

Current research indicates that there were at least 33 men associated with the Dick Howell/Cowboy Hill/Red McGahan Gang during the time period of October 1918 through May 1921. Of those 33 only two men were able to reform and live a normal life for a significant portion of their adulthood. Many of the men spent a high percentage of their short lives incarcerated. Many disappeared into prison and no record of their death can be found. Some of these men may have changed their names and reformed, but it is unlikely. There are also several men who do not show up in the public record except for one arrest. This potentially indicates that they did not continue in a life of crime.

All the known career criminals are listed using the names by which they were most commonly known. In most cases they had multiple aliases, some of which are also listed.

**Perry “Dick” Howell:** born in 1878, was executed for the murder of Anthony Skotnicki in 1921 (see previous biographical outline).

**Arthur “Cowboy” Hill:** born in 1887, died in 1937 (see previous biographical outline).

**George “Jiggs” Losteiner:** born in 1885, died in 1937 (see previous biographical outline).

It should be noted that in the early 1900s Jiggs was associated with a gang known as the “Berry Brothers gang”. This consisted of three boys from the Berry Family, Frank, Edgar, and William. This gang specialized in raiding railroad cars. It is documented that Cowboy Hill was associated with the Berry brothers in the 1904-1905 time period, so it is possible that Losteiner knew Cowboy Hill as early as 1904.

**Albert Edward Johnson:** born in 1889, died in 1920 (see previous biographical outline).

**Eddie Meehan:** born about 1885, death unknown, last known record is the 1940 United States Census showing him in the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio (see previous biographical outline).

**Gerald Chapman:** born in 1887, died by hanging in 1926 (see previous biographical outline).

**Dutch Anderson:** born in 1880 or 1881, died from a gunshot wound on Halloween night in 1925 (see previous biographical outline).

**George “Red” McGahan:** born in 1890, died in prison in 1963 (see previous biographical outlines).

**Archie Dennison:** born in 1888, died in 1920 (see previous biographical outline).

**Joe Forrest:** born about 1881, there seems to be no information about Forrest beyond his arrest in 1920. There was a news article that reported a rumor that he died in Arizona in the 1930s, but this appears to be pure speculation.

**James King:** age unknown and whereabouts beyond 1921 are unknown. King was incarcerated in Waupun, Wisconsin, at the same time as Eddie Meehan.

**Charles Turner:** age unknown and whereabouts beyond 1921 are unknown. Turner was incarcerated in Waupun, Wisconsin, at the same time as Eddie Meehan. Both Turner and King were sentenced to 30 years and these two men were transferred to the prison ward for the criminally insane.

**Bob Howell:** brother of Dick Howell and an early member of the gang, born in 1880, died 1937. Bob Howell did not follow in his brother's footsteps and seems to have reformed after his brother was executed. He was married and employed in East Liverpool, Ohio.

**Harry Cottrell:** son-in-law of Dick Howell involved in the 1918 and early 1919 robberies in and around Steubenville, Ohio. Information about Harry Cottrell is limited to a series of newspaper articles about the early exploits of the gang and no other biographical information is available.

**John Grogan:** an early member of the gang who was sentenced to life in prison in 1919 for the shooting of a policeman in Cleveland in 1918. He was an associate of George Losteiner and therefore probably knew Cowboy Hill.

**Frank Adams:** aka Charles or Frank Appleby, from Brockton, Massachusetts, identified as a participant in the Randolph, Massachusetts, robbery in November of 1919. He was shot and killed in Toledo, Ohio, on February 29, 1920. His age at the time of death is unknown.

**Will “Little Willie” Fisher:** aka James Allison, Fred Manifeck or Manifex, identified as a participant in the Randolph, Massachusetts, robbery in November of 1919, was one of 4 gunmen involved in the raid of the Lucas County jail on December 25, 1919. Little Willie served a term in the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City under the name of James Allison. The last credible documentation on Fisher is in 1925 as a result of an arrest in Michigan.

**Leo Mitchell:** born in 1879, died in a Michigan State Hospital in 1947 (see previous biographical outline).



**Albert Loach or Loesch:** one of the four gang members released from the Lucas County jail on December 25, 1919, murdered in Indiana in April of 1920, possibly as a result of having given information to the police about a robbery. His body was discovered on April 22, 1920, near Wanatah, Indiana, which is in LaPorte County. His death certificate indicates that he was born in Ohio in 1881.

**Charles O'Malley:** associated with Albert "Whitey" Johnson in a robbery in Chicago. There is no further information about O'Malley.

