



the **Prairie Tales** podcast

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DELIVER US FROM EVIL – DID ANDY HANG?

Episode Number: 1882-20

KNOWLEDGE PACKET

Date: 1882-1883

I. Summary

This episode details a series of sensational crimes in Tennessee, primarily spanning 1881-1883, involving the notorious Taylor brothers. The events began with John Taylor's murder of Captain James Fletcher in Chattanooga in February 1881. John's subsequent escape, capture, and conviction for manslaughter set the stage for a daring rescue attempt by his brothers, Bob and Andy, in September 1882. This rescue resulted in the brutal murder of Sheriff W.S. Cate and Deputy Sheriff John Conway on a train between Philadelphia and Loudon, Tennessee. The aftermath involved an extensive manhunt across multiple states, leading to the death of Bob Taylor while resisting arrest in Missouri, the death of John Taylor (likely from flux) in Missouri, and the capture of Andy Taylor in Kansas. Andy Taylor's trial in Loudon, Tennessee, was a high-profile event, culminating in his conviction for first-degree murder and execution by hanging in November 1883. The case is notable for the extreme violence of the crimes, the public's intense reaction, the difficulties in securing a jury, and Andy Taylor's defiant demeanor until his death.

II. Key Events and Main Themes

A. The Initial Murder: Captain James Fletcher (February 21, 1881)

- **Perpetrator:** John Taylor, engineer on the steamboat Tellico.
- **Victim:** Captain James Fletcher, a boat builder.
- **Circumstances:** A quarrel arose while Fletcher was repairing the Tellico. John Taylor, described as "of a very impetuous nature," drew his pistol after Fletcher remarked "none but cowards carried pistols." Taylor fired three times, killing Fletcher instantly.
- **Escape & Capture:** John Taylor "jumped into a boat, rowed rapidly down the river and was soon lost in the mountains." He was traced and captured two months later in Roane County, Tennessee.

- **Trial & Conviction:** After nearly a year, John Taylor was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years. He appealed to the Supreme Court.
- **Character of John Taylor:** Described as "a large, brawny giant, in his prime," and a "desperate criminal," known to have "killed several men in Texas." During his imprisonment, he was "one of the most dangerous inmates of the jail and headed every plan to escape."

B. The Daring Train Rescue and Murders (September 14, 1882)

- **Victims:** Sheriff W.S. Cate (Hamilton County) and Deputy Sheriff John Conway (Hamilton County).
- **Setting:** A train en route from Chattanooga to Knoxville, carrying prisoners, including John Taylor and Sam Carter, to the Supreme Court. The incident occurred "between Philadelphia and Loudon," though some reports initially place the boarding at Sweetwater/Philadelphia.
- **The Rescue Team:** John Taylor's brothers, Bob and Andy Taylor, along with possibly one other accomplice (identified as "Sam Carter" in one report, but later implied to be just the three brothers).
- **The Attack:** "Taylor's brother [Andy] approached Deputy Sheriff Conway from behind, placed a pistol to the back of head and blew Conway's brains out."
- He then took the keys, unlocking John Taylor, who "secured the deputy's pistol."
- "Sheriff Cate rushed at the men, firing at them and the prisoner. As he fired, the prisoner Taylor shot him through the bowels and the other two shot him through the breast, the Sheriff falling dead."
- John Taylor was "slightly wounded in the arm" and Sam Carter "slightly wounded in the legs."
- **Forced Escape:** The three Taylors "jumped on the engine and compelled the engineer to pull out, with a pistol at his head." They forced the train to run "twenty miles to Lenas, through three towns without stopping."
- **Further Escape:** At Lenoirs (Lenas/Linon's Station), they "jumped from the engine and secured horses, which were waiting for them, and all escaped."
- **Immediate Aftermath:** Intense public excitement in Chattanooga: "Such excitement has not been in Chattanooga since the war." "Excited crowds were congregated at every corner."
- Massive manhunt initiated: "A posse of thirty men, armed with Springfield rifles, left on a special train... Another posse will leave Overland. A posse has already left Kingston and another Loudon." "At least, five hundred men left different points in East Tennessee in search of the murderers."

