

## **Martin County Mysteries, Mayhem, and More . . . . .**

### **PART II**

Part II of this series starts in the Tenhassen woods during the 1860s and involves a fierce fight. From the Tenhassen woods we move on to Sherburn and witness a daring bank robbery. Following the Sherburn bank robbery is an account of a cold blooded murder in Martin County, and finally, an attempted robbery of the former Red Owl store in Fairmont involving gunfire at the police who were giving chase.

The review of local legends couldn't be complete without including the famed "Carver-Tuttle Fight of 1862." Legend has it that Sam Carver, a huge, stern character with a booming voice decided to settle in the vicinity of "Tuttle's Grove" in 1860. He was soon met by Calvin Tuttle who made it very clear that this was his land and that Carver should move on. Later, Tuttle and his two sons returned to Carver's camp again telling him to leave. Tuttle's threats continued and, finally, in 1862, he made a vow that if Carver could beat him in a fair fight, Tuttle and his family would depart leaving his entire "empire" to Carver. Consequently, the battle was staged in a clearing in the Tenhassen woods that resembled a natural amphitheater.

Both men agreed to a fair fight, however, as Carver raised his arms to remove his jacket Tuttle abruptly smashed him in the face. Carver, having his arms caught in his jacket sleeves, finally freed one arm and punched Tuttle in the groin. From that point on, nothing was barred and the fight continued with fists, fingernails, and teeth used as weapons. The brawl continued for an hour until Tuttle rushed Carver with his head down. Carver stepped aside, Tuttle hit the ground, and Carver jumped on top of him punching him until he screamed for mercy. Carver emerged the undisputed winner and was hailed by the settlers as a local hero as they all feared Tuttle. The Tuttle's kept their word, they loaded their wagons, and they moved west shortly after the fight. Ironically, it was reported years later that a Tuttle boy married a Carver girl. Apparently the feud had ended.

The Bank of Sherburn was the scene of a brazen robbery in 1896. Two brothers held up the bank at gunpoint and staged their daring getaway on bicycles. They shot and killed two people in the bank before making off with between \$1,000.00 and \$2,000.00. A posse was quickly formed and soon located one of the criminals in a farmhouse east of Elmore. A shootout ensued in which that robber eventually committed suicide, but not before mortally wounding Bancroft Sheriff Gallion. The second robber was apprehended in Lake Mills, Iowa. Upon being captured, he was quick to state that his brother was responsible for killing the two people in the Bank of Sherburn.

