

Virginia At a County Court held in and for  
the County of Rockingham at the Court House  
thereof on Monday May 21<sup>st</sup>. 1900.

Commonwealth <sup>vs</sup> <sup>Upon an appeal from the judgment of</sup>  
<sup>D. M. Switzer Mayor of the town of Harrisonburg</sup>  
<sup>and Ex Officio J. P.</sup>

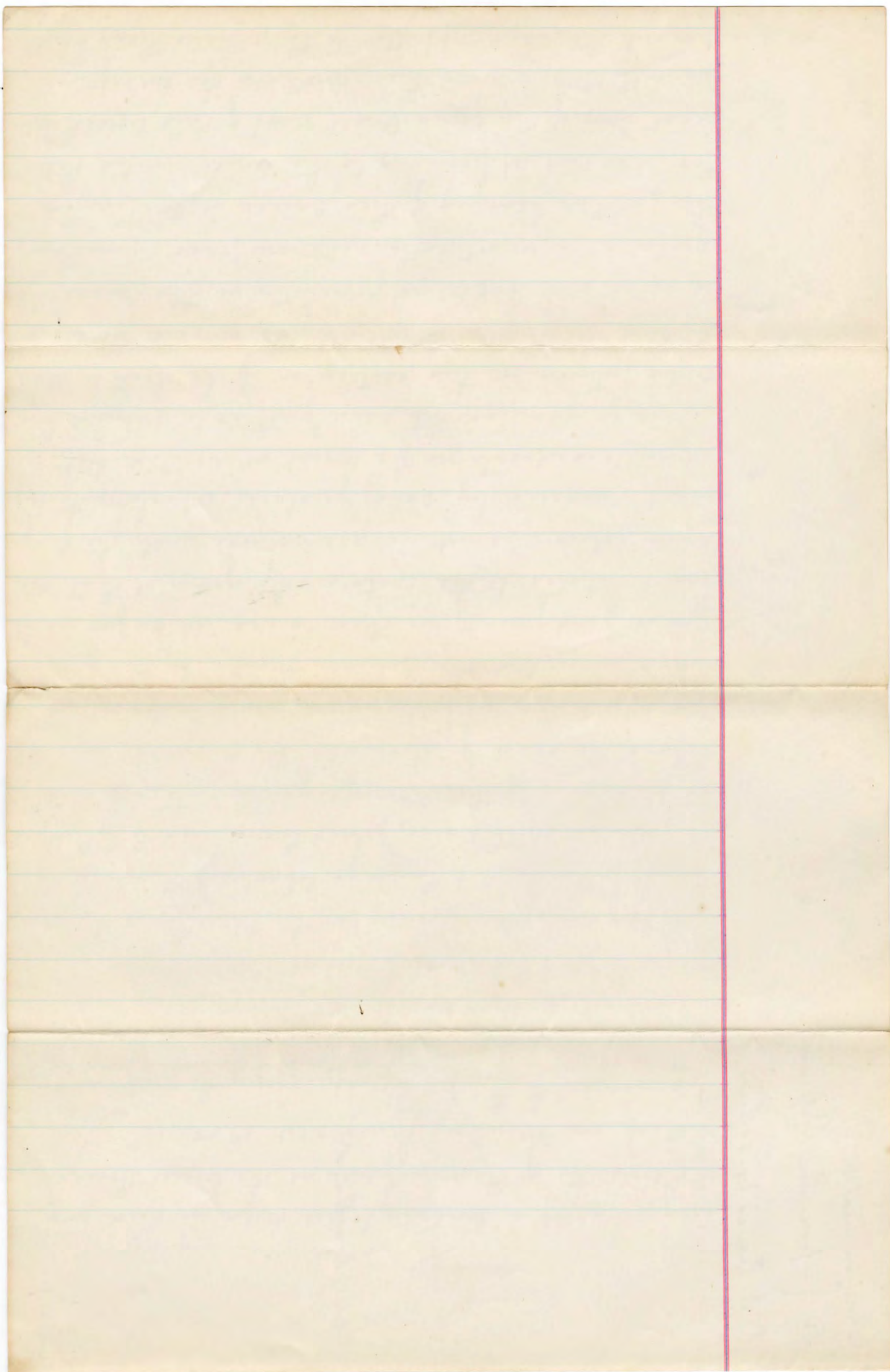
D. S. Lewis Jr., Charles A. Hammer, M. M. Jorman,  
S. A. Davis, John F. Lewis and E. L. Decker & Jas. W. Fletcher

