

FOWLER TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1899 (John M. Bohannon was murdered by his sons.)

JOHN MILTON BOHANNON was born in Kentucky in the neighborhood of Caseyville, in May of the year 1843 and would have been 56 years old sometime this month. He was married in Kentucky where part of his family was born. Afterward he moved to Missouri, where he lived fifteen years. About twelve years ago he came with his family to Pueblo, Co., where he has made his home until the death of his wife, in January 1896.

Mr. Bohannon was the father of ten children-seven sons and three daughters. All of the daughters and three sons died in infancy or early childhood. Four sons are now living. E. W. Bohannon, married and living at Pueblo, Co., J. W. Bohannon who is married and lives in Salem, Mo., Frank Bohannon and Robert Lee Bohannon, single men, who came to Fowler with their father about one year ago, and engaged with him in the business of contracting and building.

The son E. W. Bohannon of Pueblo was present at the funeral service.

Mr. Bohannon was well and favorably known in Fowler. He was honorable in business, kind in speech, courteous in manner. He was pre-eminently the children's friend. He seemed to have a tender place in his heart for any child in the community and was never so happy as when in their presence and making them happy with words and gifts.

From personal conversations and observation we know Mr. Bohannon to have been a man of prayer and Christian faith and always understood that he held fellowship with the Christian Church of Pueblo.

Mr. Bohannon came to his death violently, on Saturday, May 6, 1899 about 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Bohannon was a member in good standing of the A.O.W. of Salem, Mo., which order fraternally carried the burial of the body. The interment was in Fowler cemetery.

Kenneth Money Pastor

FOWLER TRIBUNE May 19, 1899

Bohannon Brothers' Preliminary Trial

For the Murder of Their Father Held in Fowler

Last Saturday Morning

The early passenger train from La Junta last Saturday morning brought two noted prisoners, Frank and Lee Bohannon, back to the place of their crime, where they were arraigned before Judge Fosdic, District Attorney Sabin appearing for the prosecution, and O. H. Hess for the defense.

Upon motion of the prosecuting attorney the persons were dismissed as to the first complaint and rearrested upon charges of wilful murder, as sworn to by Sheriff Barr.

The state offered but very little testimony, it being the evident plan of both prosecution and defense to save their important evidence for the District Court. C. A. Steven's, Fred Gilbert, Dr. Reed, J. E. Furna's, w. C. Brown and Sheriff Barr in behalf of the State, the defense placing no witness upon the stand. The court held both prisoners to the District Court without bail, which will convene in November.

The comment of both met with universal approval by our citizens, as the general opinion prevails that the younger brother is equally guilty with Frank, and that probably he was

the instigator of the awful tragedy.

Sheriff Barr, with full knowledge of the desperate character of the two criminals under his charge, took every precaution necessary that there could be no possible avenue of escape both being heavenly ironed and shackled together. Further than this the official knowing the unparalleled crime which had been committed in our quiet and peaceful town and the natural feeling of abhorrence which would follow, saw the possible necessity of throwing a safeguard about the prisoners as a protection from violence, and had arranged that himself and Undersheriff Stewart should be joined upon their arrival here by a number of deputies, all armed with Winchester's, able to nip in the bud any unusual demonstrations which might be made against the offenders. While Sheriff Barr, in his official capacity, took these extraordinary measures that mob violence should not be permitted to follow in the wake of an atrocious crime he is in this respect entitled to be warmest conunendation; but may it be said, to the credit of Fowler citizenship, that the spirit of lynch law does not exist; that Cooler counsel prevails; that while for the time being our people stood appalled over the unnatural exhibition of human depravity, they feel that the law is not lax. That this for its demands have been satisfied, and that at the November term of court its honor will be vindicated.

May it be hoped that Fowler will never be called upon to witness another such scene. Although early in the day, a large number crowded the court room, mostly out of idle curiosity, the center of attraction being the two young men, one of whom has only just reached his majority. They have been for a year prominent figure upon our street. What a contract, as they occupied the criminal dock, chained and shackled! Yet, strange to relate, their adamantine eyes betrayed no remorse, their features bore no traces of sorrow, their words indicated no regrets over their deplorable acts of one week before. What an object lesson, WhIch should not soon be forgotten.

FOWLER TRIBUNE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1899

DISTRICT COURT

A Lengthy Criminal Docket

A Two-Week's Season And an Adjourned Term

The November term of the District Court of the 10th Judicial District convened at the courthouse Monday morning at 10 o'clock, Judge N. Walter Dixon on the bench. The entire day was taken up with arraigning prisoners, appointing counsel for those of them who were not possessed of sufficient worldly goods to indulge in the luxury and setting cases for the term.

The first came up the trial yesterday afternoon and was that of Charles Dearborn, charged with burglar.

The Bohannon brothers were brought into court yesterday morning to be arraigned. Judge Dixon appointed Thos. R. Hoffmire and G. M. Dameron to defend them. The brothers were then told to stand up and the information charging them with having murdered their own father in cold blood at Fowler, last spring was read to which they listened with apparent stolidity and indifference. After the reading Judge Dixon asked:

"Are you guilty or not guilty?" "If your honor pleases, not guilty," said Lee Bohannon, in a manner indicating that he had replied to this query before. "Are YOu?" said the judge addressing Frank. "Guilty" you honor. "What's that?" said the judge, apparently

dumfounded. "I mean not guilty, judge." replied Frank. Judge Dixon then set the case for trial at 10 o'clock next Monday morning, and three days were allowed for the hearing. Following is the docket, giving the date set for the trial of the various cases.

Judith K. Blinn vs Town of Rocky Ford-Damages \$15,000. continued

People vs Charles Brizendine- Burglary: bond forfeited

People vs James M. Pickerel- Burglary: perjury; nullified

People vs Charles L. Dearborn- Burglary: arraigned plead not guilty set for Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

People vs William Moran and Emerson Hunt-Robbery of jail, Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

People vs E. J. Boher-Larceny: defendant arraigned; plead not guilty.

People vs John C. Kessinger- Assault to kill; set for Friday at 9 a.m.

People vs Samuel Neal- Burglaryj set for Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

People vs D. W. Purse and James Brown-Robbery, set for Saturday at 9 a.m.

People vs Robert L. Bohannon and Frank Bohannon-Murderi set for Monday at 10 a.m.

People vs John Safford-Larceny for livestock; set for Tuesday at 9 a.m.

(La Junta Tribune)