

Dreadful Tragedy in Baldwin County, ALA

Thursday, July 29, 1875

A Neighborhood Vendetta Fought Out!

DREADFUL TRAGEDY IN BALDWIN
COUNTY, ALA.

Partial report of a terrible occurrence near the line of the Mobile and Montgomery Railroad reached us by telegraph from the Junction on Tuesday morning, but we could learn nothing definite. Yesterday we were called upon by Mr. W. J. Van Kirk, of Millvue, a Surveyor who was on duty near the scene of the tragedy, but not a witness to its occurrence. He visited the battle ground, however, was present at the funeral of the victims, and gave us an intelligent report of the dreadful affair.

Greenberry Bryers and James Hadley, two men of considerable means and both large owners of stock, had been at feud for some years in consequence of misunderstandings caused by the intermixing of their cattle which "used" in the same range. On Monday Bryers, Sr., with his son Larry, was plowing about 150 yards from the house when Hadley Sr. accompanied by a party of five others comprising his son "Dink," two other sons, and his sons-in law Bud Pricher and Thos. Stewart, all armed with shot guns, rode up near the fence and said they had "come to settle the matter." Bryers and his son were un-armed, but the father, after some angry words had been exchanged, caught up a piece of pine root, a foot and a half long, and getting over the fence, his son following him, advanced toward the party. As he approached them, he was shot down and instantly killed, and his son who ran to his father as he fell was instantly killed. Joseph Bryers then came out of the house with a double barrel shot gun, but both barrels missed fire and he was shot dead. Meanwhile Dink Hadley rode toward the house, sprang from his horse, and got behind a pine tree to await the coming of another son, John Bryers, who advanced from the house under fire with two guns. He dropped one of them and sprang to a post in the road which did not shelter more than a third of his person and exchanged fires with Dink Hadley about thirty yards off, the rest of the attacking party meanwhile firing on him from a distance. At his second fire Hadley fell, and attempted to reload, but seeing Bryers run back and get his other gun he scrambled upon his horse and rejoined his party and rode away with them, John firing into them as they left and wounding old Hadley in the shoulder. Dink Hadley's wound was in the knee. John was wounded in the head, arm and foot, but not dangerously. Three shot struck the post by which he stood. While the fight was going on near the house, Wylie, the youngest son of the Bryers family, ran to where his father and brother Larry had fallen and was shot down, the wound being in the thigh and dangerous. The summary of the affair is a father and two sons murdered and two sons wounded, on one side; and on the other, a father and one son wounded. We are told that Mr. Bryers was much respected being a leading man in religious affairs in the neighborhood, and that Hadley had always been

deemed a respectable person. The dead were buried on Tuesday, a large assemblage being present. No inquest was held it "not being thought necessary, the facts of the crimes being so plain."

Tuesday a posse of men, provided with warrants for the arrest of the murderers, went to the Hadley settlement but found their residences deserted. The locality of these occurrences is near the Florida line, four miles west of Perdido station, or about midway between the Junction and Tensas bridge.