

## Thaddeus Q. Lynch - Fact Sheet

### Based on:

Charles E. Merrill, Financier/Businessman

### Short bio of Merrill:

Founded Merrill Lynch stock brokerage firm. It was one of the few that survived the 1929 crash.

### Other information about your character:

You're an extremely well-to-do banker. Although you were already on the rise to success, you got a considerable boost from a deal you made a few years ago with Jim Calhoun, a local land developer. Calhoun, who is known for his unethical business practices, came to you to help arrange the purchase of a farm called Spindletop from a nearly-destitute widow. Calhoun persuaded you to suppress a recent geological report on the area, and purchased the land for a low price. The enormous oil reserves underneath rewarded you both richly.

You also know something interesting about the Von Bluchers: They're not as wealthy as they pretend to be. The Countess inherited the house. As soon as the inheritance paperwork had cleared, the Count came to you asking about mortgaging the property (it unfortunately isn't worth much; it's been closed for nearly 60 years, and hasn't had any improvements such as electrical wiring). Although they put on a façade of wealth, they're nearly broke.

### Helpful links:

<http://www.ml.com/woml/history/overview.htm>

<http://homer.louisville.edu/~kprayb01/1920s,Business.html>