- Reward offered: Initially "\$10,000," later increased to "\$15,000" for the three (though the state initially only committed to \$5,000).
- Descriptions of the Taylors: "desperate characters, between 30 and 40 years of age" (though Andy was later revealed to be much younger).

C. The Manhunt and Deaths of Bob and John Taylor

- **Bob Taylor's Death (October 18, 1882):** Tracked to Lebanon, Missouri, by Sheriff R.P. Goodall, who had corresponded with Tennessee officials.
- Killed "three miles west of this city by R. P. Goodall, sheriff of this county" while "resisting arrest."
- Bob Taylor attempted to shoot Sheriff Goodall but his revolver was knocked away by Deputy John O. Estis. Goodall then fired, hitting Taylor, and Estis delivered a fatal blow to the head with a "lead club."
- An "unknown party" (possibly another brother or accomplice) picked up one of Taylor's revolvers and "jumped from the train while it was in motion."
- **John Taylor's Death:** According to Andy Taylor's confession, John died of "flux amid suffering and misery" in an "uninhabited and swampy" region of Southeastern Missouri, "twenty-two miles from the nearest physician." Andy claimed to have buried him alone.
- Sheriff Springfield later investigated and "ascertained that John Taylor is really dead, having died of flux soon after he arrived in Missouri."

D. Andy Taylor's Capture, Trial, and Execution

- **Capture (April 1883):** Andy Taylor, using the alias "John Presnall," had been working as a farm laborer in Lyon County, Kansas.
- He confessed while "under the influence of liquor" to his employer, T.N. Dixon, near Plymouth, Kansas. He attempted suicide by firing shots at his head, revealing his distress and guilt.
- He confessed, stating he was "one of the Taylor boys who had some months before murdered the sheriff and deputy sheriff of Roane county, Tennessee."
- He expressed deep remorse: "He said he had had no peace since his hand had become dyed in the blood of the innocent officers; that the crime had haunted him day and night; that life was a burden to him." He pleaded that he was "young and was persuaded into its commission by his brothers."
- Andy initially wanted Dixon to claim the reward and give half to his mother, but after becoming sober, accepted his pay and left, telling Dixon, "You can give me away if you want to; I do not care much."
- Dixon alerted authorities, and Andy was arrested in Newton, Kansas.

- **Reward Dispute:** Harvey County Sheriff initially "refused for a time to turn him over until the reward had been paid to him." The State of Tennessee reportedly "never did pay out to Harvey County." Marshal Sawyer of Newton, Kansas, who effected the arrest, later complained that Dixon received the reward and refused to divide it.
- **Transfer to Tennessee:** Andy was transported back to Tennessee, first to Nashville for temporary safekeeping, then to Loudon for trial. He denied constant fear of lynching and "asked a fair trial." He initially claimed John died of fever in Kansas, but later gave detailed directions for finding John's body in Missouri.
- **Trial in Loudon (May 1883):Jury Selection Challenges:** Extremely difficult to seat an impartial jury. "Six hundred and fifty men were summoned before the jury was completed." Initial efforts found only one competent juror out of 42. "Three hundred and twenty jurors were examined and only three selected."
- **Public Sentiment:** "The people are quiet, but determined to bring the murderer to justice." Later, it was asserted that "Taylor would have been mobbed had the verdict been different."
- **Taylor's Demeanor:** Andy Taylor remained "very cool," "perfectly calm and cheerful," and watched proceedings "with the most stolid indifference." He even joked in jail.
- **Verdict:** Guilty of "murder in the first degree without mitigating circumstances."
- **Appeal:** Andy appealed to the Supreme Court, but his sentence was confirmed on October 14, 1883.
- **Execution (November 23, 1883):Location:** Loudon, Tennessee, "privately executed in the jail yard." This was "the first private execution that ever took place in the State."
- **Demeanor Leading Up to Execution:** Andy maintained a "stolid indifference," "cheerful disposition," and "assumes a fearless air." He continued to play cards and his banjo. He refused to converse with ministers, stating, "they don't do me any good." He expressed disbelief in "damnation hereafter!"
- **Attempted Attack on Sheriff Foute:** While being transported to Loudon on the day of his execution, a heavily manacled Andy "slipped a pistol out of the guard's pocket." He attempted to shoot Sheriff Foute in the head, but the pistol was not a "self-cocker" as he expected, and he was disarmed. He cried upon failure and stated he intended to kill Foute and three guards to provoke a fatal response, thus escaping the gallows.
- **Last Words/Actions:** Drank wine at a bar before his execution, saying, "Boys, here's what brought me where I am." On the gallows, he refused to say "a G-d d-n word" to the crowd. After the noose was adjusted, he told the Sheriff of Hamilton County, "G-d d-n you, I could drink your heart's blood."
- **Death:** "Died of strangulation in nine minutes."
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III. Significant Quotes and Details

