

W. A. Gallagher and Blind Bill Hoolihan

Gallagher and Hoolihan's remains were reburied in the Old Trail Town Cemetery in Cody, Wyoming, on December 17, 1978. The following is a reproduction of the memorial plaque on their grave site:

William Gallagher and his friend, Blind Bill, were killed on Meeteetse Creek below the old town of Arland in Mid-March of 1894. Both men, about thirty, were born during the Civil War period.

Gallagher, who was somewhat of an outlaw, was tall, lean and wore a drooping dark mustache. He wore a gun most of the time, had a severe temper and was a hard case in general.

Blind Bill was short, muscular, and wore a patch over his left eye, which was blind. Blind Bill was a good friend of Gallagher's. Both men were working as cowboys in the Greybull River Country, and had probably found their way into the region on one of the early trail drives.

Gallagher was once described by A. A. Anderson, for whom he had once worked, as being one of the best horsemen and ropers he had ever known. However, his reputation was not as good as his figure. Gallagher told Anderson, one time after getting out of jail in Thermopolis that; "I captured the town and was about to trade it off to the Indians when they threw me in jail." On another occasion, Gallagher was accused of horse stealing and tried at the district court in Lander, Wyoming, in 1891. Later in that year he was tried for forgery. He escaped being jailed each time, due to technicalities.

In 1893, Gallagher had become involved with 27 year old Belle Drewry, one of the single women who hung out around the town of Arland. Early in 1894 Belle began seeing Bill Wheaton. When Gallagher became aware of the friendship, he went into a jealous rage. On March 15th Gallagher took Belle over to the ranch house where Wheaton was. An argument developed and Gallagher pulled his six-shooter and held Wheaton and Belle at gun-point for two hours, while he threatened them and kept cocking his six-shooter. Finally, Gallagher passed the incident off as kind of a joke and holstered his gun.

Belle informed Wheaton as to where a gun was hidden in the house. A little later she went out of the house and started walking toward Meeteetse.

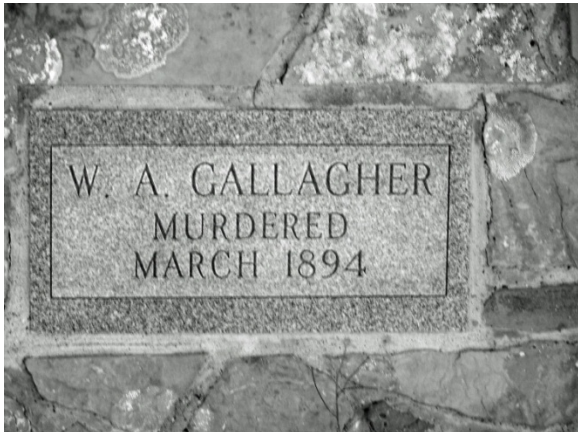
When she didn't return, Gallagher went out to see where she went. Wheaton then got the gun that was in the house. Gallagher was walking across the yard when Wheaton rested the gun against the side of the door frame and shot him from behind. Wheaton then got on his horse and left.

When Blind Bill learned of Gallagher's death, he was very upset and swore he would kill Wheaton in revenge for the death of his friend.

Wheaton was soon informed that Blind Bill intended to kill him. Gallagher's loyal friend never fulfilled his vow, for he was found a few days later, shot in the back by an unknown assassin. Although it was believed that Wheaton killed Blind Bill, it was never proven.

Both Gallagher and his friend, Blind Bill, were buried on a sage brush hill near Meeteetse Creek.

Wheaton was tried in the death of W. A. Gallagher and sentenced to eight years in the Wyoming State Penitentiary. He was released in 1898 after serving four years. Belle Drewry had been killed the year before in a gun-fight at a saloon in Arland.



**W. A. Gallagher and Blind Bill
Hoolihan are buried as they lived,
side-by-side in the Old Trail Town
Cemetery**

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