



AREA TIME LINE

VERY EARLY AMERICA

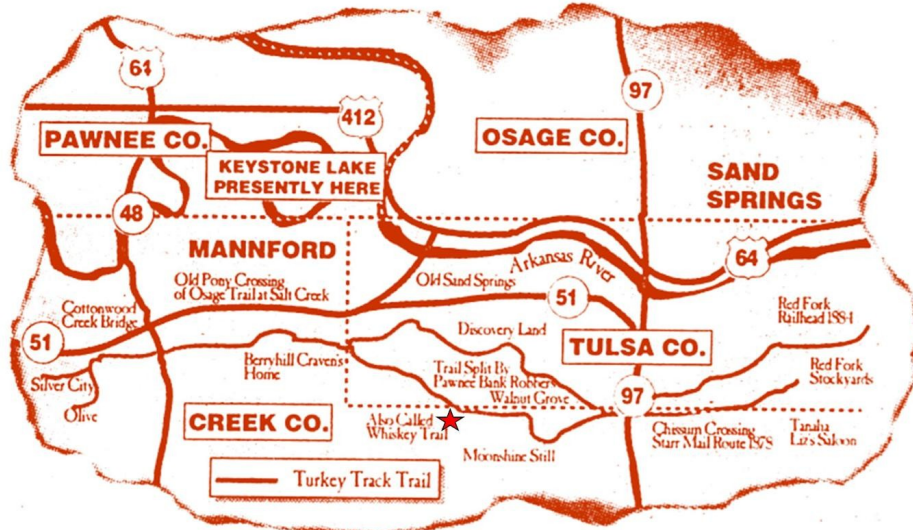
Turkey Track Trail established (it was not named Turkey Track until much later, however). Archeological records indicate this trail dates back to prehistoric inhabitants. Established long before the removal of the civilized tribes from the South, the Turkey Track Trail had been part of an interconnecting network of early trails leading west from what is now Tulsa. The trail ran out toward western Oklahoma and the buffalo hunting plains. It was an important route for hunting and trading for Indians as they moved from eastern Oklahoma toward the west and the good hunting grounds. The trail first appeared to white man during the relocation of the Five Civilized Tribes - the Trail of Tears actually extended west of Fort Gibson along Turkey Track. The Creeks became caretakers of the trail in the 1830's and later the trail was used for cattle drives. The trail received its current name after the establishment of the Turkey Track Ranch in the Sac and Fox Nation. Part of this trail runs along 61st Street just down the road in the part of the current dirt and gravel road that connects 61st & 71st Street. (We are located at 201st & 61st - there was a historic street sign put up in the 1990's just across from our Firey Trails gate commemorating Turkey Track Trail down the road at 197th and 61st but it was stolen as soon as it was erected.) *Ref. 1990's article-Tulsa World*

Approx. 1798-Opothleyahola is born in Alabama

Rock Creek Road (*Unofficial Name of the dirt and gravel stretch that runs along Rock Creek and connects 61st & 71st Street.*) This primitive road is still in current use and your group may have traveled it to Firey Trails. If you will notice, the banks of dirt on both sides of the road are very high in most places. This confirms the theory that the road is very old and started out as an old Indian trail long before automobiles. It also was the only way to travel from Sapulpa to this area until the 1940's. Our theory is that it wound along Rock Creek all the way to Sapulpa-though only the 2.3 miles 61st-71st section of the old original road still exists.

Opothleyahola is born and is a member of the Upper Creeks (those who lived on the upper course of the Chattahoochee River in Alabama and Georgia). The tribal groups living on the lower course of this river are referred to as the Lower Creek Division. Opothleyahola was never a chief but he early showed great ability and powers as an orator in the Creek council meetings.

Turkey Track Trail Map



Source: Keystone Crossroads Historical Society

Tulsa World Map M. Modrak

★ We live here along Turkey Track Trail



Opothleyahola - Creek Leader

1805 - Tiger Bone born in Georgia

Tiger Bone, Euchee Indian scout born in Georgia. One of his descendants believes that Tiger Bone came to Indian Territory sometime during the Trail of Tears Era in the 1830's

1830's - Trail of Tears Period

Creeks (along with the other civilized tribes) are forced from Alabama and Georgia and other states of the south and travel on the Trail of Tears to settle in Indian Territory. Opothleyahola and the Northern Creeks settle on the Deep Fork about 6 or 8 miles southwest of present day Checotah in McIntosh County

Opothleyahola was born about the year 1798 at Tuckabatchee town in present day Elmore County, Alabama. He is believed to have fought against the whites possibly as early as the War of 1812 and again in the Creek War of 1813-14, including against General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Opothleyahola swore his allegiance to never again bear arms against the Federal government.

After the Creeks signed treaties ceding the land in Alabama and Georgia to the federal government, Federal authorities forced the emigration of many of the tribes to the West, an exile known as the **Trail of Tears**. In 1837, Opothleyahola led 8,000 of his people from Alabama to lands north of the Canadian River in the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. This was near Brush Hill, on the Deep Fork River about six or eight miles southwest of present Checotah, in McIntosh County. Opothleyahola joined the Freemasons, became a wealthy trader and owned a 2,000 acre plantation with labor from a number of slaves. He raised cattle and farmed the river bottom lands.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Opothleyahola refused to form an alliance with the Confederacy unlike many other tribes, including the Lower Creeks. This was in keeping with his earlier oath of allegiance to never bear arms against the Federal government. (Opothleyahola was of the Upper Creeks who sided with the Union.) In August of 1861, Opothleyahola contacted President Abraham Lincoln to request help for the loyalists. He received a positive response back stating the U.S. government would help them. The letter from President Abraham Lincoln directed Opothleyahola to move his people to Fort Row in Kansas where they would receive asylum and aid. In November, Confederate Col. Douglas H. Cooper led 1,400 men including blacks and pro-Confederate Indians northward to convince Opothleyahola and his followers to support the Confederacy or to "drive them from the country." Believing the US government, Opothleyahola led his followers toward Kansas, fighting three battles against their pursuers. At **Round Mountain**, (which has the distinction of being the first Civil War Battle fought in the future state of Oklahoma), he was able to drive back the Confederates to Fort Gibson. However, in December, he suffered a tactical loss at Chusto-Talasa and then a crushing defeat at Chustenahlah. Only 7,000 of his estimated 9,000 followers survived the battles, disease, and bitter winter blizzards during their ill-fated walk to Fort Row. However, they soon learned that there were not adequate medical attention and supplies there, and the refugees were moved to Fort Belmont, where conditions were still intolerable. The majority of the Creeks had only the clothes on their backs and lacked proper footwear and shelter. Many more perished, among them Opothleyahola's daughter.