- **John Taylor's Impetuosity:** "the latter, being of a very impetuous nature, drew his pistol. Fletcher was an old man; Taylor a large, brawny giant, in his prime. When he drew his pistol the old man remarked that none but cowards carried pistols. Hardly had the words left his mouth when Taylor fired three times and the old man fell a corpse in his tracks."
- **Severity of the Train Murders:** "It was the most daring murder in the annals of crime." "The crime is one of the most daring in the annals of Tennessee crime."
- **Public Reaction to the Murders:** "Such excitement has not been in Chattanooga since the war." "The armory of the citizen soldiery was depleted of muskets and war days were vividly recalled as the men were seen rushing towards the depot with muskets on their shoulders and cartridge-boxes strapped around their waists."
- **Andy Taylor's Remorse (Initial Confession):** "He said he had had no peace since his hand had become dyed in the blood of the innocent officers; that the crime had haunted him day and night; that life was a burden to him."
- **Andy Taylor's Defiance:** When asked if he was scared to die, he replied, "You bet, I ain't skeered and I ain't going to be." He further elaborated, "I'm no coward and I want everybody to know that I ain't one bit brave, but I can die like a man and I am going to."
- **Andy Taylor's Indifference to Religion:** When asked if a minister might do him good, he responded, "I don't see in what way... I don't want to see them. Four or five have been here and talked to me, but they don't do me any good, and I've asked the Sheriff not to let any more of 'em come." He later stated, "there is no damnation hereafter!"
- **Andy Taylor's Attempt to Profit from his Story:** "I have thought over it and have decided to make a full statement on my history from my boyhood. I'll do it for any one who wants it for \$150. I'll tell everything... It'll sell. I believe 5,000 copies would be sold without much trouble." He wanted the money for his mother.
- **Andy Taylor's Failed Last Act:** Regarding his attempt to shoot Sheriff Foute, he remarked: "If I had not mistaken the pistol for a self-cocker you (Foute) would have got to hell several hours before me."
- **Andy Taylor's Last Words on the Gallows:** "I did not want to say 'a G-d d-n word.'" Then to the Sheriff of Hamilton County, "G-d d-n you, I could drink your heart's blood."
- **The Execution's Significance:** "It was the first private execution that ever took place in the State."

IV. Unresolved/Ambiguous Points

- **Identity of the "unknown accomplice":** While the initial reports mention "three men" entering the train and later Bob, John, and Andy Taylor, one account of Bob's death mentions an "unknown party" jumping from the train. It's unclear if this was a fourth individual or possibly a misidentification of one of the known brothers.

- **Exact cause of John Taylor's death:** Andy stated he died of "flux" (dysentery), which Sheriff Springfield confirmed. However, the exact circumstances beyond Andy's account are not independently verified in these sources.
- **Payment of Reward:** The reports indicate that Harvey County never received the full reward for Andy's capture, and there was a dispute between Marshal Sawyer and T.N. Dixon over the money Dixon received.

