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S K E T C H

— OF THE —

History of Benton County,

MISSOURI,

— BY —

JAMES H. LAY.

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XI.

SLICKER WAR.

About the year 1839, came to Benton County, Hiram K. Turk, and his wife and four sons, James, Thomas J., Nathan and Robert. They settled on the road north of Quincy, just south of the old Archibald Cock place. Quincy was not then known, but that vicinity was called Judy's Gap, from Samuel Judy, who settled at the gap of prairie connecting Hogle's Creek prairie with the 25 mile prairie. Turk came from Tennessee where he had been selling goods. He is said to have had considerable property at one time, but was broken up when he came here. He had been Colonel of militia, in Tennessee, and was known here as Col. Turk. It is said that he had several buck shot in his body when he came. He and his boys at once opened a small store and dram shop, which became a kind of rallying point for the neighborhood. From the first, Hiram, James, and, in a less degree, Tom, acquired the reputation of being quarrelsome, violent, and overbearing men. Hiram, and, perhaps, James, drank to excess. They were men of fine forms, dressed well, for those times, and, in their better moods, were men of unusually courteous and dignified manners. They possessed more than an average degree of intelligence and education. Tom Turk's writing, found among the records, shows a trained business hand.

They had been here but a few months till we find them engaged in difficulties. We first have an indistinct account of James Turk swearing and threatening, on the arrest of some parties for theft. On the 18th of February, 1840, he made a violent assault on John Graham, a man of some prominence, at that time, in the neighborhood of Judy's Gap. On the next day Mr. Graham wrote the following note to the Justice of the Peace :

February the 19 day—1840.

mister wisdom sir please to come fourth with to my house and fetch your law books and come as quick as you can as I have been Lay waid by James turk and smartley wounded sow that I Cant Come to your house and is A fraid that he will Escape

JOHN GRAHAM.

The following is Graham's testimony in regard to the assault :

On the 18th of February I went to Jas. Dudley's Blacksmith Shop to get my brother's mare shod to ride to Sac River. On my return home I met James Turk, and when he got in about fifty or sixty yards of me he got off of his horse, led it to the bushes and hitched, and came up into the road rolling up his sleeves. When he got in fifteen or twenty steps of me, he named that he had been wanting to meet with me some time back. I halted my mare, and told him to stand back, and he said, "G—d d—n your soul, I don't ask you any odds." I reined my mare back, and he still rushed on towards me, with his staff drawn. I still told him the second time to "stand back and have some honor in him and not rush on a man in that way." By this time he had got within about three steps of me. He pitched at me, and, with his left hand, caught my mare by the bridle. He threw his hand behind him, and drew out his bowie knife, and aimed at me with it; and, as he struck at me, I jumped on the opposite side of the nag. He ran around the mare's head, where I was, and made another lick at me, and I broke to run. He took after me with his bowie knife, striking at me as I ran, swearing, "G—d d—n you, I will kill you." The distance we ran, I think, was about twenty or thirty yards. I think I fell twice or three times in the distance, and he kept striking at me. By that time I had got rather out of the thicket into open ground. I drew out a pistol and told him, if he rushed on me any further, I would kill him, and cocked it. He halted but very little when he saw the pistol presented at his breast, and still moving toward me with his bowie knife and club, I bursted a cap at him. I wheeled, then, to run, and he made at me with his bowie knife and club, and struck me with his club and knocked me down, and, as I was raising, he struck me across the head with his bowie knife. By this time Andy Ripetoe ran up facing Turk, and told him he had to stop. Turk observed to Ripetoe that he had nothing against him, but that he would kill me. He made a halt when Ripetoe told him to stop, and by that time I had got out of the thicket and up to my mare, and on her, and left him there, hunting the scabbard of his bowie knife. I lost my pistol when he knocked me down the last time, and I was afraid to go back into the thicket to hunt it while he was there. I went to Mrs. Ripetoe's and got a gun, and came back again to hunt my pistol. He was about one hundred and fifty yards from the place where we fought, in the road, going towards Judy's. He saw me coming with the gun, struck his horse, and broke in a gallop toward Judy's; then jumped off his horse and said, "G—d d—n you, come on; I will go home and get father, and all my brothers, and come to your house this night, and I will have your heart's blood at the risk of my life." Then I went into the thicket to look for my pistol, and saw it lying in the leaves where he knocked me down, and spoke to Ripetoe to pick it up; he did so, and we went back to his mother's, and stayed all night.

