



Notorious Memphis Gangster Diggs Nolen

Diggs Nolen's name was the byword for crime in 1920s Memphis. As a child, he dreamed of becoming a swashbuckling outlaw. He turned his back on a promising career, his family and consorted with the worst elements of society. Under the tutelage of train robber Frank Holloway, Nolen became a notorious con artist. Later, he and his gun-slinging wife built an empire out of selling narcotics and trafficking stolen goods. Law enforcement caught Nolen, but they could not hold him. Nolen escaped from Leavenworth Prison, led the largest jailbreak in Memphis history and confounded prosecutors with legal wranglings. Author Patrick O'Daniel details Nolen's quixotic quest for criminal fame that earned him the title King of the Memphis Underworld.

About the Author

Patrick O'Daniel is the Executive Director of Libraries for Southwest Tennessee Community College. He holds master's degrees in History from the University of Memphis and Library and Information Sciences from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He previously worked for the Memphis Public Library and Information Center where he spent nine years in the History Department working with archival and genealogical collections. O'Daniel is the author of *Notorious Memphis Gangster Diggs Nolen* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2023), *Crusaders, Gangsters, and Whiskey: Prohibition in Memphis* (Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2018), *When the Levee Breaks: Memphis and the Mississippi Valley Flood of 1927* (Charleston SC: History Press, 2013), *Memphis and the Super-Flood of 1937: High Water Blues* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2010), and co-author with Gina Cordell on *Historic Photos of Memphis* (Nashville, TN: Turner, 2006).

