

Group deprived man of his civil rights in 1893

"No person . . . shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law . . . " Amendment V, the U.S. Constitution.

The framers of the U.S. Constitution were bent on protecting citizens from the potential tyranny of government. What was also implied, but not stated, was the importance of protecting citizens from each other, if necessary.

In the spring of 1893, some angry men of Seymour, who had either forgotten their history lessons or thought the ideals of the Constitution were not all that binding, violently deprived two men of their civil rights. Both apparently were guilty, but were never proven so in court.

The case of one of the men began on May 10 of that year. That's when John Turley, who lived in River Vale, got on an Ohio & Mississippi Railroad train with his father and tried to use a pass belonging to



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someone else: When conductor Lou Price of Seymour refused to honor it, Turley's father paid the fare.

What happened next is somewhat incomprehensible. According to a report sent from Mitchell to the *Bloomington Telephone*, young Turley followed Price through the train and shot the conductor twice in the back.

From the law's standpoint, there was no doubt about Turley's guilt. The information from Mitchell included a detail that would have been crucial to the prosecution: "He (Turley) raised the revolver to shoot the third time, but was

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