A warrant was issued, and W. W. McMillan deputized to execute it. With a posse of five men, he went to James Turk, and arrested him, but Turk refused to go to Graham's house for trial. Graham refused to go into the presence of Turk to testify till he was disarmed. Justice Wisdom ordered him to be disarmed, and took hold of him to assist, when old Hiram pulled him off, and Tom Turk drew his pistol, and made the officers stand off. The Turks and their friends then took James and went home. On McMillan's warrant, I find the return, "Levied on the body of Jas. Turk, Feb. 19, 1840," entered and

erased. A warrant was sworn out against them for rescuing a prisoner. Sheriff Smith went out and made the arrest, and they were bound over by 'Squire Wisdom,—James, for the assault; Tom, for rescuing James; and Hiram for the rescue, and to keep the peace toward John Graham, whom he had threatened. During the proceeding, Hiram Turk charged Justice Wisdom with prosecuting him through malice, whereupon the Justice fined him \$20, the collection of which Turk had stayed by writ of prohibition from the Circuit Court. These proceedings aided in planting the animosity that took shape in the Slicker war.

Some years before the 'Turks came to the County, the Joneses, four brothers, Andrew, Samuel, Isaac and John, had settled on Big Pomme de Terre, just above the Breshears' prairie. Among the early settlers they were prominent as horse racers and gamblers. They were coarse men, whose manners had been formed in the rough society of the borders. They are said to have been illiterate. I find their names always signed by mark.

At the August election, in 1840, held at Turk's house, James Turk and Andrew Jones became involved in a controversy about a bet on a horse race.* Jones proposed to fight it out in the usual style of those days, with the fists. Turk agreed, but stepping into the house, came out with a knife, and attacked Jones, when a general row ensued; Turk's father and brother assisting him, and two of the Keaton's, and others, assisting Jones. At the Circuit Court sitting a few days later, Tom, James and Robert, were indicted for a riot, and Hiram and James for the assault on Andrew Jones. John B. Clark was foreman of this Grand Jury, and Hendricks Circuit Attorney. At the December term, 1840, the three boys were convicted of the riot and fined \$100. The fine was remitted by Gov. Thos. Reynolds. The case against Hiram and James was continued to the April term, 1841. A chief witness against the Turks was Abraham C. Nowell, a quiet and respectable citizen living three miles north-west of Judy Gap. The Turks had sworn he should never testify against them. On the morning of April 3, 1841, the first day of Circuit Court, Nowell, coming to Warsaw, in company with Julius Sutliff, who lived close to the Turks, was

* Other accounts say that the Turks had just opened a new stock of goods, and, making considerable sales on election day, soon discovered that several counterfeit bills, of the same denomination, had been passed on them. On inquiry, they traced them all back to Andy Jones, and the difficulty is said to have arisen from the Turks charging him with circulating counterfeit money.

overtaken at the branch this side of Arch. Cock's, and assaulted with a pistol, by James Turk. Nowell, in self-defence, got Sutliff's gun, and shot Turk dead. A full account of the affair is contained in the following evidence :

Julius Sutliff testified as follows :

On the first day of the Benton County Circuit Court, in the Spring Term, in 1841, I was at a Blacksmith shop belonging to Mr. Glazebrook, in Benton County. I found Mr. Nowell, Mr. Addington and others, there. Mr. Glazebrook's shop is about 400 yards from the house in which he lived. I started from the shop and went to Mr. Cock's, about 400 yards. I stopped at Mr. Cock's until Mr. Nowell and Mr. Addington came up, then got on my horse and started on with them. I rode on with them till they all came to a little branch, between Mr. Cock's and Mr. Bishop's. I here stopped to drink, and Mr. Nowell stopped by the side of me. Mr. Addington's horse stopped a few steps beyond us. While I was drinking, Mr. James Turk, and another gentleman, came up and passed Nowell and me. I heard Mr. James Turk speak to Mr. Addington, and say "Good morning." James Turk passed myself and Nowell about fifteen or twenty steps. He turned in his saddle, and said to Mr. Nowell, "Which one of your places, or quarters, shall I settle on?" Mr. Nowell said, "Neither." Turk said "I will be d——d if I don't." Mr. Nowell said, "Jimmy Turk, you can never settle on my place." Turk then replied "d——n your old soul, if you say much I will settle it on the spot." Nowell said, "no you won't." Turk, thereupon, got off his horse, and ran his hand in his pocket, on the left hand side of his coat, and drew out a pistol, and advanced on Nowell. Nowell told Turk to stop. When Turk got his pistol out, Nowell spoke to me and said "let me have your gun." Turk was still advancing. Nowell took the gun from me and drew it up to his face, Turk still advancing. Nowell told him to stop, and, if he advanced any further, he would shoot him. Turk kept on advancing and Nowell shot him. James Turk's general character was that of a fighting man. I was his nearest neighbor; never had any difficulty with him myself. Mr. Nowell has the reputation of being a peaceable man; I never heard of him quarrelling with any other man.

