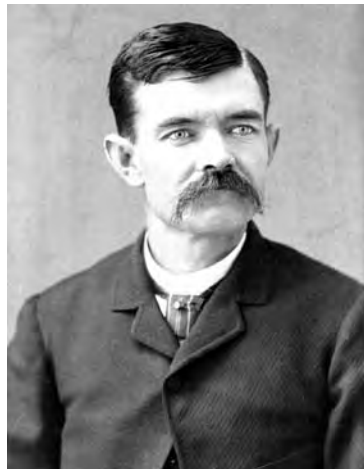
By Nancy Ohnick and Roger Meyers

After Bob, Grat and Emmett Dalton met their demise in Coffeyville on October 5, 1892, William “Bill” Dalton took up where they left off. Incensed by the treatment his fallen brothers received in Coffeyville, Bill was very vocal as he stayed by brother Emmett’s side throughout his recovery and trial. Bill surely seemed to have a chip on his shoulder and it wasn’t long before his name started appearing in the newspapers as he embarked on his own outlaw career. He rode with Bill Doolin and several others from his brother’s old gang, but the name “Dalton” still held the reputation, giving him credit as leader of the gang, mention of which put fear in the hearts of citizens all over Kansas and Oklahoma.

William (Bill) Doolin was born in 1858, in Johnson County, Arkansas. In 1881, at the age of 23, he drifted west, working odd jobs and eventually ended up in Caldwell, KS, where he met Oscar D. Halsall of Texas.

Halsall hired Doolin to work for him on his ranch on the Cimarron River in Oklahoma, where he soon became a top hand. It was during his time of working as a cowboy that he met most of the members of his future “Wild Bunch” gang, George “Bitter Creek” Newcomb, Charlie Pierce, Bill Power, Dick Broadwell, Bill “Tulsa Jack” Blake, and Emmett Dalton.

Doolin’s first brush with the law came in the summer of 1891, while working on the Bar X Bar Ranch. Several cowboys decided



Bill Doolin