

DEPUTY SHERIFF ORVILLE MOSS DIES AFTER BEING SHOT IN RAID
Volume XXVIII, Putnam County Herald newspaper, Cookeville, TN
24 April 1930

Was With U. S. Prohibition Agent Plaxco In Search of Still In Jackson County. Beale Warren in Critical Condition At City Hospital, Shot At Same Time.

Orville A. (*Amos*) Moss, 43, father of five living children, was killed Tuesday night by bullets supposed to have been fired from the gun of a still operative in Jackson county. Beale Warren, 31, brother of the sheriff, was perhaps fatally injured at the same time. He is at the City hospital in critical condition.

Four men are being held in jail here, pending the outcome of an investigation being made by W. B. Shoffner and Reese Macey, United States attorneys from the Nashville office, assisted by local counsel and numerous officers. The men being held are Hop Anderson, 25, Bill Pippin, 45, Floyd Thomas, 35, and Eph Pippin, 20, son of the other connected with the crime.

Moss and Warren sustained their wounds when they attempted to halt a car containing Anderson and Thomas. The officers jumped on either side of the light auto and that action precipitated the shooting. Warren and Moss fell, and Zeb Warren, who was in his car near the shooting hastily arrested Anderson. Thomas made a getaway and was caught Wednesday morning near the scene of the tragedy by Sheriff Oplis Smith, of Jackson county, and brought to Cookeville Wednesday afternoon with the other suspected accomplice in the crime, Eph Pippin.

The raid was conducted by John Plaxco, United States prohibition agent, who was last week transferred to Cookeville from Memphis, where he had been since 1916 in undercover service. He deputized the three officers to assist him in the raid, which fact accorded them the rank of Government officers. They left Cookeville on the fatal trip at 5:30 Tuesday afternoon. The shooting occurred at some time between 7 and 7:15, nearly three hours later. Zeb Warren rushed the injured men to the City hospital and Plaxco accosted the prisoners, Anderson and the elder Pippin. Pippin was alleged to have had a sack filled with a quantity of liquor. He was handcuffed at the time of the shooting, being placed under arrest before the arrival of the death machine.

At the hospital Moss was given a hasty examination and doctors pronounced no hope for his life. He was shot in the side, the bullet, or bullets, ranging upward and destroying vital organs near the heart. His loss of blood was great and removed all chances of a possible recovery. He died at 10 o'clock, after making a statement to his chief about the fray.

Warren was rushed to the operating table where a valiant effort to save his life was made. It was found that bullets had penetrated a section of the small intestine over a six inch area nine times, and had passed thru the bladder. Attending physicians expressed the belief that he had a small chance for life.

Both men were shot by a .32 caliber gun. Officers removed an automatic pistol of this size from Anderson, it was reported Wednesday. No statements from the accused have been allowed the press. Authorities believe that they can announce formal charges to be brought against the quartette late today or Friday.

Funeral services will be held for Moss at Baxter from the Methodist church this afternoon at one o'clock. Interment will take place at the Baxter cemetery. Moss is survived by his widow, five children, Mrs. Essie Jared, Velma, William, Ruth, and Christine, his mother and father, six brothers and six sisters.

Upon news of his death Tuesday night, citizens of Baxter and friends in other parts of the county united in expressing to the grief stricken family their sincere sympathy. He had been known as an unusual upholder of the law and an officer who felt his duty a sacred instinct. He is the second deputy in sheriff Warren's regime to die in the execution of his duty, the other being C. L. Brown, who was killed in a car wreck in January.

Excitement was high for some time when the news spread of the death of Moss, but at no time did it hint of violence in any form.

The scene of the tragic episode in law enforcement is near the Putnam and Jackson county line, in the community surrounding Lee Vickers' and Byers' stores. It has been noted as a place not frequented by revenue officers since the death of Bud Lynch, some ten years ago, who was shot in the back and died from the wound. The tragedy has caused widespread attention and opened avenues for bitter attack on the liquor traffic in the Upper Cumberland section of the state.

The quartette was taken before U. S. Commissioner J. B. Barnes this afternoon for preliminary hearing, and their bond was set at \$13,000 each.

Buried in the Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

***MOSS, ORVILLE AMOS** - b. 4 April 1886, TN - d. 22 April 1930, City Hospital, Putnam Co., TN - DC# 9205, 1st Civil Dist., City, Putnam Co., TN. Profession: Deputy Sheriff. Cause of Death: Gun shot wound in right chest and abdomen, died at 10:00 a.m. - Homicide. Doctor: W. A. Howard, M. D. Informant: Frank Moss, Baxter, TN. Undertaker: Jere Whitson & Co., City, Putnam Co., TN. DC states d. 23 April 1930.