This day came the attorney for the Commonwealth and  
the appellants D. S. Lewis Jr., Charles A. Hammer, M.  
M. Jorman, S. A. Davis, John F. Lewis and E. L. Decker  
in obedience to their recognizance entered into  
before the said Justice, and by counsel, and  
thereupon the appellants moved the Court to  
have amended the return made by the Justice  
of his judgment, in this cause, in so far as the  
same relates to the costs on the ground that the  
said return is not in accordance with the judg-  
ment rendered by said Justice, which motion  
upon Consideration the Court overruled, but  
leave is granted the said Justice to amend his  
said return in this particular if he elects to do  
so, and thereupon the appellants moved the Court  
to enter John Acker as prosecutor in this cause which  
motion the Court doth not now pass upon, and  
the further hearing of this cause is continued,  
for reasons appearing to the Court until the  
first day of the June Court next of this Court, being  
June 18, 1900, And on their motion the Court doth  
permit the said appellants to renew their bail

in the sum of \$100<sup>00</sup> each for their appearance  
at said date whereupon the said D. B. Lewis Jr.  
Charles A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, S. A. Davis, John F.  
Lewis and E. L. Dechert together with Ohas D. Harrison  
and D. O. Dechert their sureties (who justified as  
to their sufficiency) acknowledged themselves  
to be indebted to the Commonwealth of Virginia,  
in the sum of \$100<sup>00</sup> each to be levied of their  
respective goods and chattels lands and tenements  
for the use of the said Commonwealth of Virginia,  
each waiving the benefit of his Homestead Exem-  
tion as to this obligation, also each waiving any  
claim or right to discharge any liability aris-  
ing to the Commonwealth under this recognizance,  
with coupons detached from the bonds of this  
State yet upon this condition that the said D. B.  
Lewis Jr. Charles A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, S. A. Davis,  
John F. Lewis and E. L. Dechert do each make their  
personal appearance before the Judge of this Court  
on the said 1<sup>st</sup> day of the June Term next of this  
Court to prosecute their said appeal and not  
depart thence without leave of the Court.

A Copy Dato

J. S. Messinger Clerk



Commonwealth

To inform our Appraiser

A. S. Lewis Jr. values

14 / 102

A. Lopez

See "Orders"

Value for 1905

Rockingham County to wit:

Be it remembered that on the            day of            1900  
D.S. Lewis Jr., Jno F Lewis, Charles W Fletcher, Charles  
A. Hammer, M.M. Jarman, E.L. Dechert & S.A. Davis,  
were brought before me A.M. Switzer Mayor of the  
Town of Harrisonburg, Va an ~~Ex~~ officio Justice of the  
peace and the charge contained in the within  
warrant and on motion of the said prisoners the  
hearing of the cause was continued until the  
17 day of April 1900 when the hearing of the cause  
was begun and said cause was concluded on  
the 28 day of April <sup>1900</sup> and the said prisoners are  
by me on the evidence on oath of the witnesses  
who testified in the case, found guilty as follows:  
D.S. Lewis Jr and John F Lewis are found guilty  
of assault and battery on John Aker; Charles W.  
Fletcher, Charles A. Hammer, M.M. Jarman, E.L. Dechert  
and S.A. Davis are found guilty as aiders and abet-  
tors or principal in the second degree to said  
assault & battery on said John Aker; wherefore  
I adjudge that D.S. Lewis Jr be fined the sum  
of \$ 50 that Jno. F Lewis be fined the sum of \$50,  
that Charles W. Fletcher, Charles A. Hammer, M.M.  
Jarman, E.L. Dechert & S.A. Davis be each fined the  
sum of \$ 15 and in addition the said D.S. Lewis Jr.  
John F. Lewis, Chas A. Hammer, Chas W. Fletcher, E.L.  
Dechert, M.M. Jarman & S.A. Davis shall pay the  
costs of this prosecution amounting to the sum of  
\$            But the said D.S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis