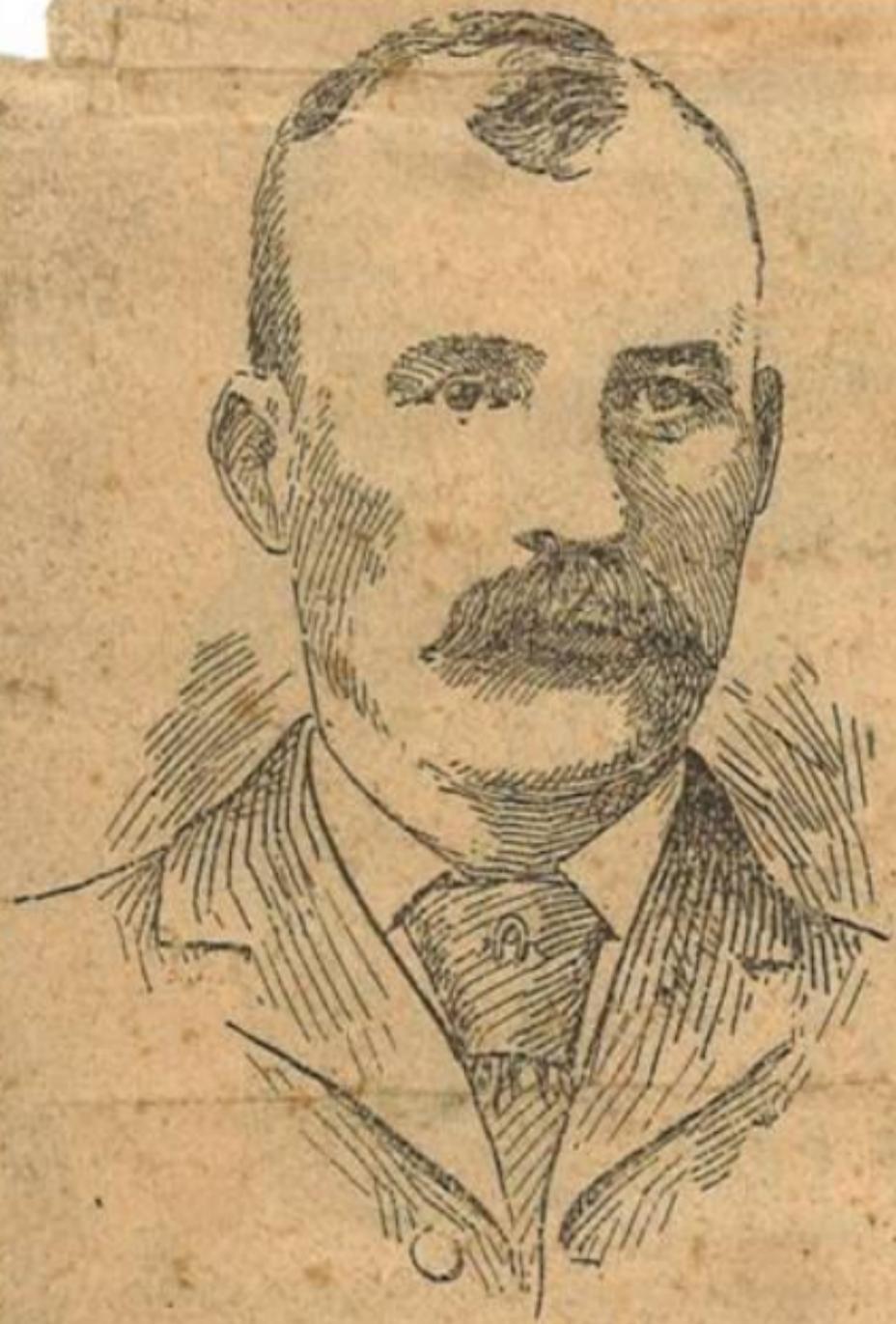
In January of 1895, Martin County experienced a horrific murder. S. J. Hotelling, who had married Flora Whitney in 1894, entered Flora's parents' home. He proceeded to

shoot and kill Flora's father. He then shot and killed his wife, Flora, who also happened to be his cousin. Flora's younger sister, Julia, managed to escape through a small opening in the floor of the cellar. Hotelling was later cornered in his home by the police. However, rather than surrendering, Hotelling chose to kill himself with a single gunshot. It was estimated that it would cost about \$150.00 to make the necessary repairs to the house as a result of the 300 gun shots that struck the house during the standoff.

Finally, there was the attempted Red Owl grocery heist in 1955. Fairmont police were called to the Red Owl store on Lake Avenue where a suspected burglary was in progress. Upon arriving at the scene, two Fairmont patrolmen were fired at by the alleged burglars. Police followed the 1950 Ford the burglars were driving to a spot near the Railway Motors warehouse. The burglars exited their car and ran near the warehouse being closely followed by the policemen and two civilians that joined in the chase. The robbers fired at the police and the police returned fire. However, they were unable to apprehend the suspected thieves. The police later found an abandoned Oldsmobile the burglars had subsequently stolen and used for their getaway.

Watch the Photo Press for Part III of Martin County Mysteries, Mayhem, and More . . . .