WIFE: md 26 March 1904, Putnam Co., TN, Lethea Emeline (Roberts) Moss

(Source: Marriage record: Vol. ?, pg. 252, certificate 4, Putnam Co., TN)

PARENTS: Charlie Moss, b. 16 February 1854, TN - d. 6 February 1941 & Julia Burton, b. 25 October 1857, TN - d. 22 August 1944, both buried in the Allison Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN located between Boxtown on Boat Dock Rd. & Burgess Falls Rd.).

CHILDREN: Essie M. md Jared; Velma md Burnett; Stocia Ruth; Chistine md Crain; Evelyn md Crain; & William Haskell "Bill" Moss, b. 28 May 1914, Dallas, Dallas Co., TX - d. 8 Apr. 1992 md Fannie "Bell" McKinley. Lethea Emeline Roberts was the d/o Henry Ervin "Tinker" Roberts & Sarah C. Vickers. Henry E. Roberts was the s/o Francis Marion Roberts & Sarah Richardson. Francis M. Roberts was the s/o Joseph Roberts & Rachael Smith. Sarah C. Vickers was the d/o Lendsey & Elizabeth Vickers.

Census Place: 1880 District 11, Jackson Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255264 National Archives Film T9-1264 Page 255A

Relation Sex Marr Race Age Birthplace

Charles MOSS	Self	M	M	W	26	TN
Occ:	Farmer	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Julia MOSS	Wife	F	M	W	22	TN
Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Doney MOSS	Son	M	S	W	2	TN
Occ:	At Home	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Sarah O. MOSS	Dau	F	S	W	1	TN
Occ:	At Home	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Althea MOSS	Dau	F	S	W	2M	TN
Occ:	At Home	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			

(1900 census 11th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 111 - Charley Moss is head of household, 52 yrs. old, b. February 1847, TN, md 24 yrs. to Julyan "Julia" Burton, 43 yrs. old, b. October 1856, TN, 13 children born, 12 children living. Children: Ollie S., 19 yrs. old, b. December 1880; Annie, 18 yrs. old, b. March 1882; Frank, 15 yrs. old, b. October 1884; Amos O. "Amos Orville", 14 yrs. old, b. 4 April 1886; Mary M., 12 yrs. old, b. November 1887; James, 9 yrs. old, b. June 1890; Janie, 9 yrs. old., b. June 1890; Berthie, 7 yrs. old, b. September 1892; Charley B. , 5 yrs. old, b. October 1894; Ernest, 4 yrs. old, b. April 1896 & Hettie D. Moss, 3 yrs. old., b. February 1897. All born in TN).

(1910 census 16th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN - Charley Moss is head of household, 56 yrs. old md 35 yrs. to Julia Burton, 53 yrs. old, 15 children born, 13 children living. Children: Berthie, 17 yrs old, TN, Earnest, 13 yrs. old, TN, Hettie, 12 yrs. old, TN & Fred Bill Moss, 8 yrs. old, TN).

(Fred Bill Moss, b. 1 February 1902 - d. 2 July 1982 md 1st 19 March 1922, Putnam Co., TN, Velma Margaret Gentry, b. 22 September 1904 - d. 27 June 1933, d/o (John Whiley Gentry & Laura Josephine Maxwell), both buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN, located on Buffalo Valley Rd). (Fred Bill Moss md 2nd Odell Davison).

(1920 census 20th Civil Dist., Baxter, Putnam Co., TN - Amos O. Moss is head of household, 35 yrs. old, KY md to Leatha E., 31 yrs. old, TN. Children: Essie, 12 yrs. old; Velma, 9 yrs. old & Willie H. Moss, 5 yrs. old. All born in TX).

(*See Orville Amos Moss Story)

***MOSS, LETHEA EMELINE ROBERTS** - b. 15 April 1887, TN - d. 23 January 1969, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH

HUSBAND: md 26 March 1904, Putnam Co., TN, Orville Amos Moss

PARENTS: Henry Ervin "Tinker" Roberts & Sarah C. Vickers

(Henry Ervin Roberts, b. 3 November 1861, TN - d. 20 January 1933 md 5 June 1881, Sarah C. Vickers, b. 5 May 1856 - d. 1 July 1923, both buried: Vicker's Graveyard located on Land Fill Road. Take the Baxter exit from I-40, turn south; go to Land Fill Road; go about a mile, turn left; a short distance on the left is the cemetery).