John Prince testified as follows :

I heard James Turk say that Mr. Nowell was a main witness, and never should give in evidence against them, that he intended to take the d——d old son of a b——h off his horse and whip him, so he could not go to court. Turk further said that if they took the case to Springfield he would have him (Nowell,) fixed so he never would get there; I think that the case in which Nowell was a witness, is the case that Andrew Jones had against James Turk and Hiram K. Turk. I think it was about a fight that took place at Hiram K. Turk's on an election. I think that the parties to the fight, from what I understood, were Jones, James Turk, Hiram K. Turk, and perhaps Bob Turk. This conversation I had with James Turk in the last part of last month, about a week before the spring term of the Benton Circuit Court, 1841.

Nowell being told by his friends that the Turks would kill him, fled the country, but returned in September, went to the Sheriff, was committed to jail and bailed out. He was tried at the April term, 1842, and acquitted, Thomas Rank being foreman of the Jury Phelps, Ben. P. Major and Ridgley defended him. Dixon was Circuit Attorney. On the death of Jas. Turk and the flight of Nowell, the cases against Jas. Turk were dismissed, and

those against Hiram continued, and he was killed before they were again called.

During the spring in which James Turk was killed, Hiram and Tom. Turk were engaged in a number of petty lawsuits with their neighbors, and I have an imperfect account of Hiram Turk going to the house of Arch. Cock after night, in liquor, and breaking into the house with the avowed purpose of killing Cock; Tom. followed him and prevented him from doing any harm.

But the first event after the killing of James Turk which had a marked effect in fixing the animosity between the Turks and Joneses, was the kidnapping of James Morton. Morton was related by marriage to the Joneses. In 1830 he had killed a Sheriff in Alabama, who was attempting to arrest him, and fled to this County. On the 20th of May, 1841, one McReynolds called on Sheriff Smith, at Warsaw, with a copy of an indictment found against Morton in Alabama, and a copy of a proclamation of the Governor of Alabama, offering \$400 reward for him. The Sheriff not deeming the papers sufficient refused to make the arrest. McReynolds declared he would get somebody to make the arrest, and went on South. He fell in with the Turks, with whom he had probably been in communication before, and on the evening of the 21st of May, they went with him to take Morton. The circumstances of the arrest are given in the following testimony of Wm. Paxton, before D. C. Ballou, Justice of the Peace:

I was better than a mile from mine and Rankin's mill. I was going home on foot. Hiram K. Turk overtook me on the road and told me that a couple of gentlemen from Alabama had come on with authority to take Morton. He said that they were then going to take Morton, as he understood that he was at the mill. There was no one immediately along with Turk then. The company was at the left of Turk and myself. Hiram Turk and myself and the company, met just at the edge of the prairie. The company consisted of Condley, Rice, Thos. Turk, McReynolds and Gunter. The company consulted together and it was agreed by the company (I do not think that Rice and Condley said anything,) that Mr. McReynolds and Turk should go the way I was going, and they went with me. The others took a left hand road and I did not see any of them except Rice until they met at the mill. After Turk, McReynolds and myself started towards the mill, Turk insisted that I should ride his horse as he was tired of riding, which I did, and Turk then went ahead, McReynolds and myself staid behind talking together. Just behind the mill in the edge of the woods, James Morton was gathering up plank. Turk went towards him and appeared to say something to him, and I think that Morton answered Turk, though I did not hear what was said. Morton stooped down to gather up more plank and Turk jumped and caught Morton by the waistband and the back of the neck, and told him that he need not make any resistance that he could not get loose, that he was in the hands of a man. Morton said he was not trying to get loose, or, who was trying to get loose. Turk let go of his collar and Morton insisted on know-

ing by what authority they took him. I think Turk told him "we will show you." McReynolds got off of his horse and pulled out a pistol. Morton asked what that pistol was out for. McReynolds told him that if he attempted to get away or make any resistance it was to shoot him with. Turk spoke to McReynolds and told him to get the strap. McReynolds got out the strap and Turk held Morton and McReynolds tied him. Morton complained that they were tying him too tight. Morton was then lead out of the woods to the road. I cannot say who lead him. Morton still insisted on knowing by what authority they took him. Turk said it would be there in a few moments. Turk and all made a move down the road to meet the other company which had not got there yet. Just as they got started the other company came in sight. Gunter who was foremost got down off of his horse and took a rope and tied around the strap that fastened Morton's arms together. Morton asked Condley if he was the officer who was taking him, and he said that he had nothing to do with it. They then put Morton on a horse and took him back to my house. They all ate supper at my house except Morton, who would not eat anything. They all got their horses ready, and Turk took off his coat and put it on Morton, and I think Thos. Turk put Morton on the horse. He was still bound. When Morton was asked to eat he said they would never get him to Alabama and that he never would eat another bite in the world. McReynolds said he would show his authority for taking Morton to the proper authority and took a paper from his pocket. It had some writing on it and something that looked like a State seal. I did not examine it. I understood from Turk and McReynolds that they intended to take Morton to Alabama. In the first place I think they talked of giving him up to Sheriff Smith. The company consulted together before they left my house, and the conclusion was that they should take him to Alabama. They talked of going by the way of Bolivar, also by Boonville, and Jefferson City and Cape Girardeau.

