

The GUN REPORT

Volume 41, Number 1

June 1995/ \$5.00



AFFIDAVIT OF DEATH.

STATE OF KANSAS, }
 Montgomery County, } ss. *Robert Dalton*
 In the matter of the Estate of *Robert Dalton*
 On this *16th* day of *October* A. D. 1994,
 On this *16th* day of *October* A. D. 1994,
 I, *W. M. Dalton*, do hereby depose and swear that the above-named *Robert Dalton* died on the *16th* day of *October* A. D. 1994, at *Montgomery County, Kansas*, and that the name and address of residence of the heirs of said deceased is *Dalton, Missouri*.
 and that deceased died without a will, as affiant verily believes.
 consisting chiefly of *2000.00 in Cash*
1000.00 in Bonds
1000.00 in Real Estate
 all of said estate being estimated to be worth about *5000.00*.
 Your petitioner would therefore respectfully pray that the same be distributed to the heirs of said deceased.
 Subscribed and sworn to before me, the day and year first above written.
John Calahan

Robt. Dalton Probate Estate
Cash
1 Gold Watch & Chain
1 Set of Rings
Pr. Silver
\$700.00

**STATE OF KANSAS, } In the Probate Court of said County.
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, } In the Matter of the Estate of
 Robert Dalton**

APPRISED VALUE	SALE PRICE	NAME OF PURCHASER
150.00	Sold	W. S. Uphaus
20.00	"	Clara
20.00	"	John J. W.
1.00	"	John M.

DALTONS!

The Robber Gang Meet
 Their Waterloo in
 Coffeyville.

LITERALLY WIPED OUT

A Desperate Attempt to
 Rob Two Banks

FOUR BAD ROBBERS KILLED

The Fifth One Wounded and
 Captured.

FOUR GOOD CITIZENS DEAD

Marshall County Shot Down
 While Doing His Duty.

A MOST TERRIFIC BATTLE

The Oribine Battle of Their One
 Gun.

A REMARKABLE OCCURRENCE

Three Counties Starved by
 Monetary Fiasco.



THE DALTON GANG'S

Fancy Engraved Revolvers

by **Bill Gerber**

Copyright 1995 Bill Gerber

In our gun collecting endeavors, most of us can remember that one great acquisition that became the essence of our lifetime collecting effort. For the most part, these cornerstone acquisitions remain in our collections forever, but every now and then we part with them, and most reluctantly. Well, I recently parted with a mint cased Texas Patterson, and in the deal, as sort of an afterthought, I received a "little chip and a whetstone", an engraved, blued, pearl gripped, .45 cal., 5 1/2" barrel, serial #147,306 black powder single action. After the trade was finalized, the previous owner happened to remark that this single action had a consecutive serial number to the



Grat Dalton as prisoner in California (courtesy of John Boesenacker)

