

Family feud winds up in fight, court case

"Modesto is fast putting on metropolitan airs. The little hamlet way up in Washington Township had hardly recovered its normal condition caused by recent white capping outrages until its citizens were thrown into another paroxysm of excitement yesterday by a serious cutting affray in which Robert Baugh, his brother, Fred Baugh, and Silas Hartman, all young men about 20 years of age, figured as principals" - *Bloomington Telephone, Jan. 9, 1897.*

The Bloomington Telephone article intimated that there had been a pre-existing feud among the offspring of the Baugh and Hartman families. If the serial numbers of the households in the census taker's book are any indication of the proximity of their homesteads, the Baughs and Hartmans were neighbors. There, however, the similarity between the two families stopped. Thomas Baugh, the father of Fred and Robert, was



Looking back

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born in Indiana of parents who came from Virginia and North Carolina. Silas Hartman's father, Levi, was a relative newcomer to Monroe County from Pennsylvania.

Two separate court actions were involved after Robert Baugh severed Silas Hartman's nose in an argument about the political issue of free silver. The latter's survival in a time of less fastidious antiseptic standards was perhaps a wonder. But the Drs. Harris were not cosmetic surgeons and Hartman sought the assistance of the court in the matter of how he looked when

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