The mill at which Morton was taken, was on the Pomme de Terre, below Hermitage, at the place where Hickman's mill now stands. Morton was taken during the night to Mr. E. T. Condley's house, and also to Mr. Judy's. Mr. Condley then had a blacksmith shop on the rocky ridge road beyond Mr. N. Campbell's house, where the old North Prairie and Judy's Gap road crossed. On the morning of the 22nd they crossed the ferry at Warsaw before sunrise and pushed on to the Missouri River. They were closely pursued by Morton's friends, including Judge Geo. Alexander, whose sister Morton married, but got out of the state. Morton was tried and acquitted, and returned in about a year. It is said that some connection with the trial of Morton, led to the removal of Judge Burr H. Emerson to this county.

Hiram K. Turk was arrested and bound over for kidnapping, by D. C. Ballou, Justice of the Peace. He was indicted and the indictment quashed about the time of his death; Finch, Otter and Hendricks were his Attorneys. The kidnapping of Morton warmed the already bad blood of the Joneses to murderous heat. According to the confession of Jabez L. Harrison when he was whipped by the Turks, a conspiracy was formed a few days after

Morton was taken off, to kill Hiram K. and Tom Turk. The Joneses of whom Andrew was the leader, engaged the co-operation of their friends and the enemies whom the Turks had made, and about the first of July 1841, Harrison says they met at the house of Archibald Cock and entered into an agreement to kill Hiram K. Turk, a writing being drawn up by Henry Hodge binding them to kill Turk, and to kill any one of the party who should divulge the conspiracy. Harrison says that the following parties entered into the agreement, viz: Andrew Jones, Nicholas Suden, Wm. Brookshire, Milton Hume, John Williams, Henry Hodge, Thomas Meadows, Josiah Keaton, James L. Keaton, John Whittaker, Archibald Cock and Jabez L. Harrison. Mr. Cock, Harrison says, agreed to give Harrison a horse to join in killing the Turks. Justice to Mr. Cock, the Keatons and Mr. Hume, requires the statement here, that they were acquitted of this charge by the Courts. But such a conspiracy was doubtless formed, for on the 17th of July, 1841, Hiram K. Turk was shot from the brush and mortally wounded. He had been attending a law suit at Squire Alex. Breshear's, on Pomme de Terre, and was returning in the afternoon in company with Alex. and Thos. Cox, friends of the Turk's who lived near Judy's Gap, Andrew Turk and E. T. Condley. Andrew Turk was not related to the Turk's, but coming through the county and learning they were of the same name with himself, he stayed with them a while and took a hand in many of their difficulties. The company were riding along a road now disused, running from North Prairie to Judy's Gap through the Breshears prairie. This road passed by the house of Squire Sampson Norton, which is the second house south of Pomme de Terre on the Warsaw and Hermitage road. Here many of the examinations were had during the "Slicker War." About a quarter of a mile west of Norton's while passing up a brushy hollow, Turk and Condley being some distance behind the others, a gun was fired from the brush, Turk's horse sprang forward and Turk fell off, exclaiming "I am a dead man." Mr. Condley while raising him up heard another gun fire, and Jabez Harrison afterwards said that he shot at Condley and would have killed him had he not stooped. The Cox's and Andy Turk ran back in great alarm. Andy Turk started at once to Warsaw for a doctor, and returned after dark with Drs. Tabor and Bush. The others took Turk back to Norton's, where he remained until a few

days before his death, when he was taken home. He died August 10th, 1841. He was shot in the back of the left shoulder, the ball lodging under the right shoulder blade. Dr. Tabor attended him almost daily till his death, receiving for his services \$118.

Circuit Court was in session at the time of Turks death, and Andrew Jones was indicted for the murder, and Milton Hume, Henry Hodge, Jabez Harrison and John Whittaker for conspiring to kill Hiram K. and Thos. J. Turk. Joseph C. Montgomery was foreman of the Grand Jury and Dixon Circuit Attorney. Harrison afterwards confessed that himself, Andy Jones, Henry Hodge and two others were in the brush when Turk was killed, and that Hodge shot him. Andy Jones was tried and acquitted December 9th, 1841, the evidence being insufficient to convict him. Harrison had not yet made his confession. Jones was defended by Hendricks, Otter and Ridgley. Hume's case hung in Court for more than a year, during a large part of which time he was kept in jail, The case against him was dismissed December, 1842, Henry Hodge, Harrison and Whittaker, who were indicted with him having left the country.