Thought-Starters

1. Who were the Taylor brothers and what crimes were they involved in?

The Taylor brothers, John, Robert (Bob), and Andy (also referred to as Alf or Albert), were a notorious criminal family from Tennessee. Their criminal activities began with John Taylor, an engineer on the steamboat Tellico, who murdered Captain James Fletcher on February 21, 1881, after a quarrel. John was eventually captured, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to ten years. However, his brothers, Bob and Andy, orchestrated a daring escape attempt while John was being transported to the Supreme Court in Knoxville on September 14, 1882. During this escape, they ambushed Sheriff W.S. Cate and Deputy Sheriff John Conway on a train, brutally killing both officers and freeing John. This act was described as "the most daring murder in the annals of crime" in Tennessee.

2. What happened during the train ambush that led to the deaths of Sheriff Cate and Deputy Conway?

On September 14, 1882, Sheriff W.S. Cate and Deputy John Conway were transporting three prisoners, including John Taylor, by train to Knoxville. When the train stopped at Philadelphia (or Sweetwater, as some reports state), John Taylor's brothers, Bob and Andy, boarded the car. Andy approached Deputy Conway from behind, fatally shooting him in the head. He then took Conway's keys and unlocked John Taylor. As Sheriff Cate rushed to intervene, firing at the men, John Taylor, now armed with Conway's pistol, shot Cate through the bowels, while the other two brothers shot him through the breast, killing him. The Taylors then seized control of the train, forcing the engineer at gunpoint to run it twenty miles to Lenoirs (also referred to as Linon's Station), where they jumped off, secured waiting horses, and fled into the mountains.

3. How were the Taylor brothers eventually apprehended or accounted for?

The manhunt for the Taylor brothers was extensive, involving multiple posses and a reward of up to \$15,000 offered by the Governor of Tennessee.

- **Robert (Bob) Taylor** was hunted down and killed in Lebanon, Missouri, on October 18, 1882, by Sheriff R. P. Goodall while resisting arrest. Bob was attempting to reach Texas.
- **John Taylor** died of "flux" (likely dysentery) amid suffering and misery in a swampy, uninhabited region of Missouri, twenty-two miles from the nearest physician. Andy

Taylor stated he made a coffin and buried John himself. This was confirmed by Sheriff Springfield in September 1883.

- **Andy Taylor** was arrested in Newton, Kansas, in April 1883, after making a drunken confession to his employer, T.N. Dixon, near Plymouth, Kansas. Dixon initially doubted the confession but, after corroborating information with the Governor of Tennessee, arranged for his arrest. Andy was then transported back to Tennessee to face trial.

4. What was Andy Taylor's demeanor and attitude during his capture and trial?

Andy Taylor displayed a complex and often contradictory demeanor. Upon his initial confession in Kansas, he showed deep remorse, stating he had "no peace since his hand had become dyed in the blood of the innocent officers" and that "life was a burden to him." He even attempted to kill himself and asked his employer to collect the reward and give half to his mother.

However, during his journey back to Tennessee and throughout his trial, his attitude shifted. He was generally described as "pretty cheerful along the route" and maintaining a "cheerful disposition" in jail. He appeared "perfectly calm and cheerful" and "unconcerned" about his fate. He frequently expressed a "stolid indifference" to his impending doom, playing cards and picking a banjo with fellow prisoners. He claimed not to fear death and was determined to "die like a man," rejecting the idea of weakness or cowardice. He largely refused to converse with ministers, initially stating they "don't do me any good" and later that there was "no damnation hereafter!" Despite this outward defiance, occasional moments betrayed his true feelings, and he expressed deep emotion when speaking about his mother and the hardship his actions had caused her.