Charles W. Fletcher, Charles A. Hammer, M M Jorman  
 & E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis having prayed an  
 appeal from my said judgment, an appeal is  
 hereby granted them to the next Term of the County  
 Court of Rockingham County except said Charles W.  
 Fletcher they having given bail for their appearance  
 before said Court on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the May term  
 1900, and the said judgment and conviction, as  
 well as said appeal and bail, are hereby cer-  
 tified to the said Court.

Given under my hand & Seal this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April  
 1900

D. M. Switzer *(Seal)*

Mayor of the town of Harrisonburg ex Officio J. P.

A copy - True

J. M. Mendenhall *(Seal)*

Certificate of Appeal  
 Commonwealth  
 vs  
 W. S. Lewis & Co.

"Certificate,"  
 Ex.

A. Cooper

Rel. N. Sec. 407

1.

The Jury are instructed that the defendants are  
presumed to be innocent until their guilt is proven beyond  
every reasonable doubt.

*Given*

1.

The jury are instructed that the defendant are  
to be deemed to be innocent until their guilt is proven beyond  
every reasonable doubt.

*Handwritten signature*



5.

The Jury are instructed that if they believe from the evidence that under the circumstances of the difficulty between John Acker and John F. Lewis, (the Uncle of D. S. Lewis, Jr.), viewed from the standpoint of said D. S. Lewis, Jr., said D. S. Lewis, Jr., reasonably believed that said John F. Lewis was *imminent* in danger of receiving *serious* bodily harm *at the hands of said Acker*, then said D. S. Lewis, Jr., had a right to and was justifiable in interfering in said difficulty for the protection of said John F. Lewis *fr* and in the use of such force to prevent such injury as was reasonably necessary, from his point of view, if they further believe from the evidence that said John F. Lewis was without fault in bringing on said difficulty between himself and said John Acker.

*Given*

The jury are instructed that if they believe from the evidence that under the circumstances of the difficulty between John F. Lewis, the Plaintiff, and D. S. Lewis, Jr., (the Defendant) viewed from the standpoint of said D. S. Lewis, Jr., said D. S. Lewis, Jr., reasonably believed that said John F. Lewis was in danger of receiving bodily harm, then said D. S. Lewis, Jr., had a right to and was justified in interfering in said difficulty for the protection of said John F. Lewis, and in the use of such force to prevent such injury as was reasonably necessary, from his point of view, if they further believe from the evidence that said John F. Lewis was without fault in drink- ing on said difficulty between himself and said John Acker.

(3)

The jury are instructed that any admission or declaration made by one of the defendants cannot be considered as evidence against any of the other defenadnts, unless the jury believe from the evidence that all of the defendants had conspired to commit some unlawful act, and that in the commission thereof and in pursuance of such conspiracy an assault and battery was made upon John Acker and such admission or declaration was made when they were in the act of committing such unlawful act, or when in its way of commission.

*Given*

...of ... ..  
... ..  
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... ..  
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... ..

4

The jury are instructed that in this cause the burden of proving every material fact necessary to ~~give~~ establish the guilt of the defendants rests upon the Commonwealth, and ~~that~~ each and every such material fact must be proven beyond every reasonable doubt; and if the jury shall have any reasonable doubt as to any material fact necessary to establish the guilt of the defendants, or any of them, they are to give the defendants the benefit of such doubt, and acquit them, or any of them as to whom such doubt applies.