Opothleyahola died in the Creek refugee camp near the Sac and Fox Agency at Quenemo in Osage County, Kansas on March 27, 1863, never realizing his hopes of returning to Indian Territory. He was buried beside his daughter near Fort Belmont, Kansas.



The Trail of Tears

April 12, 1861 - Civil War Begins

The first shot of the Civil War fired by the Confederates at Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

Approx. 1861 - William G. "Billie" Bruner Born

William G. "Billy" Bruner born to George & Annie Bruner. His mother, Annie, a northern Creek follower of Opothleyahola, recounted to him how she had carried him as a baby on the tragic march through snow and ice to Kansas after his birth. Annie is also buried in Tiger Bone Cemetery 1/4 mile from this location.



Billy Bruner, a Creek legend, *left and below with his son*, was on both sides of the law. Following an arrest for liquor trading, Bruner accidentally killed U.S. Marshal Bill Moody. While in prison, he met then-Ohio Gov. William McKinley, who soon became president and pardoned the young Indian. After his release, Bruner didn't retire his Winchester but joined a Tulsey Town voluntary posse that tracked down outlaws. Bruner, who was said to have had at least six wives and lived well past 100, was credited with helping to establish law and order in Indian Territory.



William G. "Billie" Bruner

*Muscogee (Creek) Nation
House of Kings*

1860* - 1952

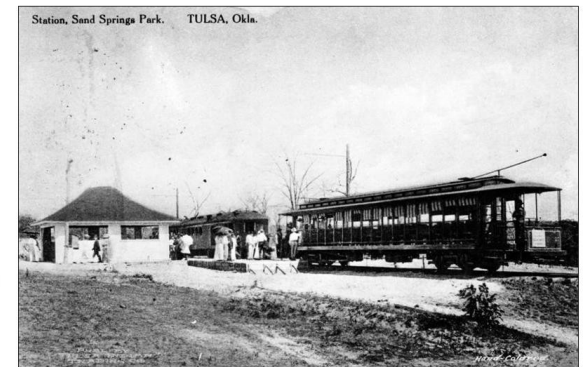
**The date of Bruner's birth is uncertain.
The date above is based on information
from other historical accounts*



Left to right: William G. Bruner, of the Creek Nation, and Samuel W. Brown, Chief of the Yuchi. (Photo, 1951)



Billie Bruner's Residence in his later years right near tracks where the Sand Springs Street Car ran. This is located at the corner of 65th & Charles Page Blvd. on the Sand Springs Line.



Early Photo of Bruner Station

Interesting Trivia About William G. "Billie" Bruner

- Billie Bruner was born, hunted as a youth and was buried along the same Rock Creek where Firey Trails is located. His burial location is in Tiger Bone Cemetery, about 1/4 mile east of this location.
- According to more than one account, Billie Bruner was married between 6 to 8 times.
- Billie Bruner never drove and would walk all the way from Sand Springs to this area to collect money on allotment land he rented to Ray Firey's paternal great-grandfather, Wallace Haney, back in the 20's & 30's just a short distance from here.
- Billie Bruner rode in a posse tracking down the killer of Deputy U.S. Marshall Frank Dalton (under the jurisdiction of Judge Isaac Parker in Fort Smith). Frank Dalton was the older brother of the same Dalton brothers that later became infamous outlaws. Ironically, Frank's younger brother Grant "Grat" Dalton (while on the good side of the law as a deputy himself) as the only witness, brought Billie Bruner to trial in front of Judge Isaac Parker. It was because of his testimony that William G. "Billie" Bruner was sentenced to federal prison for 10 years in Ohio. Grat Dalton was killed less than three years later trying to rob the bank in Coffeyville, Kansas.
- William G. "Billie" Bruner received a Presidential Pardon from William G. McKinley as one of the President's first acts of office. As a trustee, he had met and shook the hand of Ohio governor McKinley just a short time before when the governor inspected the prison. Apparently he left a good impression with the then governor.
- Billie Bruner sold much of his allotment to Charles Page during the 1920's in the vicinity of where Bruner Station area is today. He received a lifetime privilege of riding the street car for free.
- Common memories of Billie Bruner were that he liked to drink too much, loved children, would give kids a nickel when they came up to him. He would also oblige people by yelling out an Indian war cry every now and then.

Indian Legend Comes to End in Death of William Bruner

An Indian legend died Sunday in the person of William G. (Billy) Bruner, full-blooded Creek and lifelong resident of the Tulsa area.

Mr. Bruner died in a Claremore hospital after a three-month illness. Neither he nor relatives knew how old he was but relatives said he was "about 98 or 100." Six years ago in a news article listed him as 110.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bruner, who migrated to Oklahoma from Alabama with the Creek tribe, Mr. Bruner got into many scrapes with the law in his youth. When he later switched sides, his accurate Winchester was a big help in the efforts to establish order in the frontier Indian territory.

He lived most of his life in the Bruner station area on the Sand Springs line, which was named after him.

When he was a young man he was arrested by federal authorities for liquor trading. Jailed in Tulsa, he was released overnight before being transferred to Fort Smith, Ark., for trial.

Later officers became anxious about the young Indian and went to his home. A bullet whistled through the air, alarming Mr. Bruner, who thought the shot came from a roving band of unfriendly Indians. He grabbed his Winchester and fired. During the brief skirmish U. S. Marshall Bill Moody was killed.



W. G. BRUNER

Mr. Bruner received a 20-year sentence for the killing. While at the federal penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio, he met the state's governor, who immediately took a liking to him. The governor reviewed the case and convinced himself the shooting was accidental.

A short while later William McKinley went on to become president of the United States. One of his first acts as chief executive was to pardon Mr. Bruner.

