

## The Underwood Vendetta.

[Maysville Eagle.]

It is known that during the war the Underwood family had pretty much their own way in the neighborhood of Olive Hill, in Carter county. But after its conclusion the climate ceased to be healthy for Alfred Underwood, the leader of the party, and he followed Greeley's advice to go West. It has been several times reported that he was dead, had been killed, but it is pretty certain that he is alive, and still a dangerous shot with a rifle. Not long after the war Jesse Underwood became involved in a squabble in a bar room in Bath county, while a circus was going on, which terminated in his killing young Trumbo. He has always said that he shot at another man, and had not the slightest intention of shooting Trumbo, to whom he bore no ill-will. He escaped, and for sometime bid defiance to the authorities in Carter county. Finally he managed to slip out of the State, and resided somewhere he continued for some years. In the winter of 1877 John R. Taber and John Martin were arrested by Marshal Heflin, between Maysville and Cincinnati, charged with horse stealing. Taber had inherited some property from his father, and at one time had been a prosperous merchant in Hillsboro. But a passion for gambling soon caused a disappearance of his means, and it is charged that on several occasions he stepped beyond the line of the law. In 1870 he settled in Morehead, and in 1874 became famous by being charged with having mutilated the records of which he was custodian, as clerk of the circuit court. He was defeated in 1874, became involved in a difficulty with James Carey, which compelled him to leave Morehead, and it was while he was wandering around that the alleged crime of horse stealing was committed. At this time John Martin was under indictment for killing a man named Blair, the brother of Martin's brother's wife, for which he was afterwards acquitted. Taber and Martin were admitted to bail, and pending their trial went to Carter county, rented a few acres of ground from one of the Underwoods and commenced hard work to raise a crop. Some horses were missing that belonged to a man named Stamper, living some miles from the Underwoods, and Taber and Martin were charged with taking them. The Stamper party notified Taber and Martin to leave, and warned the Underwoods not to harbor them. Taber left at once, and it is stated is now in the West. The wife of Martin was sick, so that he could not leave. His family was the guest of one of the Underwoods, who was a second time notified to send John Martin away, the Stampers promising to provide for his wife until she could be removed. His host had now become alarmed, and told Martin he could no longer entertain him. George Lewis Underwood then invited Martin to come to his house, which Martin did. Not long afterwards the same notice was served upon him which he disregarded. And shortly he was shot from an ambush by a concealed murderer, the ball passing through his bowels, and making a hole in his side, through which all his food has since passed, until his death, a few weeks ago. Then commenced the "Carter War." Elvin Underwood and John Martin "took to the bush," and two of the Stamper party were killed. One of the Underwood brothers and one of the partisans were also fired at from the bushes and killed. During all this blood letting Jesse Underwood was in Iowa, but on learning the condition of affairs he returned home to share the fate of his kindred. After matters had become quieted he determined to return to Iowa, and was passing through Lewis county on his way out of the State, when he was pursued by Hiram Warder, the sheriff, with a party to arrest him. After having been himself shot, Jesse returned the fire with a volley that killed poor young Ruggles. He was tried for this in an examining court in Lewis, and acquitted on the ground that the pursuers had no warrant for his arrest and the killing was done in self defense. He was then taken to Bath county to be tried for killing young Trumbo years before. After incarceration for some months in the Owinsville jail he made his escape. It has often been reported that he had left the State; but he has ever since been sojourning in the hills of Carter and Rowan. In June last Elvin Underwood was killed by a shot fired by a concealed assassin. On Sunday, Aug. 24, George Lewis Underwood was brought to the little cemetery about a half mile from Morehead to be laid to rest, having never left his bed of pain since the cruel shot struck him down in his manhood. All the clan came to see him laid away, and Jesse Underwood expressed a desire to come into town. On being assured that he would not be molested, he entered Morehead, and had an interview with Henry L. Stone. He then walked over to the hotel of Jas. Carey, where the writer was sitting and sought an introduction. In his hand he carried a Sharp's rifle, at half cock, with his hand upon the hammer. Around his waist, concealed by his coat, were two Colt's "navies." He was well dressed, with a face smoothly shaved except a heavy black mustache, wore a standing collar and a slouch hat; about thirty-five years of age, weighing not over one hundred and forty pounds, slender, a little stooped in his walk, keen eyed, pleasant manners. He apologized for his rifle, and called it his walking stick, made some inquiry about the stolen records of the county, saying, with a laugh, that he supposed he must have them, and then went over to look at the window sill which had been cut.

We since learn that on Sunday the 8th of September, Squire Holbrook, who led the party which shot George Lewis Underwood, was bushwhacked and killed, and that his son who was with him, states that he recognized Jesse Underwood as the assassin. The next day William Underwood was killed by a concealed assassin—William Underwood being one who has nevertaken any part in the feud.