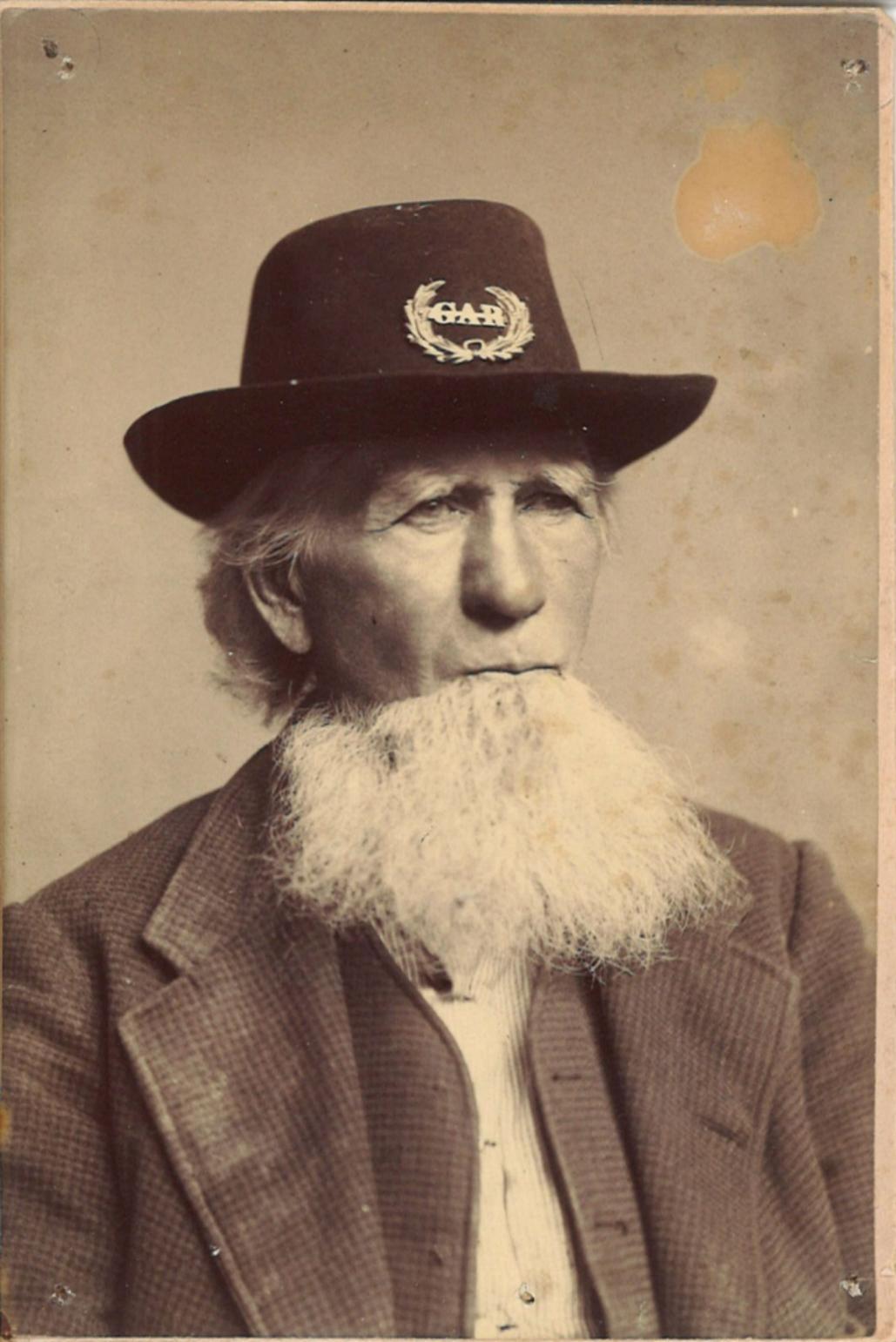
For more information on this topic, or to become a member, visit the Pioneer Museum in Fairmont.



**S. J. HOTELLING, THE MURDERER.**



MRS. S. J. HOTELLING, THE MURDERED WIFE.