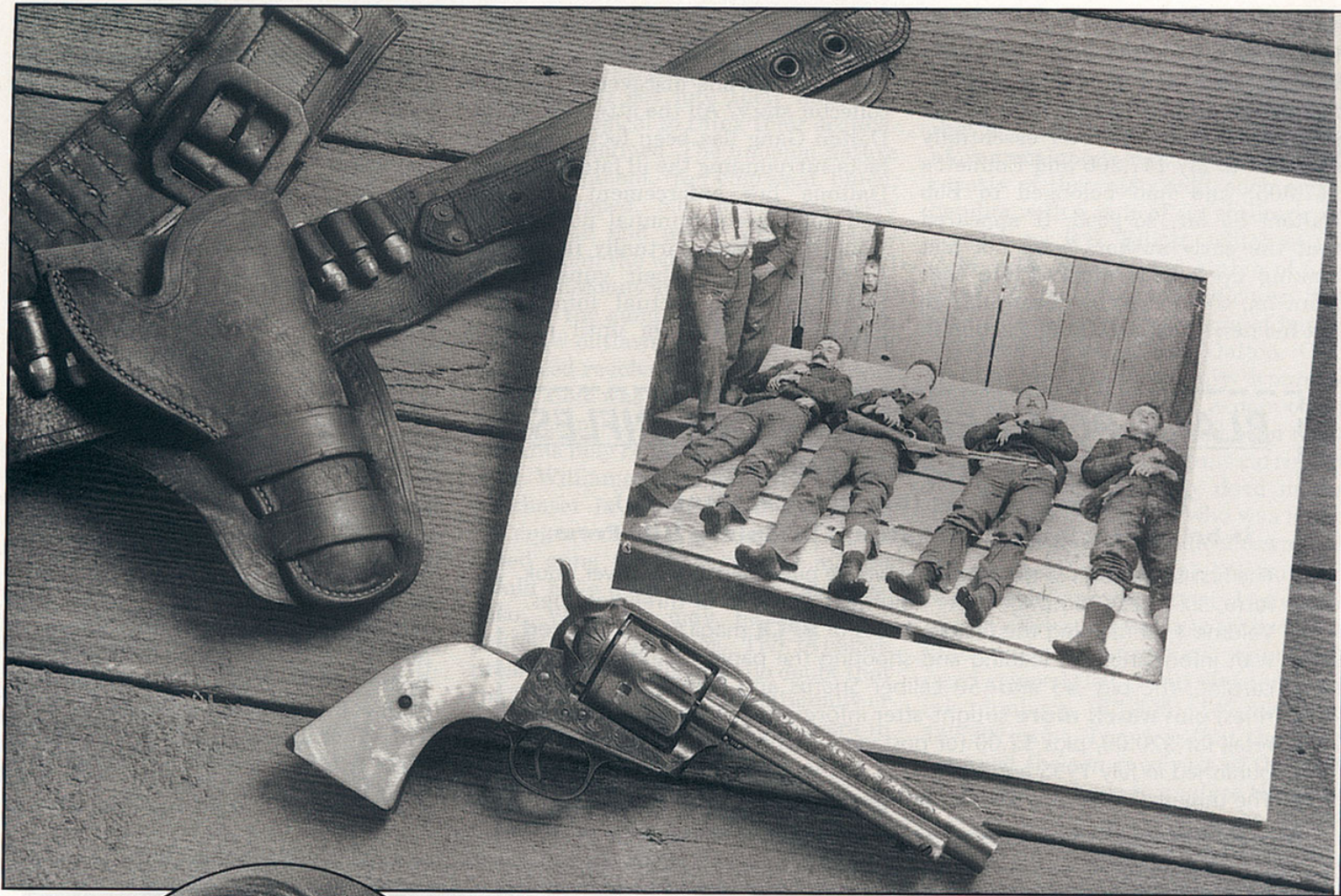
Emmett Dalton gun which was pictured in Larry Wilson's book, *The Peacemakers*. This gun is displayed at the Gene Autry Museum, and Wilson's article claimed that it was one of ten Colts shipped to the Daltons prior to their famous double bank robbery. As it turned out, this claim was based on information supplied from The Autry Museum, and their source was from books by early Western authors. Since the economics of the trade were not predicated on any particular provenance of the revolver, this was becoming an exciting event. Could it be that the author's gun, #147,306, really was an undiscovered Dalton gun?



Bill Power alias Tim Evans (courtesy of Pat Waddell)



Bob Dalton



Left, photograph of Emmett Dalton upon entering prison. (courtesy Kansas Historical Society). Above, Colt single action serial number 147,305, belonging to Emmett Dalton, along with photograph of dead members of the Dalton Gang. (Artifacts from the collections of the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum, Los Angeles. Photo by Susan Einstein from *The Peacemakers*, by R.L. Wilson, Random House, Publishers)



My first step in researching this question was to verify the claim of the Daltons having bought ten engraved single actions. This was easier said than done, but these questions led the author on a fascinating research project. What the early writers used as a basis for their stories of the Daltons buying ten new single actions is unknown; and initial inquiry to verify their sources proved fruitless. The first question—was the Emmett Dalton gun, and mine, really part of a shipment of ten guns and to whom were they shipped. I contacted Kathy Hoyt of the Colt Co. who very quickly acknowledged that both were from a shipment of ten engraved single actions on August 18, 1892. A check

with Jim Nottage, curator of The Autry Museum, indicated that they had authenticating information on their gun, #147,305. The trail was getting hot and the search was on!