His legendary career continued with zest to the last. Two years ago relatives attempted to appoint a guardian over him to protect him from "a designing woman."

Billy had 80 acres of an original 160-acre tract he received from the government. He was estimated to be worth \$80,000.

Mr. Bruner fought the guardianship action with all the spirit he had in his youth. A guardian was appointed, but he appealed to a higher court and regained his freedom.

In typical fashion, he decided later not to marry the woman.

Surviving are a son, Joe Bruner, Oregon; a daughter, Mrs. Billie Lee Tuttle, 114 N. Fiftieth W. av., with whom he resided in recent years; two grandchildren, Mrs. Harriette Isley, 114 N. Forty-ninth W. av., and Mrs. John L. Cates, 524 S. Forty-sixth W. av., and seven great-grandchildren.

The R. L. Mobley Funeral home, Sand Springs, is in charge.

Ray's other paternal grandfather, Joseph William Firey, wrote a journal entry about attending Billie Bruner's funeral (read in the Tiger Bone Cemetery section later in this time line.) Also, we have a very detailed PDF document that can be viewed and printed about Billie Bruner's Fort Smith trial (including Grat Dalton's testimony). This was obtained from the Oklahoma Chronicles. This PDF can be found on our history page at fireytrails.com.

Ex-convict became Creek tribal leader

ONLY IN OKLAHOMA

By GENE CURTIS

A Tulsa Muscogee (Creek) Indian who went to prison for killing a deputy U.S. marshal learned the three R's while incarcerated and developed a friendship with a future American president who freed him a few years later.

That Indian was William G. "Billy" Bruner, who later was elected to the tribe's House of Kings (similar to Oklahoma's Senate), where he served for 18 years, and who helped bring order to the frontier by serving as a member of a volunteer posse that, among other actions, killed two members of a notorious gang.

Bruner's name is memorialized by Bruner station on the Sand Springs line between Tulsa and Sand Springs and by a nearby housing addition known as Bruner addition. Both are on land he received in 1902 as his allotment, near where he was born.

Bruner's body is buried in a neglected Indian cemetery named Tiger Bone, after an old Euchee scout, near Discoveryland west of Sand Springs. Most of the headstones, including the one that marked Bruner's grave, have been broken, toppled or stolen.

When Bruner died in April 1952, his age was listed in his obituary as about 98 or 100. But there is a question about the accuracy of that.

His age was reported as 98 in a 1950 news story about a lawsuit filed by relatives in an attempt to prevent his marriage to a woman they feared was after his fortune. And a 1946 news story in the Tulsa World listed his age as 110, based on Creek records.

Whatever his age, Bruner first got into trouble when his parents sent him to an Indian mission school. He was expelled three months later for beating up his teacher, who tried to punish him for speaking Creek instead of English.

His first serious trouble was in 1889, when he was arrested for selling liquor. As he told a Tulsa World writer years later, it was too late for officers to take him to Fort Smith for trial that night. Some of Tulsa's leading residents vouched for his honesty, so Bruner was allowed to return home after promising he would return to begin the trip to Fort Smith early the next morning.

Meanwhile, the officers who had arrested him bought a bottle of liquor and began a poker game. Shortly before daylight, one became worried that Bruner hadn't shown up and told the others, "Let's go out and get him." The group started firing bullets at Bruner's house as they rode up.

Bruner returned fire, thinking the shots might have come from



Indians he'd had trouble with. The first shot from his Winchester rifle killed Deputy Marshal Bill Moody, according to legend. The second grazed a deputy. Bruner finally surrendered and was taken to Fort Smith, where he waited in jail for eight months for a trial before Judge Isaac Parker.

Those details differ slightly from testimony in his trial before Judge Parker. According to testimony as reported in a 1952 *Chronicles of Oklahoma* article, he was allowed to remain free for several weeks until his case was called for trial. And testimony set the site of the killing as the home of Jeff Berryhill, a young Creek who the officers were seeking to arrest for a larceny charge and who Bruner was visiting.

Both versions agree Moody was killed by Bruner's first shot at the officers. Among those deputies who were trying to arrest Bruner was Grat Dalton, who was killed along with three of his brothers while robbing a bank in Coffeyville in 1892.

Sentenced to 20 years in prison for killing the marshal, Bruner

was taken to a prison in Ohio where he became a trusty. During his term, he got acquainted with the Ohio governor who made an inspection of the prison. That governor promised to help him get out of prison.

One of the first actions of that governor, William McKinley, when he became president on March 4, 1897, was to sign a pardon that released Bruner after he had served six years.

Bruner returned to Tulsa, obtained his allotment of 160 acres and became a tribal leader.

The old Indian was alert and witty when he was called to the witness stand in the 1950 County Court trial of the guardianship action against him. On several occasions, he laughed heartily when spectators laughed at something he said.

At one point, he was asked if he knew how many people lived at his nephew's house. "I don't know. I haven't been there for two or three days," he answered.

A guardian was appointed but Bruner appealed to the District Court, which vacated the guardianship and held that Bruner, who had been married either six or eight times previously, was competent and had the right to get married if he wanted to.

Asked after the trial if he planned to get married, Bruner answered "No. I'm too old."



