

Township. They were tried at the May term of the Circuit Court 1878, found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to the penitentiary for fourteen years.

LITTLE MINE RIOT.

On Wednesday, June 6, 1894, occurred the most serious riot ever known in Tazewell County.

Peter and Edward Little, brothers, had been coal-mine operators in Peoria County, but had leased what was then known as the Hilliard Mine near Wesley City. They had placed improved machinery in the works, to which objection was made by the miners, as many of them were thereby thrown out of work. The miners in Peoria County had been on a strike for sometime, and the fact that coal was being taken daily from the Hilliard Mine seemed to be a source of aggravation. The result was that threats by the strikers to close their mine came to the ears of the Littles, and they prepared for trouble by storing guns and ammunition in the tower which overlooked the valley below. On June 15th, Sheriff J. C. Friederich received the following telegram from Ed. Little: "The miners are coming tomorrow, five hundred strong, and armed. Be on hand early." Sheriff Friederich and Deputy Frings swore in about thirty deputies. They could secure no weapons worthy of mention, and, consequently, went up unarmed. In the meantime about three hundred miners assembled on the opposite side of the river, and nearly all armed with guns, pistols and other deadly weapons. They crossed the river in boats, and under the leadership of John L. Geher, an ex-member of the Legislature, marched to the mine. The sight of the mine in operation seemed to enrage them beyond control, and they started on a run for the works. They were met by the Sheriff, who asked them to abstain from violence, and commanded them to disperse. They brushed the sheriff and his deputies aside, and began firing in the tower. The assault was replied to by the Littles, striking a miner by the name of Edward Flower, who fell dead. In the tower were the Little brothers, William Dickson, colored, Charles Rockey and John Fash. Seeing that resistance was useless, they ran out a flag of truce. Both the Littles and James Little, a son, were

wounded. Dickson attempted to escape but was followed and shot several times, was taken to a Peoria hospital and died there. The miners completed the work of destruction by pouring coal oil down the shaft and setting fire to it. Some eleven men were working in the mine at the time, but all succeeded in making their escape.

Responsibility for this outbreak was claimed by the miners to rest on the Littles. Their version of the affair was that they had made repeated attempts to settle with the Littles peaceably, but had given it up; that one of the Littles had said he could control the whole gang with a six-shooter, and they were determined to show him that he couldn't. The Littles claimed that they had a right to run their business with machinery, if they wanted to do so, without any interference on the part of anybody.

This outbreak created intense excitement in Pekin, and throughout the county. The Sheriff reported the facts to the Governor and asked for arms and requested the Sheriff of Peoria county to assist him in making arrests of those who had lived in, or had fled to, that county. No arms were available. On June 7th Major Cabinas and a company of State Militia from Galesburg, and one from Bloomington and Lincoln, arrived on the scene with orders to report to Sheriff Friederich. A company of guards was organized composed of citizens of Pekin for the protection of the town, as threats had been made by the striking miners to release those of their number who had been arrested and placed in jail. The militia companies remained on duty for about a week, and were then ordered home. By order of the Board of Supervisors a hundred Remington rifles were purchased for use in such emergencies, and have since remained the property of the county, in charge of the Sheriff. The miners were advised by an attorney in their employ not to attempt to rescue those who were in the jail, and the excitement soon died away.

At the September term of Court, 1894, John L. Geher and Daniel Caddell, John Heathcote, and one Jones, alleged to have been the leaders of the raid, were tried on an indictment for murder and conspiracy, and were sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at Joliet, but were pardoned by Gov.

Altgeld after an imprisonment of something more than a year.

The Littles afterwards filed a claim for damage to their property and business with the Board of Supervisors, and were awarded damages to the amount of \$7,710.69, which, including the expenses of the trial, and attorney's fee in the case, the purchase of the 100 Winchesters, making the total expense to the county of this riot between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

Albert Wallace.—On February 19, 1895, Albert Wallace, who lived with his brother-in-law, John C. Bowlby, on the old Andrew Wallace homestead in Dillon Township, fatally shot his sister, Mrs. Belle Bowlby, and seriously wounded his brother-in-law and Lawrence Lyman, the hired man.

There had been some talk of contesting the will of their father, Andrew Wallace, who was killed by James Connell in self-defense in April, 1890, and who had bequeathed his estate to his daughter, Mrs. Bowlby. This fact had led to bickering between Mr. and Mrs. Bowlby and Albert Wallace, who made frequent demands for money, and when refused, is said to have made threats against Mr. and Mrs. Bowlby.

On the night of the tragedy the family had gathered in the sitting room after supper. Mr. Bowlby was lying on the lounge and his wife and Lyman were sitting near. A young woman living with them was playing the piano and Wallace was singing. About 9 o'clock Wallace stepped out of doors and was heard to walk around the house; the next moment a gun was discharged through the window. Bowlby, whose hand was on his forehead, had several fingers blown off and a number of shot entered his head. Mrs. Bowlby sprang and opened the door, when she was shot in the stomach. Lyman was shot twice in the leg, and was badly burned in the face by the powder.

After the shooting Wallace took a neighbor's horse, came to Pekin and surrendered to Sheriff Stout, and when asked to state what the matter was, replied: "You will find out later." On the next day he was bound over to the grand jury in the sum of \$1,500, in default of which he was sent to jail. Mrs. Bowlby died on February 21st, two days after the shooting. The hired man, Lyman, eventually recov-

ered with the loss of one eye, and Mr. Bowlby also got well.

Wallace, the murderer, was indicted at the following term of court. His trial took place in September the same year. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang on October 28, 1895. The counsel for the defendant appealed the case to the Supreme Court, insisting that the defendant had not been legally sentenced. The contention of the counsel for the defense was sustained, and the case was reversed and remanded for proper sentence; and, at the following February term, the sentence of death was ordered carried out on the 14th day of March. On that day a stockade was erected in the Court House yard adjoining the jail building on the west, where the execution took place. Wallace went to his death without a tremor, and paid the full penalty of the law for one of the most revolting crimes known in the criminal history of Tazewell county.

George W. Smith.—July 1, 1895, Louis Perrill was shot and killed by his father-in-law, George W. Smith. Perrill lived on a farm adjoining that of Smith, in Dillon township. The men had been at enmity for some time over various matters. On the day of the tragedy Perrill was returning from Dillon, and Smith, concealed in a wood shed, was lying in wait for him. As Perrill came within range, Smith fired from his place of concealment and Perrill dropped dead in the road. Smith shot him the second time as he lay in the road, where the coroner found him when the inquest was called. Smith went to Delavan and gave himself up. He claimed that Perrill had frequently threatened him and, at the time of the tragedy, he claimed that before he fired, Perrill made a movement as if he intended to draw a pistol, Perrill, however, was known to be a peaceable fellow, and not inclined to quarrel unless when under the influence of liquor. There was no evidence to show that he was drinking that day. Smith and his wife, Susan, were duly indicted for murder, and at the first trial of the case, at the February term of court, 1896, Smith was found guilty and punishment fixed at death by the jury. His wife was acquitted. A new trial was granted, however, and one year from the first conviction, at the second trial of the case, Smith was acquitted.

James Lane.—On the 10th day of March,