

PAYING THE LAST PENALTY

TWO BROTHERS HANGED FOR THE MURDER OF THEIR FATHER.

ALBERT AND CHARLES TALBOTT'S LAST DAY ON EARTH—SCENE IN THE PRISON BETWEEN THE CONDEMNED MEN AND THEIR MOTHER—HISTORY OF THE CRIME.

MARYVILLE, Mo., July 22.—The two brothers, Albert P. Talbott and Charles E. Talbott, aged, respectively, 22 and 21 years, who were convicted for the murder of their father, Dr. Perry H. Talbott, on the 18th of last September, were hanged this afternoon in the presence of from 8,000 to 10,000 men, women, and children, who flocked to the scene of the execution from all sections of the country. The Talbotts were originally sentenced to be hanged on June 25, but Gov. Crittenden respited them until to-day, and up to a late hour last night they were still hopeful of another interference by the Executive, but as midnight passed and no favorable tidings had come, they went to bed with all hope gone. During the evening they were visited by their mother, two sisters, and Miss Lewis, to whom Albert was engaged to be married. Mrs. Talbott was very bitter in her denunciations of the Governor for his refusal to save the lives of her boys, and she wept and raved by turns during the interview. The condemned men slept well during the night, and were awakened at 7 o'clock this morning. They received the last sacrament, according to the rites of the Catholic Church, from the Rev. Fathers Anselm and Ignatius, Benedictine priests. Mrs. Talbott, her daughters, and Miss Lewis were then admitted to the jail for a final interview, and the scene which followed was affecting in the extreme. Charles, the youngest, broke down completely, and cried and begged piteously that something might be done to save him. The natural result of this was to unnerve the women, and they cried and moaned and created such a scene that the jailer was forced to order their removal. As Mrs. Talbott reached the door she turned around, uttered a loud shriek, and made a frantic effort to again reach her sons. She was finally led away, crying at the top of her voice, "I hope you will be satisfied when you have killed my boys!"

Meantime a great crowd had gathered about the gallows, which was erected on the crest of a hill about a mile from the town. The people began to come early in the morning, and the throng constantly swelled until the execution took place. Parties came with baskets of food and picnicked on the hill-side in the shadow of the ugly gallows. A more repulsive sight than this crowd of curious men, women, and children, gathered from all quarters to witness the death struggles of two fellow-creatures, could scarcely be imagined. It was 1:30 before the brothers were shackled and placed in an omnibus to start for the scaffold. Both had been liberally dosed with whisky, which had been given them as often as they called for it. The omnibus, which was strongly guarded, was followed by a great crowd, who poured out curses and denunciations upon the two murderers. A Miss Merrell, a Quincy Spiritualist, added to the confusion by haranguing the crowd and calling on them to rescue the prisoners. The spirit of their father, she said, had appeared to her and assured her that they were innocent. She did not find sympathetic listeners, and the crowd mingled their jeers at her with their curses of the two boys. On reaching the scaffold the two priests recited the Catholic service, and the youths joined in the responses. The black caps were then drawn over their heads, their arms were pinioned, and the noose was adjusted to their necks. At 2:17 P. M. the bolt was drawn by the Sheriff's son, and the two dropped together, while a groan went up from the multitude of spectators. They died without a struggle.

The Talbotts lived on a farm near Maryville, Mo. Dr. Perry H. Talbott was well known throughout the State, and was for many years a leading citizen of North-west Missouri, having represented Nodaway County in the General Assembly 25 years ago. He was wealthy, having made his money by the practice of his profession. He was murdered by his two sons, Albert P. and Charles E. Talbott, Albert being 22 years old and his brother only 21. Several years previous to his death Dr. Talbott gave up his practice and went into politics. He was first a Democrat, and then became a Greenbacker. He was an able writer and a fluent speaker. He was the owner of the *Greenback Standard*, of Maryville, Mo., which suspended soon after his death. On the night of the murder he reached home at about 9 o'clock, and went to his bedroom, where Mrs. Talbott, and their son Albert, familiarly known as "Bud," were sitting. On entering the room he removed his coat and vest, and sat down on the side of the bed. Mrs. Talbott sat at the foot of the bed, facing her husband, Albert sat in a chair near the window. While the three were talking a large bullet, weighing an ounce and a half, crashed through the window, cut off two of Dr. Talbott's fingers, and entered his body, making a terrible wound. The bullet then grazed Mrs. Talbott's ankle and went on, imbedding itself in the wooden partition of the room, where it was afterward found. The Doctor's injury was pronounced fatal. He made his will, and talked freely with those about him. He died the next day in great agony. While he was lying in bed he was asked whether some member of his family might not have shot him, but he gave evasive replies. The family had not lived happily, and many people believed that some member of his family had killed the Doctor. Mrs. Talbott offered a reward of \$500 for the detection of the murderer. J. V. Brighton, a detective, disguised himself as a laborer and obtained a situation on a neighboring farm. Dr. Talbott's sons were frequent visitors at this house, and they became very intimate with the disguised detective and with his wife, who accompanied him. On one of their visits they confessed that they had killed their father. The detective's wife, who was concealed in a closet, overheard the confession. Brighton also averred that the Talbott brothers hired him for \$50 to kill Henry Wyatt, their hired man, as they feared that he knew the secret of their father's death. The detective also said that to get into the confidence of the young Talbotts he signed an agreement, drawn up by Albert Talbott, to the effect that they should go into the business of robbing trains and mails and divide the proceeds. The paper thus drawn up and signed was as follows:

MONDAY, October 25, 1880.

We this day of our lord eighteen hundred and eighty go in contract together Albert P. Talbott Charles E. Talbott Wilfred Mitchell Frank B. Hutson together for the purpose of Bank Robbing train robbing and stage robbing and safe and each one shall be sworn into the same to stay together until death in every attempt to obtain duty, and in case any of one betrays us of our one men death is his portion at any time the first train or Bank is Robbed any one in the band can resign he must keep all secrets or he shall be killed and there must be a equal division of the bounty and before any train is robbed or anything is done there is one traitor in the band that must be killed before we can proceed further.

(Signed)

JENNIE HUDSON
2nd WILBERFER MITCHELL
1st ALBERT P TALBOTT
2nd C E TALBOTT
1st FRANK B HUDSON.

The Talbotts were then arrested for murder, and Wyatt was arrested as an accessory. The two brothers, at the time of their arrest, denied the story told by the detective, asserted their innocence, and declared that Wyatt killed their father. On the trial the principal witnesses for the State were Brighton, the detective, and Wyatt. The detective's testimony was somewhat weakened by the fact that his record was not good, it being shown that he had been sentenced at one time to four years' imprisonment in Kansas for grand larceny. Wyatt corroborated the detective's story in some degree. He said the Talbott boys had made plans to hang their father about six weeks before the shooting. They were going to take him out of bed some night while he was asleep. They had also arranged to conceal themselves under his bed and shoot him, then they determined to entice him to the feed-lot and kill him there with a club. The two young men molded three bullets to kill him with. Charles took the gun on the night of the murder and shot his father. The trial lasted six days, and the Talbotts were both convicted and sentenced to be hanged. They were both defiant, but Albert broke down on being sentenced and wept. Charles made a confession saying that he saw his father kicking his mother, and that he shot him to save his mother from injury.