When the Turk's failed to convict Andy Jones they resolved to take the law in their own hands, and the Slicker War proper began. They determined to compel a confession as to who killed Hiram K. Turk, and to drive the Joneses and their chief friends from the country. To carry out these objects, Tom. Turk regularly organized a company of his friends to the number of about thirty, and had them sign an agreement. To justify themselves to the public their professed purpose was to drive out horse thieves, counterfeiters and murderers.

While so far as I can learn, none of the Jones party were ever convicted of horse stealing, there were several circumstances which gave much plausibility to this charge against them. In December, 1840, Bird D. Parks of Henry County, had a horse to stray from him, and it was taken up at Mr. Hunts, near Cole Camp. A few days after, Champlangford Carter who ran with the Joneses, claimed the animal and took it to Cole County. Samuel Parks and James Y. Parks brothers of Bird D., followed him, found the horse in his possession, and had him arrested and committed to jail at Warsaw. Andy Jones, Wm. Brookshire and John Thomas, constant associates of each other, and of Carter,

bailed him out. He confessed his guilt by running off. Andy Jones and Jabez Harrison made a pretense of going to Arkansas to bring him back. Harrison got a horse from Arch. Cock for the trip, which he claimed was given him for helping to kill Hiram K. Turk. The habits of Jones and some of his closest friends, also gave color to the charge of horse stealing. They did not stay at home at regular work, but were much of their time absent, and not about any known legitimate business. Soon after Andy Jones was acquitted, B. H. Williams and Joseph Sharp lost a horse apiece, and they were found in the latter part of January, 1842, on Warbleau, under the control of Morgan Trahan another crony of Jones. In pursuing the horses they also found where a deer had been killed, and a knife supposed to belong to Jones lying by it. Jones was known to have spent the night with Trahan, at a house near where the horses were found. About the time these horses were found, Jno. and Moses Owsley came down from Muddy Creek, in Johnson County, in search of stolen horses. They represented that they had been horse racing with Andy Jones and his associate Thomas Meadows on Muddy, and charged Meadows with stealing their horses. I may state here, however, that they afterwards found their horses in Cass County, where they had followed a mare bought from that County. The Owsley's fell in with the Turk company, and all these charges fixing a serious suspicion on Jones and his friends, the Turk's siezed the opportunity to make their attack. Their company was rallied on the 28th of January, 1842. Among the men going with the Turk company or approving it, the following names were prominent: Thomas J. Turk, Nathan Turk, Robert Turk, Andrew Turk, Isam Hobbs, John Hobbs, Jeff. Hobbs, Alex. D. Cox, Thomas Cox, James Cox, Thomas Draffin, Nathaniel Hamilton, James Rankin, Alex. Brown, Robert Brown, Chas. S. Brent, James Jackson, Anslem Jackson, Wm. Norton, James Morton, Alston Gregory, Wm. Evans, Wm. Y. Evans, John Hobaugh, Joseph C. Montgomery, Ben. Miller, Eph. Jamison, and James Mackey. Tom. Turk was leader, and his brothers, the Hobbsses, Coxes, Draffin and Gregory, his most active followers. Mackey was bugler, and got the name "Sore Mouth Mackey" from blistering his lips blowing his horn.

The prominent men of the Jones party were Andrew Jones who was the leading spirit, Samuel Jones, John Jones, Isaac Jones,

Henry Hodge, Thomas Meadows, William Brookshire, Jabez L. Harrison, Loud Ray, Harvey White, Luther White, Nicholas Suden, Julius Sutliff, John A. Whitaker, Milton Humes, Berry Chapman, Jno. W. Chapman, John Thomas, John Williams, James Blakemore, Lee T. Blakemore, Archibald Cock, and Abraham Nowell. Several of these men, among others the last four, were not charged with being engaged with the Joneses in any dishonest operations but were on the Jones side on account of personal hostility to the Turks.