Courtesy Beryl Ford Collection

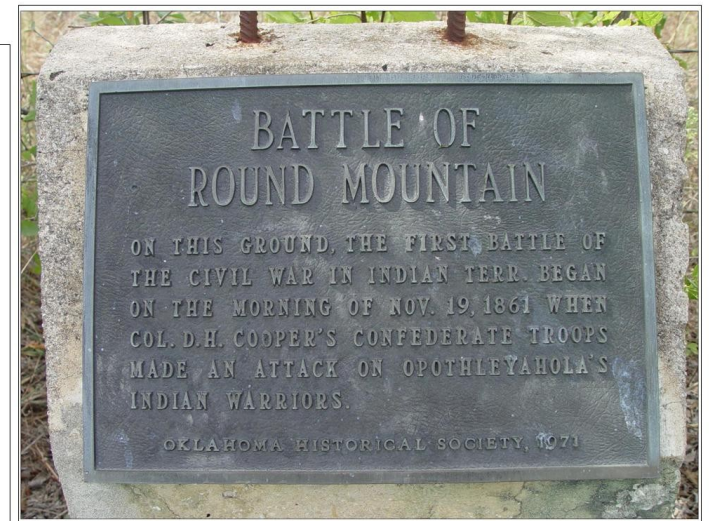
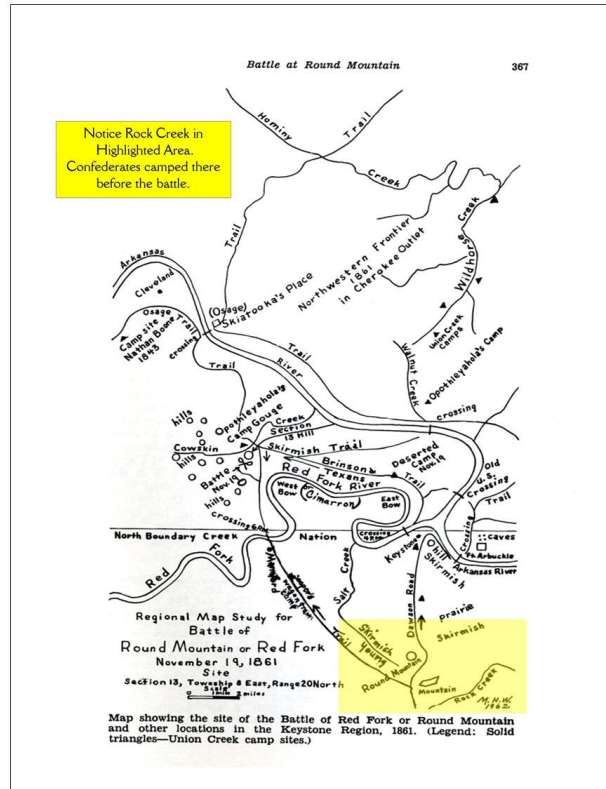
William G. "Billy" Bruner, a Muscogee (Creek) Indian, is seen in 1940. Decades earlier, Bruner was pardoned after serving six years for killing a deputy U.S. marshal. He returned to Tulsa and became a tribal leader.

Photograph research
by Rachele Vaughan

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November 19, 1861 - Battle of Round Mountain

This was the first Civil War battle fought in Indian Territory (site is approx 6 miles from here at 55th & 265th-Tower Road). One article detailing the battle mentions Confederates camping on the upper banks of Rock Creek prior to the battle. We are downstream a little ways from where this would have occurred. Opothleyahola and his Creeks, fighting for the North, drove back the Confederates to Fort Gibson. According to historical records, Opothleyahola and his followers were traveling about carrying a large sum of gold. The gold is left behind (hidden or stolen) and they later retreat to Kansas without it. (See “*Legend of Opothleyahola’s Gold*”) The above battle site is actually only one of three that historians claim to be the site of the actual battle. The other two are just off Highway 51 near Mannford and near Yale in Payne County. The above Tulsa County site was dedicated in a ceremony attended by the Oklahoma governor and other dignitaries in 1971 and a monument was erected. The argument regarding the exact location has ensued since the battle by various Oklahoma historians.



Battle of Round Mountain Monument - It says “On this ground the first battle of the Civil War in Indian Territory began on the morning of Nov. 19, 1861 when Col. D. H. Cooper’s Confederate Troops made an attack on Opothleyahola’s Indian warriors.”

Oklahoma Historical Society - 1971

December - 1861 - Opothleyahola's Retreat to Kansas

Opothleyahola and his 9,000 followers are defeated at Chusto-Talasa and Chustenahlah (somewhere along Bird Creek and then Osage County). They retreat to Kansas, but only 7,000 of the 9,000 survive the battles, disease, and bitter winter blizzards during their ill fated walk to Fort Row, Kansas. There was not adequate supplies at Fort Row so they were moved to Fort Belmont where conditions were still intolerable. The majority of the Creeks had only the clothes on their backs and lack of proper footwear and shelter. Many more perished, among them, Opothleyahola's daughter.



This sign is along Highway 51 at Coyote Trail detailing the Round Mountain battle site 6 mouths south



This sign is along Highway 75 on the outskirts of Caney, Kansas - Opothleyahola and his many followers retreated on this route.



Legend of Opothleyahola's Gold

As Opothleyahola was retreating with his followers toward Kansas for asylum, they were carrying with them a large sum of gold. (Opothleyahola himself had accumulated quite a bit of wealth from his years in Indian Territory.) When they finally arrived in Kansas after the three Oklahoma battles, the gold was no longer with them. The gold is mentioned briefly in several historical articles but there remains a mystery as to what happened to it.

The Firey family has lived along Rock Creek in this area since 1912 or 1913. In the late 1930's some Creek Indians came to Rock Creek from Kansas and stayed for 3 or 4 months. They camped along the banks of the creek and started digging with horses and "slips" (plows) along the creek in various places. Of course this aroused much curiosity from those who lived here. One of those curious was Wallace Haney, Ray's paternal great grandfather who came to Oklahoma from Missouri in 1914. When he would ask the Indians what they were looking for, they would just reply in brief..... "*We look!*". According to family history, he loosened their tongues with a little firewater around a campfire one night and they then revealed their secret about the gold that Opothleyahola reportedly had left behind. Ray remembers his dad saying it was comprised of 27 gold bars - worth millions today. They said it was buried "between the two prongs or "the forks" of Rock Creek.". (Rock Creek begins around the area of the Round Mountain battle site and was a campsite of the Confederates.) After their unsuccessful attempt to find the gold, they went back to Kansas. This information from the Indians about buried treasure started the Firey quest to find the gold. Ray's dad, John Kenneth Firey and Bill Firey, Ray's uncle (born in 1926) even rented Geiger counters in the late 30's to aid their search. Until he died in 1989, Ray's dad, kept the dream alive of one day finding the lost gold. To this day, the fate of the gold is still a mystery.

(P.S. If you find the gold, please cut the Fireys in on it. Thank you.)

