

Argument between men's daughters led to bizarre gun battle in 1905

It was one of those things that shouldn't have happened, but it did. On April 10, 1905, Jacob Hartman and James Terrill fought a gun duel on North Jackson Street in what was called "Maple Heights." In all, 10 shots were fired, and the loser was Terrill, who later died of a wound in his liver.

Actually, the extraordinary shootout was the result of bad blood between the children of the two men. The *Bloomington Telephone* reported to its readers that "The trouble between the children of the two families seems to have been one of long standing and there has been ill feeling for some time. The stories of the two girls over whom their father's fought differ widely."

It is unlikely that very many of the *Telephone's* readers were discouraged by the latter muddy prose, and they were to read on and discover that the reporter apparently interviewed everyone concerned



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By Rose McIlveen

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except the family dogs. We are, however, indebted to the newspaper for the children's explanations. Pearl Hartman, age 15, told the *Telephone* reporter, "The trouble between Licia Terrill and I has been going on for about two years. She has often tried to pick a quarrel with me, and constantly worried me, sometimes going so far as to throw stones and missiles at me." On the day of the shooting, Pearl claimed that Licia, who was 12 going on 15, stepped on her heels and Pearl retaliated by slapping her. The argument deteriorated

into hair-pulling. Added Pearl, "That's all I know about it and I never started any trouble with anybody."

Pearl did tell her father. Meanwhile, when Licia's father came home from work, she told him that Jacob Hartman had threatened to slap her.

Thereafter some discrepancies appear in the accounts of eyewitnesses. Understandably, Hartman's son said Terrill came charging out of his house, calling Hartman vile names, and fired first. Before dying, Terrill told his wife that after they exchanged insults and threats, Hartman fired first.

It would interesting to know why either man happened to have a gun on him at the time. Hartman, a truck farmer, and his son were on their way into Bloomington to deliver some produce. Hartman said, "A

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