When the Turk company rallied on Friday the 28th of January, 1842, they set out with the avowed purpose of "running all the d——d rascals out of the country." They went down on Pomme de Terre to Andy Jones house about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Owsleys from Henry County were with the company on this expedition. The only men they found at Andy Jones' were John Jones and Berry Chapman. Tom Turk asked John Jones how many men were there to fight them, and on Jones replying none but himself and Chapman, Turk siezed Chapman and they took him a short distance from the house, tied him to a tree and took a vote as to whether they should whip or shoot him. They decided to whip. Turk told Chapman that he and all his friends were counterfeiters, horse thieves and highway robbers, and that they intended to kill all the Joneses, but if Chapman would tell them who killed Hiram K. Turk they would not whip him. Whether he confessed is not known, but they released him without whipping and ordered him to leave the County by next morning, on penalty of death. They left and when night came on they went to the house of Thomas Meadows, who was accused of stealing Owsley's horses. He lived on Pomme de Terre near Andy Jones. I have no detailed account of the visit to his house. They got him out of his house, stripped and tied him to a tree, and whipped him ("slicked" him as they called it,) most unmercifully with hickory withes. By the time they finished the blood was running in a stream six feet from him. He owned that Andy Jones had stolen three horses and three mules, but denied that he stole Owsley's horses. As above stated it was afterwards ascertained that he was guiltless of this charge. My best information is that he died in a short time from the "slicking," though others say he did not. In the latter part of the same night they went to the house of

William Brookshire and slicked him almost as severely as they did Meadows. This seems to have ended their work of Friday night. On Saturday evening they started out from Rankins' mill and went down to Samuel Jones' house, but not finding him at home they went across the Pomme de Terre to North Prairie, to John Wood's Mill. As they approached the mill they saw two men gallop off toward the house of Major James Blakemore, then County Surveyor, who lived on the farm now occupied by Capt. Ben. Reeder. They followed, and after considerable searching found Isaac Jones under the kitchen bed, in Blakemore's house. They took him over to Rankins' mill, abused him, and threatened him, but finally turned him loose about seven o'clock, ordering him to leave the County in ten days. They then went on to the north end of the Twenty-five Mile Prairie, to the house of Luther White, and slicked him. The following is his own account of it, taken from his evidence before E. T. Major, Justice of the Peace :

On the night of January 29, 1842, about half an hour after dark, Thomas J. Turk, Thomas Draffin, Robert Turk, Nathan Turk, N. Hamilton, Thomas Cox, Charles S. Brent, Samuel Brown, Isam Hobbs, John Hobbs, and another Mr. Hobbs, whose name I did not know, Anslem Jackson, William Evans and William Y. Evans, came to my house armed with guns and pistols. Thomas Cox said he wanted to get into my house, and I asked him who he was. He answered that his name was White. I told him that he could not get in. He swore he would get in if he had to break down the door. He said he believed that I had the Joneses there, hid in my house. I told him there was no person there but my own family. He then told me that he had nothing against me, that the Joneses were a set of horse thieves, counterfeiters and murderers, and he believed that I had them hid in my house, and said to me "Mr. White let me in and you shall not be injured. We have nothing against you." I then opened the door and let Cox in, and he examined the house and found no one there but my family. He then took a chair and sat down by the fire, and told me that he and his company had caught Thomas Meadows and given him three hundred lashes, and made him own that Andrew Jones had stolen three horses and three mules; and also, that they had caught William Brookshire, and had given him as many lashes as they had given Meadows, and that they had made Brookshire own who had killed Hiram K. Turk. I asked Cox who it was that had killed Hiram K. Turk. He said that Andrew Jones, Jabez Harrison and Henry Hodge were in the bushes. He also told me they had caught Julius Sutliff, and found a large quantity of counterfeit money on his person. He then got up and stepped towards the door, getting between me and the gun, where it was lying in the rack. He then presented his gun at me and cocked it, and put it against my breast, and called to the boys out side to break the door down quick. They then commenced kicking and knocking against the door. Cox told them to kick down the door, quick, that they would have the d——d rascal. He gave the door a kick from the inside and broke a small chain with which it was fastened, and the door flew open. It opened on the out side of the house. They all then rushed in, and Thomas J. Turk drew out two pistols and cocked them, and said now we have the d——d old news packer. Then as many of them as could get a hold of me, took hold and carried me out of doors. They tied me and took me over to Samuel Browns and kept me there until they could get their supper. While there some

of them roasted hickory withes saying they were for my old back. They then took me near half a mile on the State road, after they left Browns, to William Evans', and there stripped me of my clothes and tied me to a tree, and whipped me. Robert Turk struck me the first four or five licks, then a one eyed man that I did not know commenced, and struck twelve or fifteen licks with a switch. He then stopped about five minutes. The others told him that was not the way to do, and the one eyed man then commenced on me again. I think he struck me about twelve or fifteen licks with the switch and stopped. Thomas J. Turk then said, "lets kill the d——d old son of a b——h," and said that he wanted to blow my brains out. The one eyed man struck me four or five licks more and then they turned me loose, and told me to go home. They said they thought they had made an honest man of me, and told me to keep out of the company of the Joneses, and if I did not leave inside of ten days, that was nothing to what they would give me. I then went home.

