

Man found guilty in levee murder case

Self-defense was the legal tactic taken by John Stewart's lawyers. John Register and George Henley, in the levee murder case of February 1915. The *Bloomington Telephone* informed its readers that it was young Henley's very first murder trial.

Prior to the presentation of evidence, the attorneys and prosecutors Joseph K. Barclay and John O'Donnell had to wrestle with the problem of the selection of a jury relatively acceptable to all parties. Nearly a whole day was taken up with the process, 11 of the first batch of prospective jurors having been excused for one reason or another. The men finally agreed upon were Moses Ryan, Isaac Sutphin, Robert Hunt, James Kerr, William Hemphill, Emery Thompson, William Graves, B. Wampler, Ogel Breeden, N.T. Shaw, J.N. Royer and Levi Fyffe.



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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Apparently trial-attending was exclusively a male pastime in those days. The *Telephone* of Feb. 9 noted that "With two women and three hundred men spectators in the court room this morning, John Stewart went on trial for murder in the Monroe County court. The two women were his mother and his sister . . . and they sat on the defense side of the court room with Stewart and his attorneys . . ."

Oddly enough, the bulk of the

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