5. What legal challenges arose during Andy Taylor's trial?

Andy Taylor's trial, held in Loudon, Tennessee, faced significant challenges in jury selection. The process was exceptionally difficult, with an astonishing number of potential jurors being called and found incompetent or rejected. For instance, out of the first forty-two jurors called, only one was initially found competent, and even that one was later discharged. The court had to order hundreds more men to be summoned from remote parts of the county. Reports indicate that "six hundred and fifty men were summoned before the jury was completed." This difficulty reflects the high public excitement and the widespread knowledge of the "atrocious crime," making it challenging to find impartial jurors. Despite these difficulties, a jury was eventually seated, and Taylor was convicted.

6. What was the verdict and sentence for Andy Taylor, and what happened afterward?

On May 11, 1883, the jury in Loudon returned a verdict of "guilty of murder in the first degree without mitigating circumstances" for Andy Taylor. He was sentenced to be hanged.

Immediately after his sentencing, he appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court confirmed the lower court's sentence on October 14, 1883, ordering his execution by hanging at Loudon on November 23, 1883. For safe-keeping, Taylor was moved to the Knox county jail until the day of his execution.

7. Describe Andy Taylor's final days and execution.

In his final days, Andy Taylor continued to exhibit a defiant and indifferent attitude. He refused spiritual guidance from ministers, stating he saw no use for it and even that there was "no damnation hereafter!" He claimed to sleep and eat well, playing cards and the banjo. He even attempted to sell his confession for \$150 to ensure his mother received the money.

On the day of his execution, November 23, 1883, while being transported from Knoxville to Loudon, he made a desperate attempt to murder Sheriff Foute, slipping a pistol from a guard and leveling it at the Sheriff's head. He failed because he mistakenly thought the pistol was a self-cocker and couldn't fire it in time. Despite being disarmed, he remained boisterous and defiant.

At the gallows, he maintained his stoic indifference. He ate dinner with gusto and mounted the gallows with a firm step. When asked if he wished to address the crowd, he reportedly refused, saying he did not want to say "a G-d d-n word." His last recorded words were an expletive-laden insult directed at the Sheriff of Hamilton County. The trap was sprung at 3:15 p.m., and he died of strangulation in nine minutes. His execution was private, screened from public view, and was noted as the first private execution in Tennessee.

8. What financial and administrative issues arose from Andy Taylor's capture and the aftermath of the crimes?

Several financial and administrative issues emerged from this case. Firstly, a significant reward, initially \$3,000 and later suggested to be as high as \$15,000, was offered for the Taylors' apprehension. However, the State of Tennessee's reward budget was "impoverished," leading to only partial payment. Marshal Sawyer of Newton, Kansas, who arrested Andy Taylor, had difficulty securing the full reward, as the initial amount paid went to T.N. Dixon, Taylor's former employer, who reportedly refused to divide it. This caused a "speck of war" between Kansas and Tennessee authorities, with the Harvey County Sheriff initially refusing to surrender Andy Taylor until the reward was paid. It appears Harvey County never received payment from Tennessee. Additionally, the murder of Sheriff Cate and Deputy Conway necessitated the temporary swearing in of the coroner to hold the sheriff's office. Andy Taylor also tried to leverage his confession for financial gain, offering to sell his detailed story for \$150, specifically requesting the money be given to his mother.

Study Guide:

I. Key Individuals and Their Roles

- **John Taylor:** The eldest brother, initially convicted of manslaughter for the murder of Captain James Fletcher. His escape from custody led to the central tragedy.
- **Andy Taylor (Aliases: Al, Alf, John Presnall, Albert Taylor):** The youngest brother, a key participant in the train rescue, later captured, tried, and executed. His confession and demeanor are a significant focus.

