

Different end to Axom story

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doctor was summoned to the farmhouse, and was quoted as having said he didn't expect Axom to live. Helensburg, meanwhile, decided it was time to take his leave of the Axom Branch Church vicinity and go back to Polk Township.

Why was he in Brown County and at that particular location in the first place? The *Weekly Courier* suggested that the argument between the two men had been brewing for some time. "An old grudge between the men, strengthened by the quarrel last night, is supposed to have been the cause of the trouble."

The newspaper then ventured further into the murky no-man's-land between truth and fiction by reporting that "Sampson Axom . . . is said to have had a bad reputation. A warrent is out for his arrest on an old grand jury indictment."

Well, mortally wounded victims sell more newspapers than slightly wounded ones. Axom didn't die after all, and Helensburg, despite advice to the contrary from his father, skipped the county.