# **MUTINY AT NEBRASKA** STATE PENITENTIARY

Warden Delahunty, Deputy Wagner and Usher Heilman at 4:30 o'clock. She is described as a Assassinated by the Mutineers

# THREE CONVICTS MAKE THEIR ESCAPE

Explosives Used to Open Prison Gates - Mutineers Escape After Desperate Slaughter-Storm Prevents Pursuit

pired.

went to the office of Deputy Warden

Heilman, on hearing the shooting,

looked through the doors toward the

Rewards Offered.

were offered Friday morning for the

State rewards aggregating \$2.100

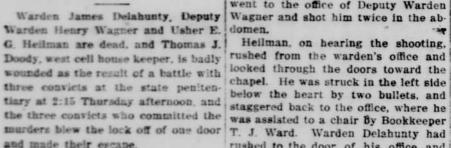
at their posts of duty.

WARDEN JAMES DELAHUNTY.

USHER E. G. HEILMAN.

The wounded: Thomas J. Doody.

All of the men killed died at their opened fire on the ourushing men. in an attempt to prevent the escape taking effect. He was struck in the from one to thirteen men had been



posts of duty and fought to the end Three shots were fixed by him, none of the convicts. Deputy Warden hip, but continued to fire until an. killed, that 300 men had escaped, and



WARDEN JAMES DELAHUNTY Who Was Killed by Escaped Convicts.

Heilman, the second man killed, was hit as he rushed out of the warden's Warden Delahunty was killed in the door of his office after firing three shots at the ourushing men. He was struck first in the right hip, but continued to fight until a second shot struck him in the right breast, when he sank to the floor and soon expired.

Thomas J. Doody, the wounded man, has good chances of recovery. though it is possible that he may lose his leg. He was shot twice, in the left arm and right leg. during the first part of the attack when the three men concentrated their shots on him while in the chapel room of the

Taylor, alias Shorty Gray, alias all of them. Murray, alias Rogers, who is a threetermer, leader of a gang of bank robbers and was sentenced from Aurora to twenty-eight years' imprisonment for robbing a bank at Giltner; John Dowd, recently sentenced from Cass county to twenty years for burglary with high explosives, having robbed a jewelry store at Louisville, Neb.; and Charles Morley,

Immediately after the escape of the prisoners the governor's office was known when he was the leader of the notified and Sheriff Hyers with a most desperate band of bank robbers posse and most of the Lincoln police force rushed to the scene. Later company F. Second regiment, of the national guard arrived.

Sheriff Hyers took charge of the prisoners upon his arrival and after swearing in deputies and arming them, stationed armed men at the doors to guard while the prisoners were marched to their cells. The sheriff, accompanied by one deputy and one guard, all unarmed for fear of being overpowered and losing their weapons, then entered the prison yard and one by one the shops were emptied and the prisoners marched to the cell house and locked in their

Where Convicts Taylor, Down and Moriey secured their weapons, ammunition and explosives is unknown but the general supposition among the guards is that they were smuggled in on the "underground" route by trusties from pals of Gray and Down on the outside. All three were fully armed and plentifully supplied with ammunition. Although no one knows how many revolvers the men had, it is probable that from the number of shots fired by them they were sup-

plied with two each. Turnkey Claus Pahl was unarmed when he heard the shots. Rushing to grab his revolver he returned to the chapel. There he was covered by one Lincoln during the past week. man, who shot as Pahl dodged and ran to the door, where he was again covered, and forced to hug the wall for protection. The explosion then followed and the three rushed in and During her stay, she has frequently ous, all possible precautions were forced the turnkey into a corner, where they struck him. Taking his keys they

danned. They crossed the yard within the walls and there was nothing in their attitude to warn the guards that Mrs. Woodworth, who called herself is a bank robber from Cass county. numbers in front of the cells in the they meant trouble. As each neared Brown while in Lincoln, went to the He was received at the penitentiary cell rooms.

that she had to go home.

Island station and had left for Omaha is twenty-five years of age.

#### Feed Men in Cells.

public. He talked with the governor the kitchen. At first it had been decided to allow the convicts to go uncony above the south door 'of the the cells. Maggi finally secured ar-DEPUTY WARDEN HENRY WAG- ognized signal of a prisoner on peace- cells, the only ones to eat at the tables ful errand. Entering the chapel, the being the help on the farm and in the who stood with his hands raised dur- the prison and the guards.

ing the encounter. One convict then May Break Up "Trusty" System. The material used in blowing up the door, whether dynamite, nitro-glycerine or fulminating caps, and the revolvers were smuggled into the prison rushed from the warden's office and from the outside by trusties, according to the statement of the prison ofchapel. He was struck in the left side below the heart by two bullets, and ficials. It is possible the outbreak may result in the abolition of the "trusty" system, at least to the extent of stopping all communication rushed to the door of his office and with the outside world.

