

# Verdict doesn't end story

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**Verdict, from page A8**

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Warren Bland indicated by his testimony that he did not actually see the stabbing, but that when he first saw the fight, walker was chasing Bland.

At the point the court reporter inserted a detail which the courtroom by-standers would have known. Warren Bland was the brother of the deceased Walker's wife. That he was testifying for the defendant might have been regarded as a kind of conflict of interest.

Nevertheless, Hiram Bland's lawyers had put him on the stand for two good reasons: he testified that he didn't see the actual stabbing, and, more importantly, he later found a half-broker club on the site of the fight.

Bland's attorneys' efforts to save him from a first degree murder conviction were to no avail. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. The hanging was to take place on the 15th day of November.

But Bland's desire to live was stronger than the Greene County jail. He had the leisure during October to give some thought to how he might escape the hangman's noose.

According to the Greene County history, "On the 28th of October, 1850, at night, the defendant broke jail and escaped. The courthouse "watchers" may have thought Bland was clear out of the area by the time his escape was discovered, but they were wrong.

*Next week: The end of the story.*