Prior to 1992, there had been little or no new information published on the Dalton Gang, but I was fortunate to find a new book, *The Dalton Gang Story* by Nancy Samuelson, published in 1992.

Mrs. Samuelson had obtained considerable new information on them and the family. Having ordered her book, I then called Coffeyville, Kansas, the location of the famous raid, to find out if they had any information to offer. There was a museum and another Dalton single action extant, serial #147,307. It had been on loan since 1960 and also recorded in the August

AFFIDAVIT OF DEATH.

Printed at TRIAMUSE Office, Independence, Kansas

STATE OF KANSAS, }
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, } SS. In the Probate Court, in and for said County.

In the matter of the Estate of Robert Dalton late of said County, deceased.

On this 16th day of October A. D. 1892, personally appeared before me, the undersigned Judge of said Court, W. M. Dalton who being by me

duly sworn, according to law, doth-upon his oath depose and say that Robert Dalton died on the 5th day of October

A. D. 1892, at Montgomery County, and State aforesaid, that to the best of his knowledge and belief, the names and places of residence of the heirs of the deceased are as follows, to-wit:

Adaline L. Dalton Mother of said deceased

and that deceased died without a will, as affiant verily believes. And he further states that the

deceasee Robert Dalton died seized and possessed of real and personal estate consisting chiefly of \$900.00 in cash, gold watch, jewelry, six shotguns, Winchester Rifle, Saddle & Bridle and Deerskin Rug

all of said estate being estimated to be worth about one thousand dollars

Your petitioner would therefore respectfully pray that your honor will grant Letters of Administration to John Calahan

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the day and year first above written. W. M. Dalton
Daniel Cline Probate Judge.

Bob Dalton's death certificate. Typical example of all their death certificates, and illustrates that the guns were listed along with other property.

WILL TRADE THESE CARS
 (ONE OR ALL) -----

1961
Mercedes

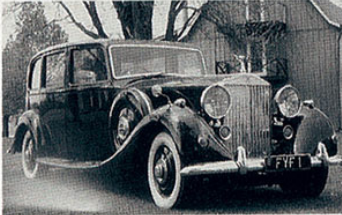


**FOR
GOOD QUALITY
PERCUSSION
COLTS**

1954 Bentley



1939
Rolls Royce



C. John Blickhan
 P.O. Box 530, Quincy, IL 62306
 Phone: (217)222-4870 or (217)223-6235

and data relevant to each of the bandits' revolvers. The existing documents relating to Bob's, Grat's and Dick Broadwell's property give absolute testimony to the number and make of guns with which they were armed. This, coupled with the fact that one each of Bob's and Emmett's pairs of revolvers exists, virtually resolves any doubt about them acquiring guns from the Colt shipment. So, how many were acquired from it, a few, all? A review of the Probate records, newspaper articles, eyewitness reports, and public sale records leads to a fascinating conclusion that the "highway robbers," as they were called in their death records, were not only carrying pairs of revolvers, but pairs of engraved, pearl gripped, Colt .45's. Let's examine the situation of each, beginning with Dick Broadwell. Mortally wounded in the retreat from the Condon Bank, Broadwell

made it a mile out of town before he fell dead. That's where his gun story would have ended except for an incredible series of occurrences. First, there was an eyewitness to what guns he was carrying; second, the account was reported in the newspaper and was reprinted in 1992. Next, I accidentally got a copy of that very newspaper, and I stumbled onto the following testimony by Ida Gibbs Jones, the eyewitness to the raid.²

"When he (Broadwell) was brought back to town by a posse, his body and guns were displayed to a group of girls. George Kimes showed a bunch of us girls one of the large revolvers taken off Broadwell, all blued steel and engraved and with a pearl or ivory handle, I forgot which, and very formidable looking."

Her account also stated that she was in her office just south of the Condon Bank and witnessed the gang trying to escape under intense fire from Coffeyville citizens in Ishams hardware store. Her detailed job as a bookkeeper and her close attention to the events add credence to her very specific description of Broadwell's revolver.