~~given~~  
given

5

4

The jury are instructed that in this case the burden of proving every material fact necessary to establish the guilt of the defendant rests upon the Commonwealth, and that each and every such material fact must be proved beyond every reasonable doubt, and if the jury shall have any reasonable doubt as to any material fact necessary to establish the guilt of the defendant, or any of them, they are to give the defendant the benefit of such doubt, and acquit them, or any of them as to whom such doubt applies.

2

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY---GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon

+ John Rodgers

J. C. Berry + Dr. C. M. Hollingerworth.

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of the November Court next, being the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1900 189 , to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against

D. S. Lewis Jr. et al. + C. A. Hamner

who stands charged with and indicted for Misdemeanor

And this he shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 1900, 189 , and in the 125<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

J. S. Messerley, Clerk.

Entered Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1900

J. S. Lewis Jr. S. R. C.

Commonwealth-

@ 3 sh

D. S. Lewis Jr. Colthens  
+

J. C. Beery  
D. C. M. Holmigen  
John Rodgers

Forth mlh



CLERK'S OFFICE.  
COUNTY COURT OF ROCKINGHAM.

Harrisonburg, Virginia, .....

190.....

Commonwealth.

©

D. S. Lewis others

Entering Atty 10. May let. order 36. Cont 25. June let order  
 36. Cont 25. Aug let. order 36. order 36. 3 sp. 49 Copies \$5.50  
 em 25. Certifying 15 witnesses 4<sup>50</sup> Nov. let 4 sp. 32 Copies \$4.<sup>00</sup>  
 Certifying 23 witnesses \$6.90 8 orders 2.88 Jury re 75.  
 Dec. let order 36. Jan 28. Judgt 36. tax & Costs 20. Certifying  
 fine & a filg papers 20. March let order 36. April let 36.

29.66  
 0.83  
 \$30.49

\$29.66  
 Atty. 5.00  
 Sheriff 17.40  
 Jury 152.68  
 Witnesses 73.36  
 Justice re. 6.90  
 \$287.00

$$\begin{array}{r} 708 \\ 222 \\ \hline 930 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1440 \\ 184 \\ \hline 1624 \end{array}$$

*in order to rebut testimony introduced by the defendants to the effect that one Davis was attacking Hammer and to lift the issue when he was struck.*

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Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause after the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon its part had introduced all of its evidence in chief, as set forth in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which is here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and had rested its case, and after the defendants, to maintain the issue upon their part, had introduced all of their evidence in chief, as set out in the same Bill of Exceptions, the Commonwealth, to further maintain the issue upon its part, in rebuttal, called one, Chas. C. Hering, to whom it propounded the following question, to-wit: "State whether or not when Ike Davis was knocked down he was attacking any one". To the propounding of which question the defendant, by counsel, objected, on the ground that the question did not seek to elicit any testimony which was properly admissible in rebuttal, this matter having been inquired into by the Commonwealth in its evidence in chief, but the Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer said question as follows: "He ~~W~~ was not striking in my judgment at all". To which action of the Court in so overruling said objection and in so permitting the propounding of said question and in so permitting the witness to answer, as above stated, the defendants, by counsel except, and pray that this, their Bill of Exceptions No. 3 may be signed sealed and enrolled and made a part of the record in this case, which is accordingly done.

Geo. Brewster (SEAL)

It is remembered that upon the trial of this cause  
after the Government to maintain the issue upon the part  
had introduced all of the evidence in chief, as set forth  
in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which is here referred to  
and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and had rested  
its case, and after the defendants, to maintain the issue  
upon their part, had introduced all of their evidence in  
chief, as set out in the case Bill of Exceptions, the Com-  
monwealth, to further maintain the issue upon its part, in  
rebuttal, called one, Case G. Hering, to whom it proposed  
to ask the following question: "When the boys were knocked down he was striking any one?"  
to the respondent of which question the defendant, by coun-  
sel, objected, on the ground that the question did not seek  
to elicit any testimony which was properly admissible in re-  
buttal, this matter having been inquired into by the Common-  
wealth in the evidence in chief, but the Court overruled  
said objection and permitted the witness to answer said  
question as follows: "No I was not striking in my judgment  
at all." To which action of the Court in so overruling  
said objection and in so permitting the propounding of said  
question and in so permitting the witness to answer, as a-  
bove stated, the defendants, by counsel except, and pray  
that this, their Bill of Exceptions No. 2, may be signed,  
sealed and enrolled and made a part of the record in this  
case, which is accordingly done.