March 27 - 1863

Opothleyahola dies at age 65 in a Creek refugee camp near the Sac & Fox Agency at Quenemo in Osage County, Kansas. He was buried next to his daughter near Fort Belmont, Kansas

Excerpt of Opothleyahola's Retreat from Chronicles of Oklahoma

Colonel McIntosh launched his attack at 12 o'clock and hurled his troops upon the hill with such force that they swept all before them. Short of arms and ammunition and weakened by protracted privations, the refugees, unable to withstand the fierce onslaught fell back from cover to cover. Their last stand in an effort to protect their women and children was in vain. The victorious Confederates drove them in headlong flight. Women and children fled in terror and wild confusion. Horses and wagons were left behind and the scanty stores of provisions abandoned. A northern blizzard from the northwest blew sleet in their faces as they fled over the snow covered ground, their bodies thinly clad, as they had no time to snatch any warm clothing they may have had. Some were even without shoes and destitute of the simplest necessities. Thus the vanquished refugees traveled from four o'clock in the afternoon, all night and the next day, making their way across the Kansas line near the Walnut River. The dauntless old chieftain who had led his tribesmen toward the setting sun, now tottered as he led them into the frozen north pursued by Standwaite and his band of intrepid followers who, in the running fire, shot down men, women and children whose bodies were left uncovered, save by the snow. The survivors arriving in Kansas in dead of winter, suffered hardships inconceivable. Within two months after their arrival 240 Creeks alone had died of famine, pestilence and exposure and more than 100 frozen limbs were amputated. The United States Army unprepared for such an emergency, did what it could to relieve the suffering. From time to time, other loyal Indians from the Territory joined them until their number reached 10,000 souls who pitched their tents at and contiguous to the Sac and Fox Agency in Osage County, Kansas and up and down the Neosho valley. In the midst of dire poverty and suffering, they spent the winter and spring of 1862. Opothleyahola, now broken in health but dauntless in spirit, mounted his lean pony and rode weary miles over the wind swept prairies of Kansas, to interview Federal officers for the relief of his people. He offered to lead a regiment of Indians back into the Territory in an attempt to clear his country of the Confederates in order that his people might return to their homes. But this was not to be. With the coming of the summer, his heroic soul passed to the Spirit Land and his worn out body was laid to rest in an unknown and unmarked grave at or near the Sac and Fox Agency at Quenemo, Osage County, Kansas. In days to come, the tide of fortune changed and the loyal Indians returned to their homes in the Territory. But they were loathe to forget that the breach between the factions in the Creek Nation was slow to heal.

1887 - Tiger Bone Dies - Cemetery Established

Tiger Bone, Euchee Indian Scout dies. Tiger Bone Cemetery (2/10th's of a mile from our house) is established when Tiger Bone is the first person to be buried there.

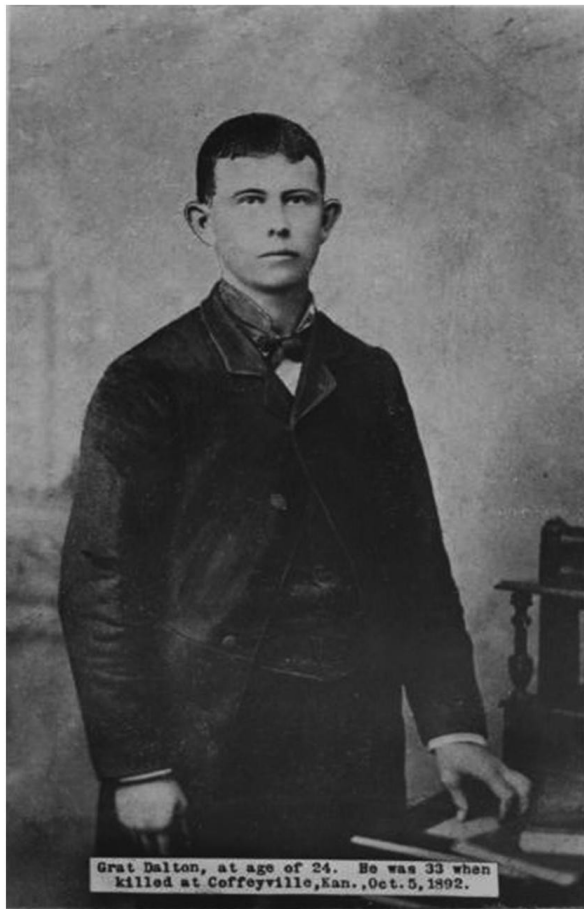


Early 1889 - Billie Bruner Kills US Deputy Marshall

Billy Bruner inadvertently shoots and kills a U.S. Deputy Marshall, W. A. Moody, while visiting an acquaintance, Jeff Berryhill. Moody and four other deputies (including Grant "Grat" Dalton) had stormed the house with guns blazing seeking the arrest of Berryhill on a larceny charge. Grat Dalton is shot in the arm. Ironically, Bruner had helped Deputy Moody previously in some of his work as an officer of the law.

March 15, 1889 - Billie Bruner Arrested

The four U.S. Deputy Marshalls that were with Moody when he was killed, seek the arrest of Bruner and Berryhill. One of these deputies and the sole eye witness is Grant "Grat" Dalton of the infamous Dalton Gang.



Grant "Grat" was one of 15 children born to James Lewis Dalton and Adeline L. Younger. The children were cousins to Cole Younger, who had his own gang, and neighbors to the James brothers, another gang. The four brothers of the Dalton Gang were Grat, Bob, Bill and Emmett. All but Bill wore badges before turning to the dark side of the law. Grat was a U.S. Marshal, Bob served as chief of police for the Osage Indians and Emmett served as a deputy to both brothers. A brother, Frank, was a Deputy U.S. Marshal, when he was gunned down by moonshiners while attempting an arrest.

Grat gave sworn eye witness testimony against Billie Bruner in the shooting of W. A. Moody. He himself had be shot and wounded in the arm in the shootout. Based on Grat's testimony, Bruner is fined \$1000 and sent to a federal prison in Ohio for 10 years.

The Dalton Gang came to a violent end in Coffeyville, Kansas in 1892 when attempting to rob two banks at one time. Bob Dalton planned this unprecedented, spectacular double bank robbery to outdo the James boys. All but Emmett, who survived 22 bullet wounds, were killed. He served time in the Kansas Penitentiary until pardoned. Emmett wrote two books about his days with the gang. Emmett dies at home in Long Beach, California on July 13th, 1937.