- **Robert Taylor (Bob):** Another brother involved in the train rescue. Killed while resisting arrest in Missouri.
- **Captain James Fletcher:** Boat builder, murdered by John Taylor.
- **Sheriff W.S. Cate:** Sheriff of Hamilton County, Tennessee. Murdered during the train rescue.
- **Deputy Sheriff John Conway:** Deputy Sheriff of Hamilton County, Tennessee. Murdered during the train rescue.
- **Sam Carter:** Prisoner being transported with John Taylor, also under sentence for murder. Surrendered after the escape.
- **Negro Prisoner:** Unnamed prisoner being transported with Taylor and Carter. Surrendered after the escape.
- **Sheriff R.P. Goodall (Missouri):** Sheriff responsible for tracking and killing Robert Taylor in Missouri.
- **Deputy Sheriff John O. Estis (Missouri):** Assistant to Sheriff Goodall, instrumental in the apprehension of Robert Taylor.
- **T.N. Dixon:** Farmer in Lyon County, Kansas, who employed Andy Taylor (under an alias) and to whom Andy confessed. He later became a special deputy.
- **City Marshal Sawyer (Newton, Kansas):** Law enforcement officer who arrested Andy Taylor in Newton.
- **Sheriff H.J. Springfield (Hamilton County, TN):** Sheriff who identified and helped transport Andy Taylor back to Tennessee. Also investigated John Taylor's death.
- **Sheriff Joe D. Foute (Loudon County, TN):** Sheriff responsible for Andy Taylor's custody, trial, and execution. Andy Taylor attempted to kill him.
- **Sheriff T.L. Ryan (Lyon County, Kansas):** Sheriff who assisted in the transport of Andy Taylor from Kansas to Tennessee.
- **Sheriff Gilmore (Knox County, TN):** Sheriff in charge of the Knox County jail where Andy Taylor was held prior to execution.
- **Governor Bate (Tennessee):** Governor of Tennessee, involved in offering rewards and directing Andy Taylor's transport.
- **William Easley:** Another prisoner condemned to hang on the same day as Andy Taylor for a separate murder.

II. Chronology of Events

1. **February 21, 1881:** John Taylor murders Captain James Fletcher in Chattanooga, TN.
2. **April 1881 (approx.):** John Taylor is traced and captured in Roane County, TN.

3. **Late 1881/Early 1882:** John Taylor convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years, appeals to the Supreme Court.
4. **September 14, 1882:** Train rescue attempt at Philadelphia Station (between Sweetwater and Loudon), resulting in the murders of Sheriff Cate and Deputy Conway. John, Robert, and Andy Taylor escape.
5. **October 18, 1882:** Robert Taylor killed while resisting arrest by Sheriff Goodall in Lebanon, Missouri.
6. **March/April 1883 (approx.):** John Taylor dies of flux in a swampy region of Missouri.
7. **April 19, 1883:** Andy Taylor (under alias John Presnall) confesses to T.N. Dixon in Lyon County, Kansas, while intoxicated. He is subsequently arrested in Newton, Kansas.
8. **April 1883:** Dispute over reward payment for Andy Taylor between Harvey County (Kansas) and Tennessee authorities.
9. **April 22-28, 1883:** Andy Taylor transported from Kansas to Nashville, then to Loudon for trial, with various detours and security measures.
10. **May 1, 1883:** Andy Taylor's trial begins in Loudon, TN. Difficulty in selecting a jury.
11. **May 11, 1883:** Andy Taylor found guilty of murder in the first degree without mitigating circumstances.
12. **May 12, 1883:** Andy Taylor sentenced to hang, appeals to the Supreme Court. Moved to Hamilton County for safekeeping.
13. **September 10, 1883:** Sheriff Springfield confirms John Taylor's death in Missouri.
14. **October 14, 1883:** Supreme Court confirms Andy Taylor's death sentence, setting execution for November 23rd.
15. **November 22, 1883:** Andy Taylor attempts to kill Sheriff Foute during transport from Knoxville to Loudon.
16. **November 23, 1883:** Andy Taylor is executed by hanging in Loudon, TN.

