

# Stabbing disrupted Brown County social affair in 1905

At the turn of the century, sometimes the more sensational "doings" in surrounding counties made front-page news in Bloomington papers. A Brown County social event that went very wrong is a good example.

The Strode family, who lived two miles north of Georgetown, had planned a nice affair. Many parties at that time featured oysters on the menu, and the Strode party was no exception.

What went amiss was that Andrew Henry, age 22, and Brazilla Rund, age 18, were each trying to secure the affection of a particular young woman, and the rivalry took a violent form.

Up to the point in time when the guests were beginning to leave, the party had been very pleasant. The argument between Henry and Rund was about which one would escort



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

the woman to her home.

As the discussion became more heated, the two men adjourned to the front porch to, as the *Bloomington Evening World* of Jan. 25, 1905, said, "get away from the crowd." At first, they were throwing punches at each other, but the argument accelerated to the point when such blows were not enough.

Related the *World*, "... it is said that Henry drew a long-knife and plunged it into the heart of his rival. The latter's cries for help

brought the other guests to the outside, but Henry had disappeared in the darkness."

As if the stabbing wasn't enough to cause a serious problem of etiquette for the bewildered host and hostess, they suddenly found that they had other injured guests on their hands. Explained the newspaper, "In the stampede that followed the cutting affray, two young women in the party fell downstairs and were badly injured."

If the Strodes thought Henry was going to stay around to explain his behavior, they were mistaken. Brown County is noted for its hills, and presumably the accused took advantage of the terrain to escape detection.

By this time the Strodes had notified the two most important parties who needed to be involved: a doctor

and the county sheriff. "The assailant escaped and had not been apprehended at midnight, though the Sheriff and a posse of angry farmers are scouring the hills for him."

Meanwhile, those who were concerned about Rund had some very anxious moments, because he was "bleeding profusely." Continued the *World*, "Physicians were hurriedly summoned, but did not arrive for several hours."

The medical opinion was very unfavorable. To begin with, the knife had passed close to Rund's heart. Equally life-threatening was the bleeding. He had a bad cold, and it was feared that his coughing would keep reopening the wound.

Was Henry brought to justice and did Rund recover from his wound? As in the case of so many stories sensationalized by the newspapers

at that time, there are only partial answers.

Henry wasn't able to hide in the hills for long. Brown County court papers indicate that he was picked up by the law within 24 hours and charged with "feloniously, purposely and with premeditated malice, in a rude, insolent manner, unlawfully touch, strike, cut, stab and wound Brazilla Rund."

Apparently Henry got a speedy trial, because his attorney asked for a new one as early as April, 1905, on the grounds that Rund was carrying a revolver. There was a witness who would swear to that, and Henry had a good chance of going free.

Rund testified in the first trial, at least. How long he lived is not clear. There is no record of his death in Brown County, and he did not appear in the 1910 census.