**James B. McCauley** aka William Cartwright, Doc Cartwright, James Monroe, N. M. Horton, Robert D. Welch, implicated in several of the gang's robberies. McCauley had a bad right eye and apparently had multiple glass eyes and would switch colors in an attempt to confuse pursuing police. He may have been involved in the Randolph, Massachusetts, robbery as the fifth participant who was never identified. One of the witnesses stated that one of the men was "cross-eyed".

**Joe Murphy:** one of the gunmen involved in the raid of the Lucas County jail on December 25, 1919.

**Joe Snyder:** also involved in the raid of the Lucas County jail on December 25, 1919. Both Snyder and Murphy were sent to prison for their roles in the jail break.

**Orville Taylor:** implicated in two robberies in New York in 1919 and was captured in Bedford, Ohio.

**Eddie “Marion Eddie” Kelly:** was tried and convicted in Winchester, Indiana, for the Ridgeville, Indiana, bank robbery. At the time of his arrest for the Ridgeville robbery he was being pursued for the robbery at Bedford, Ohio, on October 21, 1920. Kelly was sent to prison in Michigan City, Indiana, and was still there in 1930. Because of his previous convictions he was given a life sentence. He was born in Ohio (supposedly Marion, Ohio) in 1879, but there is no record of his death.

**Raleigh Ross Townsend:** associated with Red McGahan and killed in a shootout with the police in Lima, Ohio, on May 21, 1921. Townsend, John Mason, George Donovan, and Joe Willis were implicated in the Hometown, Indiana, bank robbery that day. Townsend was a soldier in WWI and had lived in Toledo for a number of years before joining Red McGahan’s group of robbers. He was born in Missouri in 1895.

**John Mason:** Mason was associated with Red McGahan and was captured in Lima, Ohio, on May 21, 1921.

**George Donovan:** Donovan was associated with Red McGahan and was captured in Lima, Ohio, on May 21, 1921. Donovan also used the alias Edward O'Neill, but should not be confused with the other man of the same name listed below.

**Joe Willis:** Willis was associated with Red McGahan and was captured in Lima, Ohio, on May 21, 1921.

**Edward O'Neill:** O'Neill was identified by witnesses as a gang member, and tried and convicted for participation in the Delta, Ohio, bank robbery of May 20, 1920.

**Harry Wulle:** aka Harry Stone, had a long criminal record and had just been released from Leavenworth prison when he joined the Cowboy Hill gang. He was captured in Bedford, Ohio, on October 21, 1920. Stone was associated with John Brennan and Sam Sylvester in robbing a post office in 1912. It is likely that Stone was a permanent member of Losteiner's group during 1920.

**Sam Sylvester:** aka Sam Ross, associated with Harry Stone, John "Turk" Brennan and Will "Little Willie" Fisher.

**John “Big Turk” Brennan:** aka John Horn, was a known associate of Harry Wulle (aka Harry Stone), and also accompanied Gerald Chapman and Dutch Anderson to Indiana in 1924.

John Brennan was a much sought criminal because he, Harry Wulle (alias Stone), Sam Sylvester, William Brandt (a friend of Cowboy Hill), and a man named John Murphy blew a safe at the post office in Mt. Blanchard, Ohio. This occurred on July 5, 1912. Four of these men were captured soon after the robbery, but Brennan was not caught until 1915.

After escaping captivity in 1916 he remained a fugitive until 1920 when he was arrested for another post office robbery. While being held in a county jail in Kentucky awaiting trial in federal court, he again escaped. His whereabouts were unknown, but it is now possible to determine that in April of 1924 he was a companion of Gerald Chapman and Dutch Anderson when they came to Indiana. It appears that Brennan was involved in the theft of an automobile in Steubenville, Ohio, (April 6, 1924) that became evidence in the murder trial of Gerald Chapman in 1925.



Although there were rumors that Brennan was collaborating with Chapman and Anderson during the year 1924 and with Anderson in 1925, there is no credible documentation that supports this idea. Based on information in an obituary of one of Brennan's sisters in 1925, he was living in Canada at that time. This means that he successfully avoided arrest after Chapman was captured and was nowhere to be found after Anderson was killed.

Brennan was thought to have been killed in 1928 and remained hidden from 1925 until 1937 when he was discovered working as a poultry farmer in New Jersey. Although he was still wanted for the post office robbery in Kentucky in 1920, he was not held accountable for his other misdeeds. Even though there was a nationwide manhunt for him in 1925 relative to his association with Chapman and Anderson, this was not even mentioned after he was discovered in 1937.

He did serve 18 months imprisonment for the Kentucky robbery, but was considered a reformed criminal and released after that. Brennan and his wife moved back to East Liverpool where he worked at various jobs. John Brennan was born in 1874 in West Virginia and died in East Liverpool, Ohio, in 1954.