III. Key Themes

- **The Impunity of Outlaws (Initially):** The initial escape of John Taylor after Fletcher's murder highlights the challenges of law enforcement in tracking criminals in the mountains.
- **Desperate Acts of Brotherhood/Loyalty:** The train rescue demonstrates the extreme measures the Taylor brothers took for one another.
- **The Dangers Faced by Law Enforcement:** The brutal murders of Sheriff Cate and Deputy Conway emphasize the high risks associated with their duties.

- **The Pursuit of Justice:** The extensive efforts of posses, sheriffs across multiple states, and the legal system to apprehend and try the perpetrators.
- **Interstate Cooperation and Conflict:** The coordination between Tennessee, Missouri, and Kansas authorities, as well as the dispute over the reward payment.
- **Public Excitement and Media Coverage:** The widespread public interest and detailed newspaper reports indicate the sensational nature of the crimes.
- **The Justice System in the 19th Century:** Challenges in jury selection, appeals process, and the nature of executions.
- **Character and Demeanor of the Condemned:** Andy Taylor's shifting attitudes – remorse, defiance, indifference, and attempts to profit from his story – provide psychological depth.
- **The Impact of Crime on Families:** The grief of the Cate and Conway families, and Andy Taylor's concern for his mother.
- **The Morality of Crime and Punishment:** Questions of cowardice, bravery, and the finality of the death penalty.

IV. Geographical Locations

- **Tennessee:** Chattanooga (home of Cate & Conway, initial murder of Fletcher), Loudon (Andy Taylor's execution, trial location), Sweetwater, Philadelphia Station (scene of sheriff murders), Lenoir/Lenoirs (escape point), Kingston, Roane County (Taylor family home, John's initial capture), Knox County/Knoxville (Supreme Court location, Andy's jail time), Hamilton County (jurisdiction of Cate & Conway).
- **Kansas:** Newton (Andy Taylor arrested), Plymouth (Andy Taylor worked), Lyon County (where Dixon lived), Emporia (Andy held in jail).
- **Missouri:** Lebanon (Robert Taylor killed), Stoutland, Camden County, southeastern Missouri (John Taylor died and was buried).
- **Kentucky:** Williamsburg, Careyville (part of Andy's difficult transport route).
- **Arkansas:** Andy Taylor's travels.
- **Texas:** John Taylor's prior killings, Robert Taylor's intended destination.

Quiz:

1. Describe the initial crime committed by John Taylor that set the larger events in motion.
2. What specific actions did Andy Taylor's brother, Robert, take during the train rescue that led to the deaths of Sheriff Cate and Deputy Conway?
3. How was Andy Taylor ultimately apprehended in Kansas, and what role did T.N. Dixon play in his capture?

4. Why was there a delay in handing Andy Taylor over to Tennessee authorities in Newton, Kansas?
5. Where and under what circumstances did John Taylor, the eldest brother, eventually die?
6. During his trial in Loudon, what significant challenge did the court face regarding jury selection?
7. Before his execution, what did Andy Taylor offer to do, and what was his motivation for this offer?
8. Describe Andy Taylor's general demeanor and attitude in the days leading up to his execution.
9. What notable attempt did Andy Taylor make while being transported to Loudon on the day before his execution?
10. What was unique about Andy Taylor's execution in Loudon, Tennessee, compared to previous executions in the state?

Quiz Answer Key

1. John Taylor, an engineer on the steamboat Tellico, murdered Captain James Fletcher, a boat builder. A quarrel arose, and Taylor, described as impetuous, shot Fletcher three times after Fletcher commented on Taylor carrying a pistol.
2. During the train rescue, Robert Taylor, along with another brother, entered the car. Robert specifically approached Deputy Sheriff Conway from behind, placed a pistol to his head, and killed him. He then took Conway's keys to free John.
3. Andy Taylor, working under the alias John Presnall, confessed his true identity and involvement in the murders to his employer, T.N. Dixon, while intoxicated. Dixon, after verifying the story with Tennessee authorities, helped the officers track and arrest Andy in Newton, Kansas.
4. The Harvey County Sheriff initially refused to turn Andy Taylor over to the Tennessee authorities. He demanded that the reward money offered for Taylor's apprehension be paid to him before releasing the prisoner.
5. John Taylor died of flux in a remote, swampy, and uninhabited region of southeastern Missouri. Andy Taylor buried him alone, making a coffin for his brother.
6. The court faced extreme difficulty in selecting a competent jury for Andy Taylor's murder case. Hundreds of potential jurors had to be summoned and examined, with most being found incompetent or rejected, indicating widespread local knowledge or bias regarding the high-profile crime.

