

# 'Good old days' were full of hazards, papers indicate

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ed first that if any grand juror would not do his duty on this point, to stand aside . . . It has been charged in newspapers that at a recent primary election votes were bought for 75 cents each. Let the men who published such charges be brought before you, and either establish such facts, or admit that it is

a false charge only published as a sensation."

Two whipping cases reported in the single edition of the *Telephone* during April of 1902 sounded strikingly similar, as though one had been reported over the new telephone line to Unionville. A woman in that vicinity claimed she had been beaten by Whitecappers for alleged mistreatment of her teen-aged daughter. That woman was

listed as Mrs. Sarah Pricer, widow of Robert Pricer. Six men were involved. In another part of the *Telephone* there is an article about Mrs. Dulcea Pryor of Marion Township, widow of Robert Pryor, who was beaten by six men for alleged mistreatment of her teenaged daughter. Whether they were the same case is less important than the fact that in the "good old days" there were persons who arrogantly

took the law into their own hands. The latter woman, incidentally, pressed charges and the following men were arrested: William Crod-dy, George Shively, John Tincher, Gilbert Thompson, James Mann and John Shively.

Perhaps the most sensational news of those days was the investigation and indictment of both the Monroe County prosecutor and the mayor of Bloomington for accepting

compensation for favorable treatment of persons accused of crime. The cases seem to have been triggered by, of all things, the theft of a horse and buggy from the Bloomington square, a lark, perpetrated by a teenager from the country. The *Telephone* had a field day with the reporting of the whole proceedings.

Next week: The trial of the prosecutor.