

**"POKER" WILLIAMS AND SON WERE KILLED TUESDAY
Near Valliant by a Possee Who Had Arrested Them for Thefts They
Had Committed.**

Unknown McCurtain County newspaper Saturday March 2, 1918 - contributed by Doris Dykes transcribed by Ron Henson

"Poker" Williams and his son, Ben, were shot and instantly killed Tuesday evening near Valliant by the officers who had gone to Williams' home near Rufe to arrest them for stealing. City Marshal G.W. Moye, accompanied by Phil Herndon, Ed Bruton, Shorty Williams, Dick Mayhan and Clayton Smith went to the home of Williams armed with a search warrant for Williams' premises.

After arresting "Poker" Williams and his son, Ben, a young man 25 years old, they started back to Valliant and on the road back "Poker" Williams made a grab for Phil Herndon's gun and succeeded in getting hold of it and was tusseling with Herndon when the other officers shot him and his son, Ben, killing both instantly.

The Williams have been a terror to the people around Rufe for several years and were considered the tuffs of that section of the county. When the officers searched the premises they found a considerable amount of plunder which had been stolen from the neighbors of the surrounding county. They had stolen a wagon load of corn and had the corn stored in their residence. Can fruit, wash pots, cooking utensils, harness, plow tools, etc., composed their stolen articles.

For quite a long time the people of that section had known the Williams were stealing from their neighbors, but being of such bad characters, they were afraid to say much about it.

A few more similar raids will help relieve McCurtain County of her thieves.