When the first news of the affair reached Lincoln it was rumored that other bullet pierced his breast, when a general mutiny had occurred, and Wagner was the first killed, being other builet pierced his breast, when he fell and almost immediately ex-Many of the officers who hastened to the scene went under the impression that they might encounter an entire

#### Are All Desperate Men.

Convicts Taylor, Dowd and Morley capture of the convict murderers, dead were considered among the most des-The state law limits the reward to perate men confined in the prison. All \$200 for the crime of murder, but the had served previous sentences. Conboard of public lands and buildings vict Charles Taylor, probably the held a meeting and decided to ask the leader of the desperate attempt to governor to offer \$200 for each of the escape, is considered as one of the most dangerous criminals operating This he did later in a special proc- in the middle west. He is better

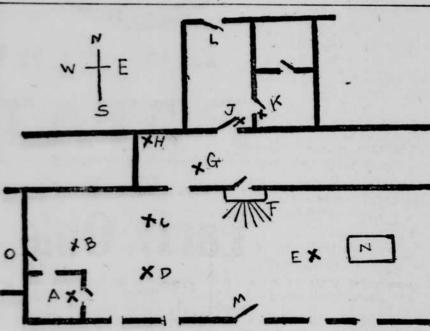


DIAGRAM OF SCENE OF BATTLE.

Ground floor of the state penitentiary, showing chapel, turnkey's room, corridor and offices in which the fight took place. A-Where Deputy Warden was killed.
B-Guard Doody during the fusillade.
C-Convict Gray.
D-Convict Dowd.

H-Where turnkey beaten and robbed. -Door leading into corridor. -Where Warden Delahunty was killed. L.—North door of penitentiary.

M.—South door of prison.

N.—Rostrum in the prison chapel.

O.—West cell house. F-Cage door blown open by convicts. G-Turnkey Pahl during fusillade.

den of the penitentiary to offer a reward of \$100 for the return of an escaped convict. R. W. Hyers, as acting warden, has announced this reward, upon a suggestion from the board of public lands and buildings.

# The Woman in the Case.

A most interesting development is sentenced from Omaha to fifteen years the discovery that Mrs. May Woodworth of Kansas City, friend of "Shorty" Gray, as Charles Taylor was



CHARLES TAYLOR

between his room and the that infested the middle west, was in

about three weeks ago. She has been In August they were sentenced by staving at the rooming house of Mrs. Judge Cochran to twenty-eight years. C. M. Parks, 145 South Eleventh street. Knowing that the three were dangervisited the penitentiary and seen Tay taken by the officers in bringing them Saturday morning. All prisoners were lor. At the rooming house of Mrs. to and from the penitentiary. ran to the only locked door between Parks, James Sullivan and Joe Nixon, Taylor has served previous sen loft the city.

lamation. Each of the trio of es- known under the name of "Shorty" caped desperadoes is held responsible Gray and had other aliases of Murray for killing all three of the prison of and Rogers. Gray was received at ficials. The reward on this account, the penitentiary August 22, 1911, from therefore, will aggregate \$600 for any Aurora, on a twenty-eight-year senone of the murderers, or \$1,800 for tence for blowing the bank at Giltner

NEBRASKA



height and weighed 135 pounds. He was of light complexion, had brown hair and blue eyes.

Taylor, in company with Harry Forbes and John Martin, was arrested on an island in the Platte river a few days following the Giltner bank robbery. The men at the time were unarmed and had no money with them, but the sheriff's posse traced them from the robbery to the scene where they were captured. A part of the hinge of the bank's safe door was found not far from where the men were discovered.

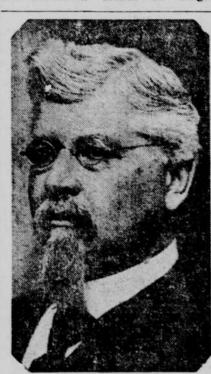
They were confined in the Aurora jail, but after arraignment were brought to the state penitentiary to be Mrs. Woodworth came to Lincoln held for safe keeping until the trial.