...."While we were loading deceased on wagon, the women brought Bruner's hat and they put it on his head. He stood there humming some kind of Indian song and stamping his feet a little bit..."

Except from sworn testimony Grant "Grat" Dalton gave against Billie Bruner to the Honorable "Hanging Judge of Fort Smith", Isaac C. Parker (pictured below)



1889 - Bruner Sentenced to 10 Years in Federal Prison

UNITED STATES
VERSUS
William Bruner
William Remphell

In the Western District of Arkansas before United States District Court Commissioner *Just Suggs* Esq

CHARGE *Murder* In the Indian Country.

Warrant Dated *March 15 1889* served by Deputy Marshal *G. Walton*
By assisting Depts at *Julia*
March 15 1889 400

Mileage on Writ miles at 6 cents per mile, from _____ to _____

Expenses Actually Incurred while Employed in Endeavoring to Arrest:

DATE	STATE NATURE OF EXPENSE AND WHERE INCURRED	No. of Voucher	Amount		
	Maximum allowance for above at \$2 per day _____ days, at \$2 per day.				
	Actual Expenses 1/2 day's feeding 2 prisoners from <i>Mar 15 to Mar 18</i>		6 00		
	Mileage returning prisoners <i>16</i> miles each <i>320</i> miles at 10 cents per mile from <i>Placofanor</i> to Fort Smith, Ark.		32 00		
	Service of Warrant of Final Commitment and Committing to Jail Discharging prisoner <i>Mar 20 1889</i>		3 00		
	Name of Poss Com. _____ guard				
Subpoenas for Plaintiff's Witnesses by above-named Deputy:					
Date of Subpoena	Miles to	Place of Service	Date of Service	On Whom Served	Amount
<i>Mar 15 1889</i>	<i>Julia</i>	<i>J. T.</i>	<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>J. B. Neady W. B. Burgess Robt. Coif</i>	1 50
	Total miles to serve the same, at 6 cents per mile,				
	Attendance of the above-named deputy during examination <i>Mar 20 1889</i> before Commissioner				9 00
	Total Disallowed as excessive,				18 50
	Brought forward,				131 24
	Total carried forward,				179 74

I do solemnly swear that the above account is true and correct, that the services and travel charged for were actually and necessarily performed as therein stated, and that the expenses charged for feeding said prisoners and endeavoring to arrest were actually and necessarily incurred and paid.

G. Dalton
Deputy United States Marshal
Sworn to and subscribed before me this *16* day of *Mar* 18 *89*
Wm. H. W. W. W.
Clerk of the District Court, Western District of Arkansas
B. J. M. D. D.

EXPENSE BILL SIGNED BY GRAT DALTON FOR THE TRANSPORT OF WILLIAM G. "BILLIE" BRUNER TO JUDGE ISAAC PARKER IN FORT SMTIH, ARKANSAS.

This image is of an Expense Bill signed by Grat Dalton listing his various expenses in transporting William G. "Billie" Bruner and another prison to Judge Isaac Parker in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The total requested was \$179.74. (We were somewhat interested in the internet auction of this historical original document until we saw the last winning auction bid at \$7,000-just a little out of our league.)

"I have ever had the single aim of justice in view... 'Do equal and exact justice,' is my motto, and I have often said to the grand jury, 'Permit no innocent man to be punished, but let no guilty man escape.'"

-Judge Isaac C. Parker, 1896

In 21 years on the bench, Judge Parker tried 13,490 cases, 344 of which were capital crimes. 9,454 cases resulted in guilty pleas or convictions. Over the years, Judge Parker sentenced 160 men to death by hanging, though only 79 of them were actually hanged. The rest died in jail, appealed or were pardoned.

Grat Dalton Turns Outlaw

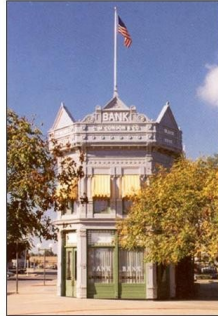
September-1890 - Within a year after testifying as a lawman against Billy Bruner, Grat Dalton is arrested for stealing horses. He is released for lack of evidence but he loses his job as U.S. deputy. He soon joins his brothers on the other side of the law. For the next two years, the Dalton Gang (Grat, Bob, Bill and Emmett) became infamous for their train and bank robberies.



October 5, 1892 - The Dalton Gang's Last Raid

October 5, 1892 - Around 9:30 a.m., five members of the Dalton Gang (Grat, Emmett, & Bob-Bill Powers and Dick Broadwell) ride into the small town of Coffeyville, Kansas. Their objective is financial security and to make outlaw history by simultaneously robbing two banks. The townspeople are ready for them and the ensuing firefight lasts less than 15 minutes. Four townspeople lose their lives and four of the gang are gunned down including Grat.

Condon Bank in Coffeyville, Kansas - Then and Today



Dalton Gang Attended Church

ONLY IN OKLAHOMA
By GENE CURTIS

They may have been outlaws during the week, but three of the Dalton brothers liked to attend church on Sundays. And sing.

It would be a frightening experience for members of most churches today to see a bank robber sitting across the aisle in church, but members of the First Methodist in Tulsa learned to "mind their own business."

"When outlaws showed up at church, the members didn't run to the 'law,'" according to "The First Hundred," a history of the First United Methodist Church by the Rev. Wishard Lemons, former associate minister of the church and later industrial chaplain for Parker Drilling Co.

"The law" might be in the same service," he added. Deputy U.S. Marshal Henry "Heck" Thomas, was a member of the Little White Church on North Main that was a favorite place for outlaws Grat, Bob and Emmett Dalton to worship and sing.

Thomas, who later married Maile Mowbray, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. George Mowbray, and the outlaws had an agreement: They didn't bother each other within Tulsa.

"They all had beautiful voices," Hannah Mowbray said years later. "They sang in my husband's church on Sundays

and ravaged the country during the week."

The Mowbrays had arrived in Tulsa on April 18, 1888, and the new preacher had explained to the congregation that it had been a difficult decision for him to take the job as the third pastor of First Methodist Episcopal Church, North, that was better-known then as the Little White Church and has evolved into the First United Methodist Church.

