

Legendary Treasure of Murder Rock



by:
Ginger Michaud,
Publisher

The thought of buried treasure lying in Taney County waiting to be found ignites feelings of excitement and adventure. When I started to dig deeper into local treasure legends, I was astonished at the wealth of mysteries and long, lost riches that are hidden in the Ozarks. For the purpose of this article, I will focus on the legend closest to Branson - the Bolin treasure of Murder Rock.

Alf Bolin was an infamous outlaw of the Ozarks during the Civil War. He and his gang of bushwhackers robbed and murdered travelers near the Missouri-Arkansas border. In order to ambush their prey, the Bolin Gang notoriously hid behind large boulders that came to be known as Murder Rock. It is unclear whether Alf Bolin and his gang were opportunists; robbing indiscriminately, or if they were targeting those believed to be Union sympathizers. Either way, his actions led to public outrage and his eventual demise by the hand of a Union soldier. Not only was he killed, but his head was severed and sent to Ozark to be set on a pole for proof of death.

The gruesome display then travelled to Springfield.

Some years later, a man showed up to a farm home on Highway JJ, near Kirbyville, asking to board for a few days. Try as I might, I could not find the identity of the stranger.

Year after year, the stranger returned to the farm to board during the summers. He always left with a lunch and disappeared into the hills, and he returned at evening - exhausted and dirty.

One summer night, the stranger finally told the farmer that he had been searching for Alf Bolin's treasure all this time. He produced a rough map from one of Bolin's gang. There began the search for, and legend of, Alf Bolin's hidden treasure.

Treasure Hint: the map reportedly marks an area near a cave in Fox Creek country, in the vicinity of Section 20, Township 22, Range 20 in Taney County, Missouri.

Alf Bolin's hidden loot has never been reported as found.