

1891: JEROME; CONSTABLE JAMES HAWKINS KILLED April 19, Part 1.

Verde Heritage Apr 16, 2013 Updated Dec 11, 2023

"JIM HAWKINS KILLED BY TOM GALLAGHER, WHILE IN CARRYING OUT AN OFFICERS DUTY. Hawkins Dies In a Few Hours. Gallagher Says He was Drunk When He Committed the Deed."

"Prescott, April 20. --- Tom Gallagher, book keeper for the United Verde Copper Co. at Jerome shot and killed James Hawkins, constable, yesterday. Gallagher had been arrested Saturday and taken before a Justice of the Peace charged with resisting an officer. His trial was to have taken place today and he was turned over to the custody of Hawkins to guard, until trial, there being no jail."

"Hawkins gave him in charge to a deputy for a few hours during which Gallagher procured a pistol which he concealed in his clothes. When Hawkins resumed charge of him and while walking along the street with the prisoner, Gallagher suddenly drew his pistol and placing it against Hawkins body, fired. The ball passed through his body producing a wound from which he died in a few hours. Gallagher is in custody but refuses to make any statement further than to state that he was drunk at the time."

(Arizona Republican; Phoenix; April 21, 1891; page 1, column 5.)

"CONSTABLE JAMES HAWKINS, OF JEROME, SHOT AND KILLED BY TOM GALLAGHER."

"Jerome added another killing yesterday (Sunday) to her list of homicides. The victim was James Hawkins, constable of the precinct. The man whose hands are stained with the blood of a fellow human being, and whose afterlife will be haunted by the act, is Tom Gallagher."

"Deputy Sheriff Joseph Smarr, accompanied by a man named McLaughlin, reached Prescott last night with Gallagher, and turned him over to Sheriff Lowry, and to-day a complaint, charging him with the crime of murder, was sworn to before the district attorney."

"From Mr. Smarr, the following particulars of the crime were learned, he prefacing his story by remarking that at the time of the tragedy he was absent, and gleaned his information from others in the camp. At the time of committing the deed, Gallagher was drunk, and it seems had been in that condition for several days. In fact, it seems to be a monthly occurrence for him to get in this condition, when he is very quarrelsome."

"Mr. Smarr says that, on Thursday morning last he disarmed Gallagher, as he was inclined to be looking for trouble. During the day, Gallagher procured another pistol, which he also succeeded in getting away from him by strategy. On Saturday he was arrested and taken before Justice Goodwin, charged with resisting an officer. He at first pleaded guilty to the charge, but afterwards changed his plea and was turned over to the custody of Constable Hawkins until to-day, when he was to have again appeared before Justice Goodwin for trial. Constable Hawkins returned to Jerome with his prisoner, arriving there about 4 o'clock in the morning. Hawkins was worn out from watching his prisoner, and turned him over to a deputy to guard, while he slept."

"While in custody of this deputy, Gallagher went behind the bar of a saloon and procured a gun, which he concealed in his clothes. About 11 o'clock Hawkins returned and relieved his deputy and took charge of Gallagher, and while they were walking along the street, he suddenly and without any warning drew his weapon and placing it against Hawkins' body fired, producing a wound from which he died within a few hours."

"Gallagher then swore he would kill the first man that attempted to arrest him, and succeeded in standing the camp off until the arrival of Deputy Sheriff Smarr. Before the arrival of the latter, however, the cylinder of his pistol had dropped out, and he had no difficulty in making the arrest."

"Talk of lynching Gallagher was indulged in to such an extent that Deputy Smarr procured assistance at once and brought his prisoner to Prescott."

"A representative of the JOURNAL-MINER called at the county jail this morning and, through the courtesy of Sheriff Lowry, was permitted to see Gallagher, but the latter refused to say anything about the killing or causes leading up to it further than to say that he was drunk and did not remember much about it. On being informed that one version of the affair had been procured, and that he would be given the benefit of whatever he had to say, he still refused to make any statement."

"Gallagher has been in the employ of the United Verde Mining Company for about a year and a half as bookkeeper and is a very intelligent young man, and when sober is quiet and peaceable, but when drunk is 'on the shoot.' The man he killed, James Hawkins, was as quiet and inoffensive a citizen as there was in the county, and a man who would give no one sufficient provocation to be justified in taking his life. Gallagher will have his preliminary examination on Wednesday morning before Justice Andrews."

(Arizona Weekly Journal-Miner; Prescott; April 22, 1891; page 3, column 4.)

JAMES GABRIEL HAWKINS married Mariah May Dickinson on July 3, 1882. They were the parents of 2 children when she died in Camp Verde in 1889. Her parents, Samuel Cotton and Nancy Jane (Green) Dickinson, raised the orphans. Charles Hawkins became a cowboy and married Francis Bruce. Minnie Hawkins married Maurice Calvin Smith. The Dickinson family, with Maurice and Minnie Smith, owned and operated the Cottonwood store and post office until they sold out to Alonzo Mason, who became postmaster May 21, 1907. (See: The Verde Independent; "1875: FIRST FAMILIES; William and Harriet Hawkins Family;" January 25, 2013.)