Until the author's research began, no successful effort had been made to locate the Broadwell and Bill Power records; but a quick trip to Independence, Kansas courthouse proved very fruitful. Within a couple of hours I obtained copies of complete probate records for both men.³ Fortunately, the death certificates of these robbers listed their property and money. In Dick Broadwell's case, a listing of "2

Coals (Colts misspelled) revolvers" is included with other property plus \$92 in cash. Thus Mrs. Jones eyewitness account is corroborated as to his having a pair of Colt revolvers. So now we know he was carrying a pair of engraved Colts revolvers with pearl or ivory grips.

...as Emmett was leaving for prison he took out his scarf pin and sent it to his aged mother, his Winchester he gave to Sheriff Callahan, his pistols to Attorney Fritch, and his white cowboy hat to Billy Smith.

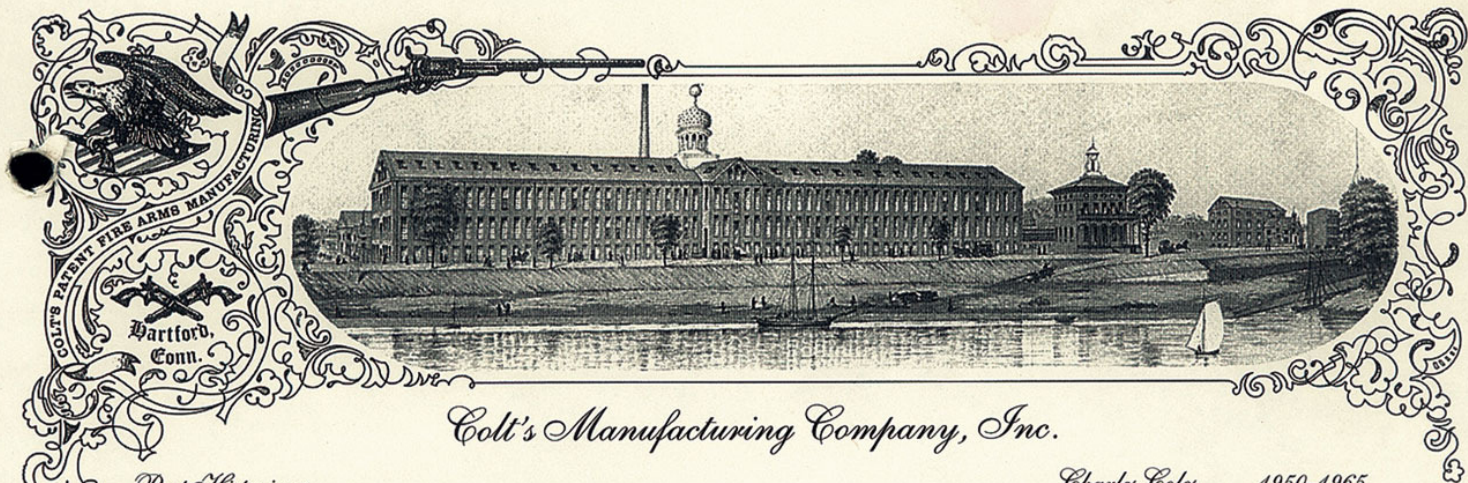
Of all the bandits, only Emmett was alive at the conclusion of the shoot-out. As the smoke cleared, Mr. R.S. Elliott, the newspaper editor, reached him [Emmett] first and took his pair of revolvers.⁴ This action later proved to be quite an embarrassment to him, for Bill Dalton, Emmett's brother, filed a suit for their return that was obtained through a writ of replevin. This instrument was served by Constable Jewett on Dec. 2, 1892 and before Emmett's trial and conviction. There was a flurry of editorial jousting between Mr.

