

Bob Faulkner

From: "Kathy Tidwell" <ktidwell@bulldogs.org>
To: <thefaulkners@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2005 1:44 PM
Subject: Good news, I hope.

Your poem is true. I spent yesterday in the Eddy County courthouse. Our Thanksgiving holidays are the first time I could get in when they were open. I went to court records last because I had called them two months ago, and they told me there were no criminal court records on Robert Faulkner. I spent two or three hours reading the last of the Dayton papers that aren't available anywhere else before I went to the court records. I have followed up every lead I could and everything about saloons pointed to 1910 to 1915. Then last week, I found mention of a killing involving a saloon in Dayton in 1907 or 1908. Yesterday when I asked to look at court records for Faulkner, the lady remembered me and said she had found them after I called but had no way of getting in touch with me because I didn't leave a name or number. What has taken months should have taken 30 minutes.

Robert Faulkner shot and killed William Smith late on the night of March 15, 1907. Smith didn't die until the morning of March 16th. After I got the date from the court record, I went to the LDS Library and looked it up in the newspapers. It was mentioned in three Carlsbad papers. Those are the only ones we have that cover that time period. The papers said it happened at someone's house, but did not name the person. There were three or more witnesses who said Mr. Faulkner didn't mean to shoot Smith. The newspapers said that after Smith was shot, he kept asking Mr. Faulkner to take care of his younger sister. According to the papers, Smith was a single man who lived with an 18 year old brother and a younger sister. They had come to Eddy County from Arkansas. The biggest difference is the part about the Wilson's. There is no mention in any of the papers about a Wilson connection to the shooting. The court records may bring in the Wilson part. I will check and see if Artesia has a 1907 paper, but their microfilm reader has been broken for months, and I haven't been able to read their papers at all.

An odd thing in one paper was the comments of a man named J. C. Wilson. He called Mr. Faulkner "Bob" and said that Smith worked for him (Mr. Wilson), but none of the information mentions a Wilson being at the scene of the shooting. All the reports comment on Mr. Faulkner's awful grief over having killed his friend.

There are 5 criminal court cases involving Robert Faulkner before 1910 and none after that. They would not let me look for myself, but he pulled 5 microfiche sheets, and we talked about the contents. The largest record is the manslaughter charge. It was 60 pages. There are four others that involve carrying a weapon, "drawing" the weapon on people, and serving minors. They don't let you read for yourself as I like to do. Anyway, it will cost about \$40.00 to copy all of the court records for Robert Faulkner. I need to call him tomorrow and tell him how much you want. He will have them copied and ready for me next Tuesday afternoon. I will add the other information that I have found to them and mail them right out to you. I will pay for the copies because the court clerk will only accept cash, and you can reimburse me for the cost of the copies.

This search has been very interesting and exciting. I knew your poem was true. You just have a feeling about some things. So many of these old stories are true, you just have to find the time they happened. It was very rewarding yesterday to finally see it in black and white. When I work on other people's families, I get just as excited as if it were my family. I worry about sending some of the information because I don't think all of it will be good to hear, but if it was my family, I would want to know everything regardless. This was a very violent place, the real last frontier. I could write pages about all this, but I will spare you. I'm sorry that this email is so long, but I don't think I could tell it in fewer words.

I hope you will be as excited about this as I am. Please let me know if you want all the information copied.

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11/26/2005