7. Andy Taylor offered to write and sell a full confession of his life and the events of the crime for \$150. His motivation was to have the money given to his mother, as he expressed deep concern for her well-being.
8. Andy Taylor largely maintained an air of indifference and cheerfulness leading up to his execution. While he occasionally betrayed deeper emotions, he outwardly appeared calm, ate well, played cards, and refused religious counsel, striving to appear fearless and unrepentant.
9. While being transported from Knoxville to Loudon, and despite being manacled and shackled, Andy Taylor managed to slip a pistol from a guard's pocket. He then leveled it at Sheriff Foute's head, attempting to kill him, but was thwarted when he mistook the pistol for a self-cocker.
10. Andy Taylor's execution was the first private execution ever to take place in the state of Tennessee. The gallows were erected within the enclosed jail yard and screened from public view.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the portrayal of the Taylor brothers' bond and loyalty as depicted in the text. How did their familial relationships influence the course of events, and how did these relationships evolve or break down over time?
2. Discuss the challenges faced by law enforcement and the judicial system in the 19th century, as illustrated by the Taylor brothers' case. Consider aspects such as pursuit, apprehension, jury selection, and interstate cooperation.
3. Examine Andy Taylor's character and psychological state throughout the narrative. How did his demeanor shift from the time of his confession to his execution, and what might account for these changes?
4. Evaluate the role of the press and public opinion in the Taylor brothers' case. How did newspaper coverage influence perceptions of the crime and the criminals, and what impact did public sentiment have on the legal proceedings?
5. Compare and contrast the deaths of John, Robert, and Andy Taylor. What do their individual demises reveal about their respective characters, the consequences of their actions, and the ultimate pursuit of justice in this period?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Appealed to the Supreme Court:** To formally request a higher court (the Supreme Court) to review and reverse the decision of a lower court.
- **Corpse:** A dead body.
- **Desperadoes:** Bold and reckless criminals, often violent.

- **Ditched freight train:** A freight train that has gone off its tracks.
- **Expatiate (his crime):** To make amends or reparation for a wrongdoing; to suffer punishment for a crime.
- **Flux:** A severe form of dysentery, characterized by constant and excessive discharge from the bowels, often leading to death.
- **Gallows:** A structure, typically a wooden framework with a noose, used for hanging criminals.
- **Ignominious fate:** A shameful or disgraceful destiny, particularly in reference to execution.
- **Impetuous nature:** Acting or done quickly and without thought or care; impulsive.
- **Incompetent (juror):** Not having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something successfully, or in this context, not impartial enough to serve on a jury.
- **Lynching:** The extrajudicial killing of an accused person by a mob, often without due process.
- **Manacled and shackled:** Restrained with handcuffs (manacles) on the wrists and fetters (shackles) on the ankles.
- **Mitigating circumstances:** Factors that, though not excusing a crime, may reduce the guilt or punishment of the offender.
- **Noted criminal/desperado:** A criminal who is widely known or notorious for their actions.
- **Penitentiary:** A prison for serious crimes.
- **Pertinaciously:** Holding firmly to an opinion or a course of action; stubbornly.
- **Posses:** Groups of people, typically armed, gathered by a sheriff to pursue and capture criminals.
- **Self-cocker (pistol):** A type of revolver that cocks itself automatically when the trigger is pulled, without needing to manually pull back the hammer.
- **Stolid indifference:** Showing little or no emotion; unconcerned or unsympathetic.
- **War of words:** A heated argument or dispute, typically prolonged.