"After all, we had heard that Tulsey Town was a rendezvous for outlaws. We heard cowboys drove thousands of head of cattle right through the streets and on their paydays terrorized the town with drinking and shooting."

He probably hadn't heard that the Dalton brothers would take a liking to his church after they became outlaws in late 1889 or early 1890 and developed a reputation as train robbers.

The three Dalton brothers, who were among 15 siblings who were raised near Coffeyville, Kan., had worked on the side of the law before becoming outlaws. Their older brother, Frank, had been a deputy marshal for U.S. District Judge Isaac Parker but was killed in a gun battle with the Smith-Dixon gang in 1887. Grat had been a deputy out of Muskogee, and



Bob had been a deputy for the federal court in Wichita and had been chief of the Osage tribal police.

Emmett had been a member of some of his brothers' posses but primarily was a cowboy.

After being accused of stealing horses, the three had fled to California, where they were accused with their brother Bill of robbing a train. They headed back to Indian Territory — and were accused of several more train robberies.

That's when they planned the big caper — the robbery of two banks simultaneously in Coffeyville, reportedly because they wanted to outdo the Jesse James gang.

It took just 12 minutes to rob the First National and Condon banks. But townspeople became suspicious, grabbed weapons and ambushed the five robbers as they tried to flee with about \$25,000. Four of the robbers and four Coffeyville residents were killed in a shootout.

Only Emmett Dalton survived,

but he was critically wounded. When he recovered, he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison. But he received a pardon after 14½ years.

When he was released, Emmett married Julia Johnson, and the couple moved to Tulsa where, according to Lemons' book, Emmett operated a small grocery store and became a member of the First Methodist Church. The Commercial Club persuaded Dalton to accompany a group of boosters on a trip to the Northeast seeking industrial firms for Tulsa.

Emmett was glad to go as long as he didn't have to talk. Newspapers called him "the silent man of the party," and he attracted attention everywhere the group stopped.

The Daltons later moved to California, but Emmett and Julia returned to Coffeyville in 1931 to visit his brothers' graves.

"I challenge the world to produce the history of an outlaw who ever got anything out of it," he said at the cemetery. "The biggest fool on earth is the one who thinks he can beat the law, that crime can be made to pay. It never paid, and it never will."

Photograph research by Rachelle Vaughan

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Oldest brother Frank Dalton (who died in the line of duty as a deputy marshal)



Emmett Dalton survived 22 bullet wounds from the raid and served time in the Kansas Penitentiary until pardoned. He later wrote two books about his experience. Emmett died at home in Long Beach, California, July 13th, 1937.

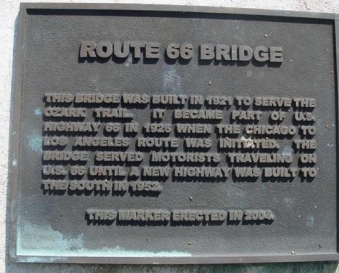
Ironically, the first Dalton death was on the right side of the law, but the Dalton name was forever immortalized as being outlaw after the failed Coffeyville Raid.

Nov. 16, 1907-Oklahoma becomes a state

November 16, 1907 -

Oklahoma is admitted to the Union as its 46th State

Route 66 Rock Creek Bridge-Sapulpa, OK



The above monument says: "Route 66 Bridge-This bridge was built in 1921 to serve the Ozark Trail. It became part of U.S. Highway 66 in 1926 when the Chicago to Los Angeles route was initiated. The bridge served motorists traveling on U.S. Route 66 until a new highway was built to the south in 1952."

We are on the upper banks of the same Rock Creek (which runs through our property on the edge of our lower field.) Rock Creek flows into Pretty Water Lake and also Sahoma Lake and then on to Sapulpa flowing under the bridge pictured above. When Rock Creek leaves its banks here, Sapulpa also experiences flooding.

1921-Rock Creek Bridge Built

Bridge #18 at Rock Creek built downstream in Sapulpa as part of the Ozark Trail, later becoming the junction of the famous Mother Road, Route 66 and Rock Creek. It's significance is from 1925-1949. It is added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1995 and is noted as a famous Route 66 landmark. This bridge is still standing just on the outskirts of Sapulpa

1952-Billie Bruner Dies



Faded Flowers from Tiger Bone Cemetery

Tiger Bone Cemetery is just 2/10th's of a mile down the road on our neighbors property. It was established long before statehood in 1887 when Tiger Bone, a Euchee Creek, was the first to be buried there. Billie Bruner, his mother and many other members of his family chose this tiny cemetery as their final resting place. The cemetery was desecrated in the 50's by artifact hunters and has fallen prey to vandalism and neglect since. Sometime in the 80's, most of the hundred year old headstones where either broken, turned over or stolen. Tiger Bone and Billie Bruner, especially, had prominent large headstones which are now nowhere to be seen. Only a few small headstones can be seen scattered here and there among the weeds.



Tiger Bone Cemetery

Est. 1887

It's such a shame, but now it's very hard to distinguish the memorial grounds (fenced with barbed wire) from the pasture land that surrounds it on three sides. The tiny cemetery seems to be destined to fade into an anonymous oblivion....A sad commentary for such a historic, hollowed piece of ground.



Since we first started featuring Tiger Bone Cemetery to our visiting groups, we added a web page that features the cemetery. We received a call one day from a great, great grandson of Billie Bruner, Jay Isley, from Oklahoma City. He said he knew that his ancestor was buried in Tiger Bone Cemetery but didn't know the cemetery's exact location. He said his heart almost stopped when he stumbled on our Firey Trails Tiger Bone webpage in an internet search and also the fact that we live right next to the cemetery. Since then, he and his wife have visited us and the cemetery. He said it was quite a feeling to stand on the burial grounds of his great, great grandfather and also great, great grandmother. Tragically, Jay passed away unexpectedly in 2010. His wife said she planned to visit during the anniversary of Jay's death and spread his ashes among his ancestors in Tiger Bone Cemetery.



