

Visit in the night Maple Grove mystery

"A MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR," said the headline in the Sept. 19, 1883, edition of the *Bloomington Republican Progress*. The headline proved to be prophetic, for the newspaper's readers, at least.

According to the *Progress*, Clinton Houston, who lived in the area known as Maple Grove northwest of Bloomington, was awakened by what seemed to him like the sound of someone trying to break into his house. In fact, once he was completely awake, he heard a rattling at his front door.

Houston prudently picked up his shotgun on the way to the front of the house, where he "threw up the lower sash and, turning the slats of the shutter,



Looking back

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asked, "Who is there?" No one replied, but Houston could see a man wearing a white duster, standing about 12 feet from the window.

The Progress dramatically continued, "... nearer the window and to the right, was another man, and both carried revolvers in their hands (the moon was shining brightly); out in front of

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