

Tracy & Lant



Main Photo: Harry Tracy in Craig, CO en-route to then-county-seat Hahns Peak following his and Lant's arrest in Brown's Park in 1898.

Escape from the Old West The Real Story

In fall of 1897, Harry Tracy, along with prison-mate David Lant and two others, escaped Utah State Penitentiary after Tracy inexplicably drew a .45 Colt from a ditch they were digging outside prison walls.

In February of 1898, while still on the run, Tracy & Lant were in Brown's Park- the infamous outlaw hangout located in the extreme northwest corner of Colorado. Unfortunately for them, the county's sheriff and deputy sheriff were also in the area. After crossing paths, a posse was formed and bloodshed quickly ensued when a local rancher, Valentine S. Hoy, was shot through the chest and killed. While never taking credit for pulling the trigger, it is considered Tracy's first of at least 5 known murders.

Tracy & Lant were eventually apprehended near Brown's Park and taken by horseback to the Routt County jail located 150 miles away in Hahns Peak, CO. After just a couple weeks, they managed to escape after beating the sheriff and locking him in their cell. However, they were recaptured the following day just south of Steamboat Springs while boarding the stagecoach.

Soon after their attempted escape, they were sent to Aspen, CO where the jail was considered more secure. Tracy & Lant also managed to escape the Aspen prison a few months later. At this point, David Lant seemingly disappears from history. Tracy, however, ended up meeting his death on August 5th, 1902 in Creston, Washington a few weeks after shooting his way out of another prison. He committed suicide during a gun battle to avoid capture.



Left: 1898 photo of David Lant taken in Craig while in custody en-route to Hahns Peak jail.



Above: The revolver, holster and gun belt removed from Harry Tracy during his arrest in Brown's Park. These items are on display at the Museum of Northwest Colorado in Downtown Craig.

Below: The jail cells that housed Tracy & Lant can still be seen today at the Hahns Peak Historical Society.



A portion of the proceeds from this game are generously donated to:

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