*[Vertical handwritten notes on the right margin, including names and dates.]*

*[Handwritten signature and date at the bottom left.]*

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Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause, after the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon its part, had introduced all its evidence in chief, as set out in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which is here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and had rested its case, and after the defendants, to maintain the issue upon their part, had introduced all of their evidence ~~in~~ chief, as set out in the same Bill of Exceptions, the Commonwealth, to further maintain the issue upon its part, in rebuttal, called one, Julius C. Sibert, who testified that he had been present in the Republican convention on the 17th day of March, 1900, and to whom the Commonwealth then propounded the following question: "State whether or not you saw Mr. Acker strike at any one and whether or not it was possible for him to have struck at ~~any one~~ *Hammer as stated by Boeto Lewis and Hammer*, ~~any one~~". To the propounding of which question the defendants, by counsel, objected, upon the ground, 1st., that such testimony did not constitute rebuttal testimony, but testimony in chief, and should have been so introduced by the Commonwealth and that it was improper to admit it at this stage of the cause under the guise of rebuttal, and 2nd., that the question called for an opinion of the witness, which it was improper to admit him to give, but the Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer the same, as follows: "I did not see him strike at any one and it was impossible for him to have struck at ~~any one~~ *Hammer as described by Lewis and Hammer* ~~any one~~". To which action of the Court in so permitting the

*This witness which witness had heard*

Exhibit

It is remembered that upon the trial of this case, after the Government, to maintain the issue upon

its part, and introduced all the evidence in chief, as set

out in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which is here re-

ferred to and sets a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and

has recited the case, and after the defendant, to maintain

the issue upon their part, had introduced all of their ev-

idence in chief, as set out in the same Bill of Exceptions,

the Government, to further maintain the issue upon its

part, in rebuttal, called one, Julius C. Albert, who testi-

fied that he had been present at the Republican convention

on the 17th day of March, 1860, and at which the Govern-

ment then presented the following question: "State

whether or not you saw Mr. Baker strike at any one and

whether or not it was possible for him to have struck at

any one." To the proposition of which question the de-

fendant, by counsel, objected, upon the ground, first, that

such testimony did not constitute rebuttal testimony, but

testimony in chief, and should have been so introduced by

the Government, and that it was not proper to admit it at

this stage of the case upon the issue of rebuttal, and

that the question called for an opinion of the wit-

ness, which it was improper to admit him to give, but the

Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to

answer the same, as follows: "I did not see him strike at

any one and it was impossible for him to have struck at any

one." To which objection the Court is so permitting the

Government to introduce the same as rebuttal testimony.

Handwritten notes in the left margin, including the name "R. W. [unclear]" and other illegible text.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the name "R. W. [unclear]" and other illegible text.

2.

propounding of said question and in so overruling the objection and in so permitting the witness to answer, as above set forth, the defendants, by counsel except, and pray that this, their Bill of Exceptions No. 2 may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of the record in this cause, which is accordingly done.

Geo. Whittan (SEAL)

presenting of said petition and in so overruling the ob-  
jection and in so permitting the witness to answer, as a-

may be \_\_\_\_\_ their Will of Exception No. \_\_\_\_\_  
dated, recited and enrolled and made a part of the record  
in this cause, which is accordingly done.

