

# Monroe Countians really took politics seriously in 1890s

## Elections, from page A1

left. They rubbed boards along the outside of the schoolhouse, making enough noise to drown out the speakers, who gave up in exasperation.

Commented the *Telephone*. "A statement of the facts is all that is necessary for people in a community like this, regardless of party, to draw their own conclusions, and the fact that such an outrage has been perpetrated twice within a week in the same vicinity, seems like both affairs have been premeditated."

It is unlikely that Monroe Countians were surprised by the voting fraud in Polk Township in the same year. Some creative vote tallying had been committed on the returns. Even in the pale light of the Courthouse, it appeared to the counters that the original total for county assessor candidate Robert Camp-

bell had been scratched off with a knife and another figure substituted for it. Combined with a total error in Perry Township, Campbell appeared to have won by one vote over his Democratic opponent, John D. Morgan. An embarrassed Campbell withdrew from the race.

A disgruntled anonymous letter-to-the-editor writer who lived in Harrodsburg complained that, "Clubs were openly carried around the streets on Election Day and threats made freely to use them. Have we got anarchists in our midst?"

Perhaps the most striking example of how seriously Monroe Countians took their politics in those days was the occasion when a young man lost his nose instead of his head in a political argument in Washington Township.

**Next week: The bizarre Washington Township case.**