ex-convicts, recently released, have tences at the Nebraska, Minnesota and John Dowd, the second of the trio, ually over the walls and lounged in

penitentiary to see Taylor last Sun- the 3d of last month on an indeterday. It is said that she was refused minate sentence of from twenty years permission to visit him. Some time to life. He is six feet and one-eighth Wednesday she received a message, as of an inch in height, weighs 169 a result of which she told Mrs. Parks pounds, is of light complexion and has light brown hairs and brown eyes. It was learned by county authorities Dowd gave his home as Aberdeen, S. that she had purchased a ticket D., where he has brothers and sisters Wednesday afternoon at the Rock now living. His parents are dead. He

Dowd is thought to be one of a gang rather large woman, dark hair and of bank robbers operating over the eyes and was wearing black when last state, with headquarters at Omaha. He was arrested in Omaha last fall and was arraigned on the charge of blowing the safe of a jewelry store at Lou-Attorney E. J. Maggi arrived at the isville, Neb. The night previous to prison soon after the affair became the Louisville robbery, bank robbers made an unsuccessful attempt to blow and was placed by him in charge of the bank safe at Wabash. It was thought that Dowd was one of the men implicated in this robbery. Tayfed that evening, as it was thought lor and Dowd were cell mates at the The men who died and men wounded the chapel guard, stationed in the bal to be unsafe to allow them to leave prison and no doubt the plan to escape was worked out by them and chapel, he raised his hand—the rec- rangements for feeding the men in the Morley, who was later taken into the

Charles Morley, the third one in the men covered the negro trusty, Thomas, kitchen, a number of the officers at trio, was sent to the penitentiary December 14, 1910, from Omaha on a fifteen-year sentence for highway robbery. He has served a previous sentence at the Missouri penitentiary. Morley is between thirty-five and forty years of age, is five feet eleven and one-fourth inches in height,



E. G. HEILMAN Veteran Usher Who Was Shot Down by the Mutineers.

weighs 148 pounds, of medium light complexion and has black hair and eyes. Morley's home is in Kansas City, where he has a wife now living at 530 Holmes avenue. He has other relatives living at Knoxville, Mo.

### Well Armed With Modern Guns.

The superior marksmanship of the convicts over that of the officials is due, according to some at the prison, to the kind of guns the men had. At least one of the prisoners, thought to have been Dowd, was equipped with the latest type of automatic pistol, and it was bullets from this gun that probably killed Wagner and wounded Doody in the leg. Much of the shooting by the convicts was done by Dowd, it is said.

The prison officials were equipped with short old-fashioned "bull dog" revolvers, while Gray, the second of the convicts and probably the leader. had a long single loading high powered target gun, which he used with deadly effect. Morley is said by some of the men who came out of the fray alive to have been equipped with two

# Alleged "Finds" During Search.

Twenty knives and a complete kit of burglar tools are reported to have been found in the cells of prisoners at the penitentiary, when militiamen, last summer. He is about forty-four assisted by the prison guards, con-The state law also permits the war- years of age, five feet four inches in ducted a thorough search of every convict's cell. Although the discovery was denied by Adjutant General Phelps, it is a matter of common gossip among the guards who conducted

All cells in the west cell house were stripped of all furnishings and stands. tables, musical instruments and knickknacks of all kinds were piled in one huge heap in the west end of the chapel room. Every article of furnishing in the west cell house will be removed from the cells, it is said, and will not be replaced until the authorities have satisfied themselves that no



JOHN DOWD

dangerous weapon of any kind is in the possession of a convict.

All Quiet Saturday.

With a hundred militiamen, carrying guns loaded and bayoneted, on the walls, in the corridors and in the cell houses, all was quiet at the prison kept in the cells and even trusties were not allowed to be about. Guardsmen paraded in front of all entrances leading to the prison, marched contin-

QUICKLY CHECKED.

History of Nebraska Compiled in 1882 Gives an Interesting Account of Two Previous Attempts . to Break Out.

Two previous attempts have been made to break through the walls and

1875, the only notable mutiny broke out among the prisoners. The instigator of the trouble was McWaters, who subceeded in enlisting Bohanan, own apartments. Worrell, McKenna, C. W. Thompson, Gerry, and Elder. Just before the On entering the shop, not knowing the state of affairs, the deputy too was seized, overcome, bound, robbed of his keys and stripped of his clothes, Mc-Waters putting them on. Nobes was ing. Blacking the sides of his face to represent the warden's whiskers, Mc-Waters marched the four up to the main door in usual prison regulation style, so that the door guard thought it was the warden with a file of men and opened the door; as soon as the door swung open, they rushed up ory and seize guns and ammunition. Fortunately, the deputy succeeded in loosening his cords unobserved by his captors, and suddenly seizing a hoe that lay within reach, by a few rapid blows, compelled the convicts to flee, whereupon they joined their companions in the main building.