SAMUEL CARVER

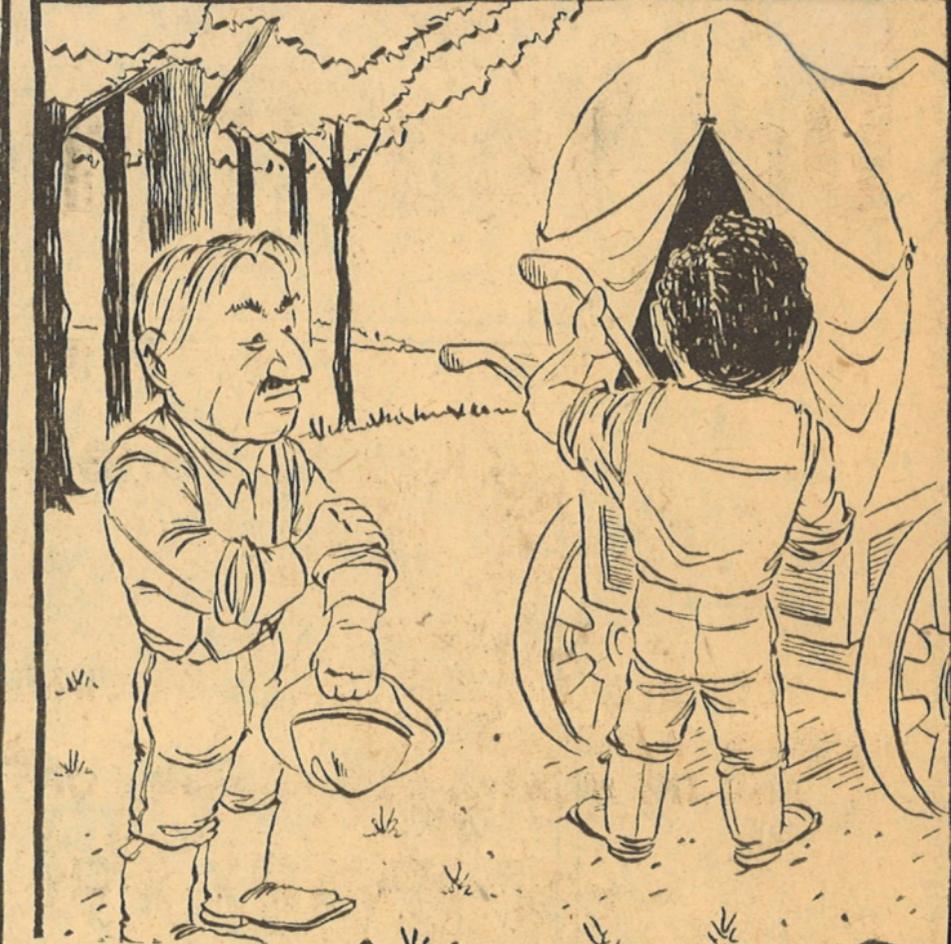
Came to Tenhassen in 1861



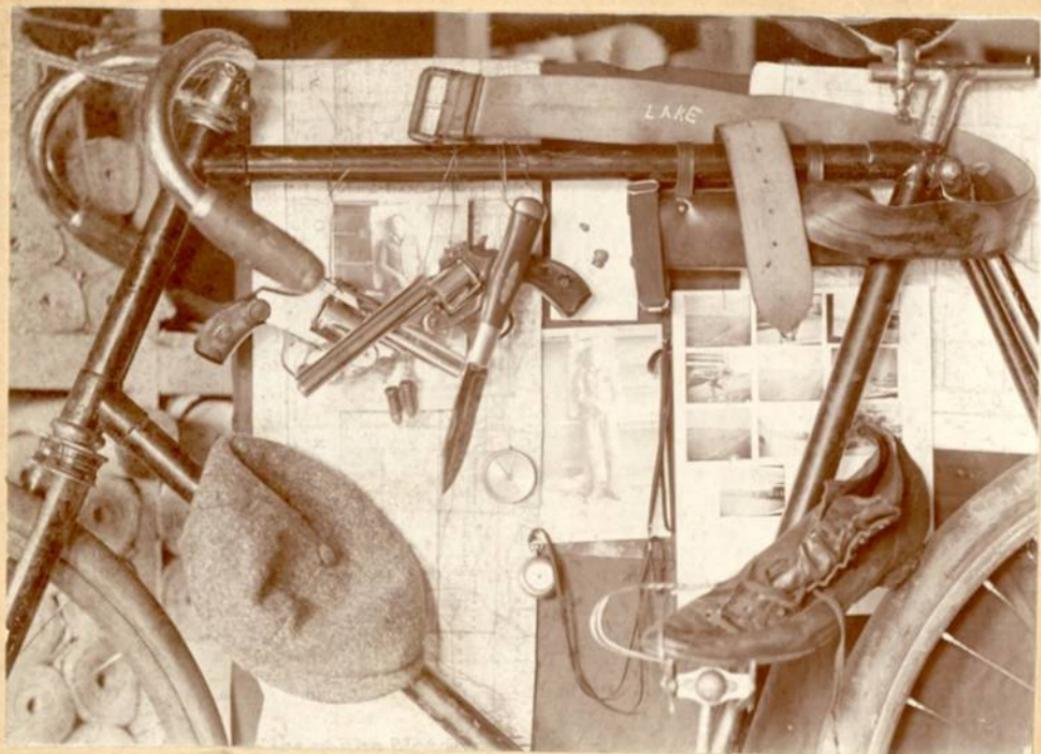
TUTTLE TELLS CARVER TO MOVE ON



A FIGHT DECIDES WHO'S TO STAY



TUTTLE LOSES AND LEAVES COUNTY



Relics of the Notorious Sherburn Bank Robbers.



S. H. Gyldeaaas.

ELMORE, MINN.