Elliott and the *Star and Kansan* newspaper about whether he "stole" the revolvers or "took" them from Emmett. Emmett's court appointed attorney, J. R. Fritch, was given Emmett's pistols at the train station just prior to Emmett leaving for prison. The *Star and Kansan* of March 10, 1893, reported that as Emmett was leaving for prison, he took out his scarf pin and sent it to his aged mother, his Winchester he gave to Sheriff Callahan, his pistols to Attorney Fritch, and his white cowboy hat to Billy Smith. Now it turns out that Colt six shooter serial number 147,305 (Gene Autry Museum), reported in Larry Wilson's book, *The Peacemakers*, was one of Emmett's pair.

The following provenance is derived from records furnished by Mr. James Nottage of the Autry Museum. Michael Sweetman III has written a testimonial that his grandfather, Michael Martin Sweetman, obtained the services of Emmett's appointed Attorney, J.R. Fritch, in 1912 and received one of Emmett's guns at that time. Sweetman kept the gun for over sixty years and passed this gun down through his family. It remained in the family until 1978 and was acquired by John Bianchi for his museum. It letters from Colt as being in the aforementioned shipment of ten guns. Thus, #147,305 is one of a pair of revolvers (engraved, pearl gripped, 45 cal.) carried by Emmett. It would be absurd to suggest that Emmett would have carried both a plain gun and a fancy engraved one, particularly with ten engraved guns available to him and the gang. Thus, we can ascribe two

State of Kansas, MONTGOMERY COUNTY		In the Probate Court of said County		No. _____		
In the Matter of the Estate of		Sale Bill of Personal Property Sold at a		Public Sale		
Robert Dalton		Deceased				
at Coffeyville Kan. on the 14 day of January, 1893 by		John Callahan		Administrator of said Deceased, with		
Geo. Bowen		Clerk of said Sale.				
A list of all the articles mentioned in the inventory of personal property of said estate, which are to be sold, and in the order they are shown in the inventory.	APPRAISED VALUE.	Whether Sold or "Not Sold."	NAME OF PURCHASER.	Cash or Note.	NAMES OF SECURITY.	PRICE SOLD FOR.
1 Winchester	15.00	sold	W.S. Upsham	Cash		\$60.00
1 Colt 45 Revolver	20.00	"	Clark	"		31.00
1 Texas Saddle	20.00	"	John J. Klacker	"		20.50
1 Scabbard	1.00	"	John Mitchell	"		2.00

Sale bill of personal property (Bob Daltons showing only one of his guns sold to Clark)



Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Past Historians

Arthur Ulrich 1903-1941
Harold Hart 1942-1945

Charles Coles 1950-1965
Ron Wagner 1957-1972
Martin Huber 1972-1993

June 29, 1998

Dear _____

Colt, by the means of this letter, is proud to authenticate the manufacture of the Colt firearm with the following serial number:

COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY REVOLVER

<i>Serial Number:</i>	<i>147307</i>
<i>Caliber:</i>	<i>.45/c [®]</i>
<i>Barrel Length:</i>	<i>5 1/2"</i>
<i>Finish:</i>	<i>Blue</i>
<i>Type of Stocks:</i>	<i>Not Listed</i>
<i>Factory Engraved:</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Sold To:</i>	<i>A.E. Williams</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>Unavailable</i>
<i>Shipped To:</i>	<i>Simmons Hardware Company</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>St. Louis, Missouri</i>
<i>Date of Shipment:</i>	<i>August 18, 1892</i>
<i>Number of Same Type</i>	
<i>Guns in Shipment:</i>	<i>10</i>

We trust you will find the historical information, retrieved from the original Colt shipping records, to be of interest.

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Hoyt
Kathleen J. Hoyt
Historian

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Office of the Historian, Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06144



Receipt

11-20-03

**From: John Henry Hill & Tommy Rhoads
P.O. Box 849
Prosper, TX 75078**

1 Colt Single Action Serial # 147307 Factory Engraved 5 ½ inch barrel 45 Colt blue and cased hardened having been taken from the dead body of Bob Dalton on October 5, 1892 in what is known as the Coffeerville raid.

Paid \$210,000

1 Colt Single Action Serial # 147311 Factory Engraved 5 ½ inch barrel 45 Colt blue and cased hardened also having Dalton history.

Paid \$50,000

DEC 01 2003

JOB # _____ C.C. # _____
A/C # _____