

DESPERADOES SHOT DEAD.

END OF THE ROWAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, VENDETTA.

A Sheriff's Posse of 150 Men Armed to the Teeth and Bearing Warrants for Craig Tolliver and His Gang Kill Them While Resisting Arrest—Four of the Russians Shot—Beginning of the Feud—Its Result the Death of Twenty-one Men.

LEXINGTON, Ky., June 22.—[Special.]—Craig Tolliver, the leader of the notorious gang which bears his name in Rowan County, and who has been a terror to good citizens, was killed this morning, together with his two cousins, Bud and Jay Tolliver, and Harvey Cooper, while resisting arrest by a Sheriff's posse of 150 men. The bodies of the dead men now lie in a little room adjoining the barroom in the Powers Central Hotel, from which about a week ago Tolliver drove Powers and took possession of his establishment. The work of extermination was done in a manner which meets with the hearty approval of all the good people of Morehead. The leader in the movement was D. B. Logan, who was forced to leave his home in Morehead by the Tollivers. A number of men from Floyd, Fleming, and Rowan had agreed to be members of the Sheriff's posse, and after a committee of five had purchased in Cincinnati a number of Winchester repeating-rifles and ammunition everything was in readiness. A warrant for the arrest of Craig Tolliver for issuing an unlawful warrant for the arrest of the two Logan boys, who were killed a few weeks ago, was obtained. Arrangements were made last night to make, or to attempt to make, the arrest this morning, and by 8 o'clock this morning the posse had arrived on the outskirts of the Town of Morehead. Tolliver had been apprised of their coming, and together with his three cousins, "Andy," "Bud," and "Jay" Tolliver, and James Mannin, Boone Day, Bump Mannin, Cal Tolliver, and a few others, repaired to the Central Hotel, where they took refuge. As soon as the arresting party showed themselves the Tollivers opened fire on them. The fire was returned, and volley after volley belched from the Winchesters and shotguns for half an hour or more. Tolliver, seeing that things were becoming too warm for him, attempted to escape to the woods with "Andy." When about 100 yards from the house twenty or thirty men emptied their guns at them. Craig Tolliver was riddled with bullets, literally blowing him to pieces, but "Andy" escaped to the woods with a slight wound. During the first volley fired Bud Tolliver was mortally wounded, and was carried to a lot near by and concealed in the high grass. After Craig fell Jay Tolliver tried to make his escape by the rear of the hotel. He had only run about twenty yards when a terrible volley was fired at him, blowing his head to atoms. The posse then went into the hotel at the rear while those inside, except Harvey Cooper, went out the front way. Cooper was shot dead as soon as found. The posse next turned its attention to "Bud" Tolliver, who had been hid in the tall grass of the lot. He was soon found and his sufferings were ended with a charge from a double-barreled shotgun, by which the top of his head was blown off. This ended the fight and the work of gathering up the bloody corpses of the men who have so long defied the law was begun. In the room where they now lay are a few of the relatives of the dead men. The floor is almost a pool of blood and brains. Craig Tolliver leaves a widow and two little children, "Jay" was unmarried, "Bud" leaves a widow and one little child. Cooper was married also.

Today's good work ends the succession of tragedies that have been enacted in that county since the beginning of the Martin-Tolliver feud, not quite two years ago, the result of which up to date has been the sending of twenty-one souls into eternity; the maiming and crippling for life of at least a score more of persons; the destruction of all social relations and of nearly the entire business interests of the county, and the bringing about of a state of lawlessness and terrorism that has driven good men with their families away from home and friends to seek new homes in other parts of the country, where they might live without being in constant fear of their lives. In the August, 1884, election, after a heated contest, Cook Humphreys was elected Sheriff of Rowan County by 47 majority over Sam Goodwin. During the canvass many animosities were engendered—the Martins allying themselves with Humphreys' and the Tollivers with Goodwin's cause. Craig Tolliver, the leader of the latter faction, whose name in Kentucky has grown as notoriously familiar as was that of Jesse James in Missouri several years ago, swore after the election that no Republican should ride Rowan County as Sheriff. Since that date life after life has been offered up on the altar of hatred and bad blood with increasing frequency, despite the best efforts of the judiciary and militia, backed by the strong arm of the State Government. The names of the victims in the order killed are as follows:

Solomon Bradley, John Martin, Whit Pelfrey, B. Caudelle, Deputy Sheriff Baumgardner, Mason Keeton, John Marlow, John Davis, Wiley Tolliver, a railroad employe named Witcher, Willie Logan, Ben Rayburn, John Day, Floyd Tolliver, and a person whose name is not remembered, besides the two recent victims, John B. Logan and W. H. Logan, and today's last, Craig Tolliver, Bud Tolliver, Jay Tolliver, and Harvey Cooper.

Only one man belonging to the posse was wounded in the fight today, Dr. Brown. He was shot in the thigh, but not fatally. This will probably settle the feud, as there are not enough Tolliver men to keep the fight up now that their leader is gone. Catosby Tolliver, a 16-year-old brother of Craig, made a brave fight. He had a pistol, and with it fired a number of times at the men who were after his brother. On account of his youth the posse spared him, and he only received a slight wound in the side.