

Election debates cause 1904 brawl

No one could ever accuse Monroe Countians of being casual when it comes to politics. Stories about rowdyism at pre election rallies, charges of vote-buying and hand-to-hand combat during arguments are part of the fabric of the political history of this area.

A case in point was a near-riot in November of 1904. In reporting the fracas in its Nov. 8 issue, the *Bloomington Telephone* got right down to the bottom line by informing its readers, "Because of campaign whiskey and quarreling among themselves over politics, four brothers and their father — the David family from Benton Township east of town — all but created a riot late Saturday afternoon."



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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The argument began in the alley at the rear of the Urmey & Kinser store at the northeast corner of the square. Two of the David boys, whose names were James, George, John and Martin, were arguing about two candidates for a particular office.

Apparently someone was sufficiently alarmed to put in a call for

the police, answered in the form of Officer Theodore Moore. He suggested the young men calm down or leave town. Although they started to walk away, the argument flared up again.

Continued the *Telephone*. "The officer arrested one of the brothers and started to jail, when the others interfered and Moore was struck over the head with a rock, cutting an ugly gash, two inches long, on his head." Nevertheless, Moore stood his ground and with a billy club held off the angry men who were attacking him "from all sides."

It is not clear whether any Election debates cause 1904 brawl

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