

TRAGEDY REVIVED BY WOMAN'S DEATH

DAUGHTER OF DR. PERRY H. TALBOTT DIED RECENTLY.

WAS IN INSANE ASYLUM

Documents Were Found Among Effects of Mrs. James Walker Who Died in Monte Vista, Colo.

Mrs. James Walker, daughter of Dr. Perry H. Talbott of near Maryville, who was brutally murdered on the night of September 18, 1880, died recently at Monte Vista, Colo. The following article is from the Monte Vista Tribune of date of April 3:

Did brooding over the brutal murder of her father, and the hanging of two of her brothers for the crime, in Missouri more than forty years ago darken the life of Mrs. James Walker until the fibre of her mind gradually crumbled, and hopeless insanity caused her to be sent to the asylum to spend her last few troubled days on earth?

Mrs. Olivia Walker, widow of the pioneer, James Walker, who died on February 14, died at the state hospital for the insane, after having been committed to the institution the previous week. Documents found among her effects would indicate that Mrs. Walker throughout her lifetime had carried a load of grief and despondency that gradually sapped her mental strength and finally led to a complete breakdown after the death of her husband.

These records showed that she was a daughter of Dr. Perry H. Talbott, of Maryville, Mo., who was brutally murdered on the night of September 18, 1880. Two of his sons, Charles E., aged 22, and Albert P., aged 17, were charged with the killing, and were found guilty of murder in the first degree by a jury in the circuit court of Nodaway County. The case was taken to the appellate court and to the supreme court of the state of Missouri, but both courts refused to change the verdict of the lower court.

The governor was appealed to, and granted two days of execution while the higher courts reviewed the case, but finally all expedients were exhausted, and the two sons were hanged at Maryville, Mo., on July 22, 1881, in the presence of a crowd of ten thousand spectators.

While the evidence submitted against the two young men was wholly circumstantial, there was a settled conviction among the people of the vicinity, who were familiar with the history of the family, that the boys were guilty and some even went so far as to say that the mother of the boys was implicated, and that she had incited them to the act.

Mrs. Talbott was actually arrested as an accessory, but was acquitted at the preliminary hearing. Among Mrs. Walker's effects were newspaper clippings, and a pamphlet giving the whole history of the crime and the trial, which was one of the most sensational criminal trials in this history of Missouri courts.

James Broyles, who is janitor at the Marsh Park school, came from that section of Missouri. His wife is a native of Nodaway County, where the tragedy occurred. He told The Tribune that he and Mrs. Broyles were in Maryville on a visit the day the two Talbott boys were arrested.

Mrs. Walker had been married to a man named Turner just a short time before the murder of her father. The two accused boys tried to fasten the crime upon a farm hand named Wyatt, whom they alleged had been paying attention to their sister, and was enraged over her marriage to Turner, and killed the father for revenge. However circumstances effectually disproved their story, and Wyatt was one of the chief witnesses against the Talbott brothers.

Mr. Broyles says that the Turners came to Monte Vista in 1889, a year after he came here. He said they lived for a time in the old Valley house, south of the post office. Turner deserted the woman in 1902, and has never been heard of since. The couple had one son, who is now a resident of Kansas City.

Mr. Broyles says the late Walker frequently spoke to him about the murder of Dr. Talbott and said that his wife was a sister of the boys who were hanged. It is supposed that the woman brooded over the matter, for it is said that she had been acting queer for years.

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According to the newspaper clippings and the history of the case the Talbott family were a peculiar bunch. Talbott was a prosperous doctor, but the records declare that he was penurious in his family affairs, and had an ungovernable temper. He frequently quarrelled with members of the family, and on one occasion knocked down one of the boys who was afterwards hanged for his murder.

On the evening he was shot Talbott had called upon a patient. His wife and the boys alleged that while he was in the room with them someone crept up to the house and shot through the window. The bullet, a big ounce ball, passed entirely through the doctor's body.

The fact that a neighbor boy had seen the young Talbotts molding bullets identical with the fatal missile, together with the known facts about the unpleasant relations existing in the family discounted the story of the midnight assassin who shot through a window. Another little circumstance that was significant was that the greater part of the broken glass from the window was found outside of the house. If the glass had been broken from the outside most of the fragments would have fallen into the room.

The operations of an alleged detective, Jonas V. Brighton lent a touch

of melodrama to the case that reads like extracts from a fifteen cent best seller. He was one of the chief witnesses for the state, but by the time the lawyers for the defense got through with him his testimony had lost a great deal of its weight.

Brighton went from Kansas to Maryville with his wife to try to earn the reward which had been offered for the detection of the assassin. At the trial Brighton testified that his wife posed as his sister, and that he got into the good graces of the two young men and they confessed to the killing, and tried to hire him to kill Wyatt, the farm hand. They suspected that Wyatt knew they killed their father, and wanted him out of the way.

The defense attorneys dug up the fact that Brighton had served a term in the Kansas penitentiary, and also dug up other facts not at all to the credit of Brighton and his wife.

But in spite of the herculean efforts put forth in behalf of the boys by some of the best attorneys in Missouri, the boys were convicted.

The remains were brought from Pueblo Monday morning to the Monte Vista Soldiers and Sailors Home. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon and interment took place in the Home cemetery.

Campaign Against Gambling-Liquor Dives

Kansas City, April 24—Results of the police campaign against gambling and liquor dives in Kansas City