(Henry Ervin Roberts is the s/o Francis Marion Roberts, b. 31 December 1835, Jackson Co., TN - d. 16 January 1912, Putnam Co., TN, s/o (Joseph Roberts & Rachel Smith) & md 1st 22 February 1853, Sarah Elizabeth Richardson, b. 12 May 1835 - d. 27 February 1914, Putnam Co., TN, d/o (William & Sarah Richardson). Francis Marion Roberts met 2nd Amanda C. Martin, d/o Samuel Martin & Rebecca Bryant & he met 3rd Sarah Cullie).

(Children of Francis Marion Roberts & Sarah Richardson are: William Joseph "Joe"; John Lafayette "Fate"; Winfield Scott; Henry Ervin "Tinker"; Rachel S.; Hizer Francis; Harmon Sherman; Letha jane; James Grant "Jim" & Sarah Ellen Roberts).

(1860 census 7th Civil Dist., Double Springs post office, Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 729 - Mary Roberts is head of household, 62 yrs. old, NC. Living in the household: Marion, 24 yrs. old, Sarah E., 25 yrs. old; William J., 6 yrs. old; John L., 4 yrs. old & Winfield S. Roberts, 2 yrs. old. All born in TN).

(1870 census 8th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 89 - F.M. (Frances Marion) Roberts is head of household, 34 yrs. old, TN md to Sarah Elizabeth Richardson, 34 yrs. old, TN. Children: William, J., 16 yrs. old; John L., 13 yrs. old; Winfield S., 10 yrs. old; Rachel S., 9 yrs. old; Henry I, 8 yrs. old; Hizer F., 6 yrs. old; Harmon S., 4 yrs. old Litha J., 2 yrs. old & Litha J, 7/12 yrs. old, b. November. All born in TN).

Census Place: 1880 District 13,Dwl: 278. Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 176D

Relation Sex Marr Race Age Birthplace

Marion ROBERTS	Self	M	M	W	44	TN
	Occ: Farmer	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Sarah E. ROBERTS	Wife	F	M	W	45	TN
	Occ: Keeping House	Fa: NC	Mo: NC			
Henry ROBERTS	Son	M	S	W	26	TN
	Occ: Works On Farm	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Rachel ROBERTS	Dau	F	S	W	17	TN
	Occ: At Home	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Heisor ROBERTS	Son	M	S	W	15	TN
	Occ: Works On Farm	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Sherman ROBERTS	Son	M	S	W	13	TN
	Occ: Works On Farm	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Grant ROBERTS	Son	M	S	W	9	TN
		Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Ellen ROBERTS	Dau	F	S	W	7	TN
		Fa: TN	Mo: TN			

(1900 census 13th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 134 - Marion F. Robarts is head of household, 64 yrs. old, b. December 1835, TN md 44 yrs. to Sarah E., 65 yrs. old, b. April 1835, TN, parents both born in NC, 10 children born, 9 children living. Living in the household: Etta, granddaughter, 8 yrs. old, b. January 1892; Maud, granddaughter, 5 yrs. old, b. March 1895 & Oscar Robarts, grandson, 2 yrs. old, b. march 1898. All born in TN).

(1910 census 16th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN: Dwl: 15 - Henry E. Roberts is head of household, 51 yrs. old, TN md 29 yrs. to Sarah, 52 yrs. old, 6 children born, 6 children living. Children: Nota L., 13 yrs. old, TN & Homer Roberts, 12 yrs. old, TN).

(Children of Henry Ervin "Tinker" Roberts & Sarah C. Vickers are: Mary Alice, b. 3 Apr. 1882, TN - d. 22 Mar. 1966 md Sam Jones; Victoria Melinee, b. 20 Dec. 1885, TN - d. 28 Feb. 1962 md Marion Jackson Herren; Lethea Emeline, b. 15 Apr. 1887, TN - d. 23 Jan. 1969, OH md Amos Orville Moss; Etta Elizabeth, b. Dec. 1888, TN md Virgil Prettiman Maxwell; Homer E., b. Nov. 1891, TN - d. July md Vinnie Getrude Ward & Notia Lois Roberts, b. 14 Jul 1897, TN - d. 22 Mar. 1933 md Arthur Aranton Massa).

(Note: Descendants of Joseph Roberts of Mine Lick Creek show the birth date of Henry Ervin "Tinker" Roberts as: 3 November 1859, Putnam Co., TN).

(**Beal Warren**, b. 2 July 1897, Overton Co., TN - d. 27 July 1966, Overton Co., TN, md on the 10th of August 1919, Putnam Co., TN to **Ocie (Thompson) Warren**, b. 19 July 1898, Putnam Co., TN - d. 24 June 1990, FL. Beal Warren, s/o **James W. Warren** (1860-1932) & **Armanda Kate Poteet** (1860-1926). Beal and Ocie (Thompson) Warren are both buried in the Paran Cemetery, Livingston, Overton Co., TN).

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