Mr. Woodhurst, the warden, and two the mutineers. As the people from Lincoln began to arrive and approached within gunshot of the north windows, Mrs. Woodhurst appeared at one of them and waved her hand, crying out, "Keep back! Keep back!" Just before dark she appeared at another window, in the chapel near the main entrance, and said that the plan of the mutineers was to put the imprisoned guards before them and make a rush to escape through the board wall by the south gate. This information was doubtless the means of frustrating their plan, as it was not carried out. In both instances she the safety of others and the responsi- assist. which she was associated.

guard the walls until morning. Grave fears held possession of the southwest window of the chapel. pearance to her husband and two sons. who were out of the building at the commencement, and consequently sured them of her safety, and that she ency. thought the mutineers would soon sur-

render to her.-but to her alone. The troops, who were nearly all making preparations to assault the lating against excessive punishment. It was a grand sight to see those desperate men, but a few hours before determined to risk life against the chance of obtaining their liberty, and willing to take a hundred lives if need be to secure a few more years of their wild liberty, now led by a single woman, who, while at their mercy, had so fearlessly demanded their submission. But without the least appearance of self-consciousness the brave woman delivered modestly her prisoners into the hands of the law. Upon the arrival of Mr. Woodhurst, McWaters said: "Warden, there is no use of mincing matters. You are an old prison officer and know how it is, I have no ill will towards you. You have treated me well, but I am like other men-I want my liberty: I thought I saw a chance to gain it and I improved it. I got the better of you at first, but the fates are against me. I lost my chance; you have now the advantage and I -give up and sur

Thus ended one of the most exciting incidents in the history of the

Mary A. Woodhurst is worthy of the translator.

Lincoln. Neb.-Feminine Sunday school teachers have been barred from leading classes or visiting the Sunday morning services in the chapel at the state penitentiary here. Governor Aldrich has issued orders to that effect dealt with the practice of stopping and the warden will enforce the executive order.

bites given him by the wolves,

THIRD REVOLT AT PENITENTIARY preservation. Left alone during that night of alarm, she manifested that rare quality of command which needs TWO FORMER ATTEMPTS WERE but to be asserted to be obeyed. Not only did she protect herself from harm, she even forced into subjection to her will the desperate band of insurrectionary men, who feared her more than they did the officers, and who surrendered to her, while they still defied the representatives of the

Woodhurst was in her apartments, which were separated by but one room from the warden's office. When guard lines of the penitentiary by des- the convicts hurried to the armory, perate criminals previous to the trag- Mrs. Woodhurst's attention was atedy of Thursday, according to the fol- tracted by the confusion. Hastening to the office, she realized that a revolt About 4 o'clock p. m., of January 17. had taken place, and that the arms of the prison were in the hands of rebellious prisoners. As she appeared at the door, she was decisively but courteously directed to return to her

She at once repaired to a room opening from her own, with a northafternoon round of the deputy warden, ern exposure, from which she could C. J. Nobes, they surprised atnd over- see the northwest turret. She called powered the guard in the workshop, to the guard and directed him to alarm the guards in the other turrets, who alone were then free, and prevent them from coming to the building, as one of them was then doing. This timely movement, besides, doubtless, saving the life of the guard, preleft in care of three of the mutineers, cipitated matters, and materially while the others, armed with iron changed the situation by the covering crowbars, started for the main build- of the door with the carbines of the guards, thus defeating the plans of McWaters. This illustrates a presence of mind seldom met with in men, and more rarely in the gentler sex, whose lives are such as generally exclude them from startling situations. Yet it is the more commendable for its bravery. They were desperate men, and were determined to achieve stairs, making the guard a prisoner, their liberty at all hazards. But she and proceeded to break open the arm- faltered not, even while she realized that they had taken their lives in their hands to defeat the course of

Mrs Woodhurst had on two previous occasions, faced mobs in her husband's absence that were intent upon lynching prisoners in his charge, and in one instance saved the prisoner's life. The mobs in both cases were defeated by her prompt and fearless of the guards were in the hands of defense. In spite of this determination and force of character, she has nothing of masculinity about her, but has the grace of a lady, the dignity of a matron and the kindness of a

### The Second Revolt.

On May 27, 1875, a second revolt headed by Convict McWaters was attempted after a note from one prisoner to another, giving details of the plan had been dropped and fallen into the hands of a guard. McWaters, again a leader in the insurrection, I've an invitation to dinner at seven, was killed by Guard Hugh Blaney.

