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during the search for him, he slept in his own bed, and scurried for safety when his family had visitors.

Bland's freedom could have been for an indefinite length of time had it not been for the human failing of a so-called friend. According to the History, the hiding place was revealed by someone "for the price" of a saddle."

There is avidence that evenduring Bland's freedom his attorneys were not idle. Their first legal maneuver was the most obvious one — a motion for a new trial. The basis for the motion was a "clarification" of trial testimony given by the deceased's (William Walker's) widow.

Incredibly, Polly Bland, reported that Letty Walker had said that, "she was sorry that she swore what she did ... that if said Hiram was tried again he would not be hung or go to the penitentary," and that her husband was every bit as much at fault for his own death.

The court records indicate that considerable care was given to ensure Bland's rights were protected. But a puzzing part of that same record shows that immediately after the death of Walker, Bland had been concerned about whether the initial investiga-

shows unhe death of Walker, pand been concerned about whether the initial investigation would be thorough indicate the death tion

tion would be thorough enough to indicate the death resulted from a family feud that got out of hand.

After Bland's motion for a new trial was denied, his attorneys pressed the appeal of the case to the state supreme court. Those who assembled for the appointed hanging date in April 1851 were relieved or disappointed, when Gov. Joseph Wright issued a stay of execution to give the court one more chance to look at all of the proceedings.

According to the History, the scaffold was erected on the Bloomfield property of Peter C. Vanslyke, where a depot later stood. The history relates that Bland "expiated his crime on the gallows on the 13th day of June, 1851.

The history further philosophizes that Bland's impatience to get the trial over with was an error in judgment that cost him his life. "If the advice of Major Livingston (one of his autorneys) had been taken, and the case had been continued one term, the probabilities are that, after the first burst of excitement abated, the jury would have sent him to state prison for life."

Two particularly interesting aspects of the case remain. Hearsey about the case.

particularly interest-g aspects of the case re-ain. Hearsay about the case dicates that McIntosh, the eriff, was a bit squeamish out hanging his brother-in-w. McIntosh's wife was re-ted to have self aus brother tosh's wife was have said, "If I will."

law. Mcintosh's wife was re-puted to have said, "If you can't do it, I will."

A curious stipulation in the agreement about the location of the scaffold was that after the hanging it remain in place until it decayed and fell apart. And se it did.