After slicking White they went to bed at the house of Judge Montgomery, and other houses in the neighborhood. By sunrise next (Sunday) morning they were at the house of John A. Whitaker, who lived at the first house in the edge of the prairie on the road going from Warsaw to Springfield. They demanded of him to open his house to let them search for horse thieves, counterfeiters and murderers, and told him they were in search of Milton Humes and Jones. He refused to admit them until they promised not to hurt him. Finding no one but the family in the house, Tom Turk insisted on slicking him, saying he thought it was understood before they came that he was to have a brushing. The others refused to consent and they ordered him to leave in ten days under severe penalties. A few days afterward they went to his house again, decoyed him out by pretending to be his friends, and gave him about thirty lashes.

A few days after Meadows, Brookshire and White were whipped, Jabez L. Harrison was at Samuel Browns store, which was on the old road a short distance north of where Wheatland now stands. Old Mr. Cruce who stuttered badly was there, and seeing a company of men coming said to Harrison "y-yonder c-comes them s slickers. Y-y-you'd better l-leave here, y-you d-d-damned r-rascal; t-they'll c-catch you and w-whip you to d-death." But he refused to go, and they took him off near Mr. Whitehead's house and gave him a cruel lashing. In the language of my informant, they "cut him to the hollow." They afterwards said he had the tenderest skin of any man they slicked. It was at this time that they made him confess the plot to kill Hiram K. Turk. A few days after they were slicked, Brookshire and White, who were drinking men, met at Brown's store and while drinking got to talk-

ing about being slicked. White asked Brookshire to let him see his back. On examining it he said to Brookshire with a lisp, that was habitual with him, "Wellth, Billy, they cuth my rindth a heap worse than they didth yourn."

This was all the slicking that was done with the exception of Samuel Yates, who was slicked eighteen months afterwards near Warsaw. These slickings threw the whole County into excitement, and the feeling was so intense that the entire community took sides in sentiment with one party or the other, and many good citizens openly favored each side and gave them aid in their law suits.

As soon as the slicking began the Jones party swore out warrants before Squires Sampson Norton and Alex. Breshers, on Breshers' prairie, and Edward T. Major at Warsaw, against the Turk party, and had nearly all the prominent men bound over. A number of the Jones party were recognized as witnesses against them. The Turk party retaliated by swearing out warrants against several of the Jones party. Andy was bound over on a charge of stealing Jno. Woods' bull and killing him for beef at a Christmas frolic, a few days after he was acquitted of killing Hiram K. Turk. Arch. Cock and the Keatons were arrested on Jabez Harrison's testimony for conspiring to kill Hiram K. Turk. All through the months of February and March, 1842, the parties waged against each other a war of criminal prosecutions. The excitement had grown so great that the militia was called out, under the direction of Col. D. C. Ballou. Capt. John Holloway having had experience in the Black Hawk war, was in command in the field. A number of expeditions were made by the militia to make arrests. In executing the warrant against Andy Jones for stealing the bull, he was pursued through the north end of the Twenty-five Mile Prairie. He took refuge in the house of Horace Dark, and on Alex. Cox, a prominent Turk man, demanding of him to surrender, he fired at Cox and said he would have killed him had not his gun gone off too soon. He was bound over for this assault. A few days after, while the two parties were in Warsaw attending to examinations, Andy Jones drew his Gun on Cox again, in front of Walls old book store, then known as the "Duch Fort," it being a grocery kept by John Mayer and the headquarters of the Jones party. He was bound over for this assault also.

During the excitement of these prosecutions, the two parties came to Warsaw in companies, numbering near a hundred men each, fully armed. But strange to say no serious collision occurred between them. On one occasion the Turks who had their headquarters in what is now the Hastain House, fearing the Joneses were too strong for them, circulated the report that they had a cannon, and thrusting an old stovepipe out at a window put the Joneses to precipitate flight. Many minor altercations took place in town at this time, and subsequently when law suits were going on. Thomas Howser, who sympathized with the Joneses, got into a quarrel with Hobaugh and Mackey, Turk men, cut Hobaugh and was shot by Mackey. Wm. Terry was attacked by Tom. Turk and Isam Hobles and knocked down with a club, in the old Dutch Fort. This house was the scene of nearly all their rows.

After the slicking was over the Turks continued to scour the country, threatening to slick the Jones men, and ordering them out of the country. About this time Jacob Dobkyns was killed, but I am not able to fix the time of his death. The Turks were threatening to whip one Metcalf, who lived in the neighborhood of Quincy, and he requested several of his friends to spend the night with him, among others Dobkyns. During the night a shot was fired through a crack of the door, and Dobkyns instantly killed. It was reported that Robert Turk fired the shot, intending to kill Metcalf. The threats of the Turks, together with the fact that the weight of public sentiment was against the Joneses, drove the chief men among them out of the country, and when the April Court, 1842, came on they failed to appear, and their bonds were forfeited. This practically terminated the "Slicker War" proper, but a number of terrible tragedies growing out of it, took place during the next two years.