The letter which had been dropped stated that the object was to first kill invited, too, deah boy? the keeper of the wash house, then the deputy warden, after which there quickly disappeared from the window was to be a general rush to gain posby orders from her captors. These session of the prison. Eight men had communications contained no solici- agreed to take part in the plan and it tude for herself, but concerned only was thought that eight more would

On the date named in the letter the marked: prisoners were kept in the cells, but A little before 1 o'clock the next the following day they were marched without stockings?" morning. Company I, Twenty-third out to work in their regular formation United States infantry, arrived from as though nothing was suspected. Omaha, under the command of Major | The guards, however, had been noti-Randall, and at once proceeded to fied to keep close watch and to shoot at the first sign of mutiny. John he asked.-Lippincott's Magazine, Geary and McWaters had asked percitizens until 6 o'clock, when to the mission to leave the main body of intense joy and relief of all, Mrs. prisoners at work in the yard and met Woodhurst again appeared at the in the entrance way to the yard. Mc- this court?" shouted the magistrate. Waters made a threatening remark. Especially comforting was her ap- but whether it was addressed to Guard Blaney, who was standing near, or to the other convict was not certain. Blaney, however, took no chances and could not go to her relief. She as. raised his gun ready for an emerg-

McWaters picked up two stones, but before he could throw at the guard. Blaney fired, hitting the convict in the Indian fighters and celebrated shots jaw, the bullet taking a diagonal in the army, in the meantime were course down through the body. Mc-Waters did not speak again. He building from the south, force open reeled a few feet away and dropped the door and face the conspirators in dead. Geary, who was making some their fort, compelling submission at demonstration, was easily quieted by all hazards. But before the attempt the guard, who pointed the gun was made, McWaters and the others toward him. Blaney gave the general replied, 'I can do that. I blush every laid aside their arms and agreed to alarm by ringing the big bell in the time I am seen anywhere with surrender to Mrs. Woodhurst, stipu- yard, and within a few moments all you."—San Francisco Chronicle.

the officers were out. The prompt action of the guard and other officers quieted the mutiny and although the men were kept at work there was no further disturbance. They were marched back to their cells within a few minutes and placed under the watch of two extra guards.

R. W. Hyers Temporary Warden. Governor Aldrich has appointed ex-Warden R. W. Hyers warden of the penitentiary to serve temporarily. The appointment was made by telephone by the governor, who was snow bound at Auburn. Mr. Hyers is now deputy state game warden. He was warden of the penitentiary many years ago and thoroughly understands the workings of a large prison.

Steward Robb requested the governor to relieve him of the duties of acting warden because he has enough work as steward to occupy his entire time. It is understood that Mr. Hyers will remain in charge of the penitentiary only for a short time.

Count Francis Luetzow, the Bohemian nobleman who visited Lincoln prison and a revolt, which for bold- two weeks ago, has presented Channess of design and persistent effort cellor Avery of the state university Nebraska Directory in attempting its execution, has but with two books, "History of Bohemia," few parallels in the annals of prison written by himself, and an English translation of Komensky's "The Laby-The story of the heroism of Mrs. rinth of the World," the count being

Railway Commissioner Winnett spent several days at Lexington, where he took testimony in a complaint brought by citizens of the place against the Union Pacific railroad. It trains on the second track from the depot and compelling passengers to get off on the far side. This was al-Chippewa Falls, Wis.-J. Thomas is leged to be a discrimination against in the hospital here after an all night Lexington, inasmuch as the company fight with a pack of wolves in the allows people to dismount on the near northern part of the state. He is suffering with exposure and a number of bus, Grand Island, Fremont and else-



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SUBTLE HUMOR.



Cholly-What's the time, old chap? and my watch isn't going. Gussie-Why, wasn't your watch

No Wonder She Blushed Two of the University of Pennsylvania track runners passed a learned and preoccupied professor showing a young woman visitor through the

"Gardens." With a dainty shiver, the girl re-

"It's dreadfully cold-isn't it-to be The professor's mind turned for a

moment from contemplation of the fourth dimension. "Then why did you leave them off?"

"Do you want to get a hearing in "Sure, sir," replied the very deaf

defendant.

"Then," yelled the magistrate, with a last mighty effort, "you will have to go to a specialist."

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"The voman I marry," he said, "must be able to blush," "Oh," she

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Probably No Exception. "Jones has invented an airship." "Then it's bound to be a success." "Why so?"

"All his of her schemes have gone Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets first put up 40 years ago. They regulate and invig-orate stomach, liver and bowels. Sugar-

coated tiny granules. Education does not mean teaching people to know what they do not

know; it means teaching them to behave as they do not behave.-Ruskin.

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