Tiger Bone and his Namesake Cemetery-The Final Resting Place of Billie Bruner



TIGER BONE

Tiger Bone
Yuchi (Euclidean) Indian Scout
1805-1887

This Article Written and Posted to Web May 7, 2009

Tiger Bone's information is sketchy but we've been able to gather a few facts about his life.

Tiger Bone was born about 1805 most likely in Georgia. He most likely traveled to Oklahoma on or around the time of the Trail of Tears in the 1830's. His wife's name was Yahponna born in 1799 in Indian Territory. Tiger Bone and Yahponna had one child, Jack Tiger, also known as Tiger Jack born in 1847.

Tiger Bone and his brother Long Tiger, are cited among the Creek frontiersmen who should be recognized as pioneers and knights who led their present civilization into parts further west than civilized outposts at that time. As a member of the Creek nation, Tiger Bone was involved in various tribal conflicts in the mid 1800's. On Tiger Creek (now in Oklahoma) during the fall of 1859, Tiger Bone, Long Tiger and a crippled brother of theirs-three alone, fought a war of Comanche, who were in alliance with a war party of Pawnee Picts. These three Tiger brothers whipped the Comanche and Pawnee Picts, killing seven of them. Tiger Bone's horse was shot from under him during the skirmish. Tiger Bone was also a commanding officer of the Creek Mounted Rifles that simultaneously defeated six wild western tribes in the 1850's. For a period of time, Tiger Bone, was hired as a tax collector among the cattle drovers traveling through Oklahoma. His legendary reputation, however, comes from his scouting abilities. Not only was Tiger Bone a skilled Yuchi scout, he apparently came from a long line of scouts from each generation before him dating back to Jack Bone, (a grandfather) who was a Creek scout for the Patriot army that fought the Cherokees in the Revolution. Tiger Bone passed his scouting skills on to his son, Jack Tiger, also known as Tiger Jack. There are a couple of accounts (of the same story) describing Tiger Bone's scouting abilities-in particular, Tiger Bone's ability to track a cold trail. The U.S. Marshal's office sought his tracking ability after a failed six-month search for the bandits and loot connected to a robbery of the U.S. payroll wagon near Old Chissum Crossing. Familiar with Turkey Track Trail's reputation of outlaw hideouts, Bone made a big impression when he quickly led authorities to a cave south of Mannford where the bandits and loot were found. Another account of the above story is as follows: Back in 1880, Lucy Bruner,



then the wife of Timmie Fife, lived on Rock Creek six miles northwest of Sapulpa. They lived on what they called the Chisholm (also spelled Chissum) Trail crossing of the creek. This was the pony-express route taken by post riders on their way from the Sac and Fox Agency northeast. Mrs. (Bruner) Fife always served them meals and she also gave meals to paymasters or other government officials on their way to the Sac and Fox Agency. One day a light hack drove up with three men in it. They stopped to eat, paid for their meal and drove on north. The last person to see these men was an Indian working in a field. He noticed a white man on horseback following them; this white man later was joined by three other men on horseback. A few days later a man came along the route making inquiry about the paymaster and his companions who had been in the hack. He went on his way. Old Tiger Bone lived about three miles west of Bruner's. Tiger Bone was noted as an old frontiersman and expert Indian trailer. A day or two after the inspector came through, what was Mrs. Bruner's surprise to see Old Tiger Bone come driving up in the hack the paymaster had had. She asked him about it. He said he found it in the woods ten miles west of his home. He said he also had found some harness and taken that, too, since no one was using it. Mrs. Bruner told him to return the hack and harness at once to the spot where he had found it. Another group of inspectors came. They got Tiger Bone to lead the way and there they found the dead bodies of the men and their horses, undoubtedly robbed by outlaws. Then came two hundred soldiers; as Joe Bruner, who was ten at the time, told the story, these were the first soldiers he ever had seen and were quite curiosities to him. The soldiers called on Old Tiger Bone as trail leader and recruited Timmie Fife and Jim Sapulpa to assist and took the trail. Seven months had elapsed since the murder. That is the part of the story that the Creeks like the best to tell. They like to tell that Tiger Bone took a trail seven months old and was able to run the outlaws down. As they said, "he took the trail like a hound." He found the hideout of the desperados west of Mannford among the caverns on the Cimarron River. They claim the four outlaws were seized and taken to Fort Smith, convicted and hanged. It is said to be a matter of court records.

Tiger Bone died on February 9, 1887 and is buried in a tiny cemetery named for him, Tiger Bone Cemetery, on the banks of Rock Creek just approximately 1/4 mile from where you are standing.

"William Bruner, old-time Town King, rests in the Tiger Bone Cemetery near other members of his family including Annie Bruner, his mother; his daughters, Esther Bruner Reno and Stella M. Goodwin; his sons, Lewis and Emanuel Bruner; his sister, Jemima Rodgers and her daughter, Lucy Rodgers; Flora Bruner and several other unmarked graves. He asked to be buried there among his people and near the Old Coyote Trail where he had hunted when a youth, twenty miles southwest of Tulsa."

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J.W. Firey Sr.'s 1952 Journal Entry About Attending Billy Bruner's Funeral at Tiger Bone Cemetery.

(J.W. Firey Sr. is Ray Firey's Grandfather)



1896-1966

BILLY BRUNER - APRIL 18, 1952

by J. W. Firey

As I was going to Grandma Burkhammer's funeral, we passed the little Indian cemetery, near our mail boxes, when we saw my little Indian friend, Jonas Partridge cleaning the cemetery for the burial of his uncle Billy Bruner who was to be buried there the next day at 3:30. So Friday at 3:30 p.m. I was there to attend the ceremony. It was raining some when the funeral procession arrived. But the body was laid beside the grave and the Indian preacher asked if anyone had not seen the body the casket would be opened and we neighbors accepted the invitation and filed by to take our last look at the colorful old Indian who was said to be 100 years old. His body lay in a beautiful metal casket with many beautiful flowers. There he lay, his graying hair neatly combed. He wore a beautiful western costume. He looked very natural. The ceremony was conducted in Creek Indian language. A prayer in Creek, some brief remarks in English, then a Creek Indian spiritual song. As the body was slowly lowered into the earth and so the colorful life of Billy Bruner had come to its conclusion.