At the April Court, 1842, Abraham C. Nowell was tried for the murder of James Turk and acquitted. During the following spring and summer, with the exception of an assault on Arch. Cock by Robert Turk, June 20, but little violence prevailed. During this year and the next, occasional rumors would be circulated that the Joneses were in the country, and the Turks would organize and patrol the country, with considerable demonstrations of violence.

The Turks had been dissatisfied with the acquittal of Nowell, who spent most of his time away from home. In October 1842,

learning that he was at home they secreted themselves near his house, which was three miles north-west of Quincy, on the morning of October 18th, to kill him. On coming out of his house early in the morning to get a bucket of water from a barrel in front of the door, he heard a gun fire and as he raised up to see whence the shot came, another gun fired and he received a bullet near his heart. He staggered back a few steps and fell dead in his door. Four men were seen to run off, and their places of ambush were afterwards found. A daughter of Mr. Nowell, Mrs. John B. Lemon, is still living in this County, and from her I have obtained much information in regard to the Slicker War.

From the killing of Nowell dates the division of the Turkmen among themselves. It is said that Tom Turk fired first at Nowell, and that Isam Hobbs fired the shot that killed him. Hobbs accused Turk of missing him on purpose in order to throw the killing of him on Hobbs. From this grew a bitter quarrel between them, the particulars of which I have been unable to obtain, the indictments against them having been found in Polk County, and the records afterwards destroyed. It seems that the Turks and Hobbs lived, at this time, some distance beyond Quincy. Isam Hobbs was frequently indicted, in Polk, for assaults, and for gambling, as well as for murder. Tom Turk was also probably indicted in Polk. While on his way to Bolivar, as a witness in some case, Jeff. Hobbs was waylaid and killed. This was probably in 1843. In the same year, perhaps, Thomas Draffin was found dead, shot through the head, the shot having entered at his mouth. The Turks buried him as quietly as possible, and reported that he had committed suicide. It was supposed however, that he had been murdered. It is known that he had sent a message to Mrs. Nowell, proposing to see her and tell her who it was that killed her husband, and it was supposed he was killed to prevent this disclosure.

In September 1843, it was reported that Andy Jones was in the country, and Tom. and Robert Turk, and several of their principal followers, came down to Warsaw on the 19th. They rallied at the house of W. L. Vaughn, below Warsaw, with a number of citizens living in the vicinity of Warsaw. At night they went down the river and searched the houses of Elijah Cherry and one Donagho, who lived near where Gray Cook now lives. From there

they went over to the house of Samuel Yates, who lived on the farm now owned by Mrs. Shaver. Deputy Sheriff John B. Ferguson was along, with a writ for Jones. Yates refused to admit them, and the Sheriff becoming satisfied that Jones was not there, he and many others went home. But the Turks and others remained, and just before day, got Yates out of the house by promising not to hurt him. They tied him to a tree and gave him a severe whipping with a cowhide. In the struggle to tie him his wife seized a gun, and would have fired on them had she not been restrained by one of the company. Thirty-eight men including a number of most respectable citizens, were indicted for this affair; among others, Elijah W. Ramsey, Wm. L. Vaughn, Jonathan Martin, John B. Ferguson, George H. Hughes, George Blanton, James Walthall, James Thurman, Billington Johnson, Benj. H. Williams and Wm. Lankford. The case was dismissed as to most of these, it being clear that they were not present, or not active participants. All the others were acquitted, except Jonathan Martin who was fined \$23.10. He thinks he must have been fined because he was the only man who showed any mercy to Yates, having untied him. He appealed to the Supreme Court and the judgment against him was reversed. The Turks were indicted but never tried. A short time after, while Tom. Turk was returning from a blacksmith shop, where he had been to get his horse shod, preparatory to starting for Kentucky, he was way-laid by Isam Hobbs and shot dead. Hobbs was arrested, broke jail, and fled to Potosi, in S. E. Mo.; was re-taken, again escaped from the Bolivar jail, fled to Tennessee and was riddled with bullets and instantly killed, in attempting to escape arrest there.

Nathan Turk followed the Jones to Texas, and Andy Jones, Harvey White, Loud Ray, and perhaps others of the Jones party, were hung there, through his instrumentality, for horse stealing and killing friendly Indians. He himself was killed in an affray at Shrevesport. Soon after the death of Tom. Turk, his mother and her youngest son, Robert, returned to Kentucky. She is said to have deeply deplored the violence of her sons and husband. Her share in this bloody drama is unwritten, but it is hard to conceive of a heavier burden of woe than fell to her lot.