W. H. ... (SMB)



Be it remembered, that upon  
the trial of this cause, and after  
the evidence set forth in Bill  
of Exceptions No. 1 had been  
introduced by the Complainant -  
deaths and Defendants; and  
after the jury had rendered its  
verdict as therein set out;  
and after the Court had over-  
ruled the motions of the  
Defendants for a new trial  
and in award of judgment,  
as set out in said Bill of  
Exceptions No. 1, and in Bill  
of Exceptions No. 2, the  
Defendants, by Counsel, moved  
the Court not to enter a judg-  
ment against them jointly  
for the costs of this first  
proceeding, but to enter such  
judgments for costs against  
them severally as it might  
deem just and proper  
under the evidence in the  
cause, as set out in the said  
Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which  
is here referred to as part of

this Bill; but the Court over-  
 ruled said motion and proceeded  
 under the following judg-  
 ment (here insert judgment;  
 to which action of the Court in  
 so overruling said motion and in  
 so entering said judgment  
 the Defendants, by Counsel, ex-  
 cept and pray that this, their  
 12<sup>th</sup> Bill of Exceptions, may be  
 signed sealed and enrolled,  
 which is accordingly done,  
 Geo. Shannon Clerk

now with H.S. Hooke, in the Lawrence store just before the convention in reference to the convention in which Chambers had not referred to "revolutionary methods" which Hammer responded that he might have had such a conversation with Hooke, but if he did, did not remember it

"revolutionary methods" which Hammer responded that he might have had such a conversation with Hooke, but if he did, did not remember it

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Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause, after the Commonwealth had introduced, to maintain the issue upon its part, had introduced <sup>all</sup> its evidence in chief, as set out in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which <sup>and had listed its case</sup> is here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Ex- <sup>and had listed its</sup> ceptions, and after the defendants, to maintain the issue on <sup>their</sup> ~~its~~ part, had introduced all of the evidence in chief upon <sup>their</sup> ~~its~~ part, as set out in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, including the testimony of Chas. A. Hammer, the Commonwealth to further maintain the issue upon its part, in rebuttal, called one, H. S. Hooke, to whom it propounded the following question, to-wit:- "State whether or not, on the day of the convention, and before the convention, you had a conversation with Chas. A. Hammer in A. W. Loewener's store and if so, state what he said in that <sup>conversation</sup> ~~question~~". To the propounding of which question the defendants, by counsel, objected, on the ground that the evidence sought to be brought out by said question was properly testimony in chief and should have been so offered by the Commonwealth, and that it was not proper to admit its introduction under the guise of rebuttal; and that it ~~was~~ did not constitute any rebuttal testimony, but the ~~and~~ Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer said question as follows: "I did; he was talking about the convention and he said to me: "We are going to claim our rights in the convention today; you may call it revolutionary or not'". To which action of the Court in so permitting the propounding of said question and in

"Revolutionary war" but it is  
 important that to maintain the  
 issue a conversation with the  
 defendant, and not the  
 issue.

The defendant's testimony is  
 that he was talking about the  
 convention today; you may call it  
 revolutionary or not.  
 To which section of the party in  
 admitting the proposed  
 convention today; you may call it  
 revolutionary or not.  
 and he said to me: "I am going to  
 claim our rights in the  
 convention and pointed the witness  
 to answer said question  
 any possible testimony, but the  
 court overruled said objection  
 of the defendant; and that it was  
 not constitutive  
 and that it was not proper to  
 admit the intervention under

He is remembered that upon the trial of this  
 case, after the Commonwealth had introduced, to maintain  
 the issue upon the part, had introduced its evidence in  
 chief, as set out in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which  
 in due season, to set out a part of this Bill of Ex-  
 ceptions, and after the defendant, to maintain the issue  
 on the part, had introduced all of the evidence in chief  
 as set out in Bill of Exceptions No. 2.  
 Involving the testimony of Chas. A. Hemeny, the Commonwealth  
 to further maintain the issue upon the part, in rebuttal,  
 called one, J. J. Jones, to whom it propounded the follow-  
 ing question, to-wit: "State whether or not, on the day of  
 the convention, and before the convention, you had a con-  
 vention with Chas. A. Hemeny in A. B. Lockman's store  
 and if so, state what he said in that meeting." In the  
 propounding of which question the defendant, by counsel,  
 objected, on the ground that the evidence sought to be  
 brought out by said question was properly testimony in  
 chief and should have been so offered by the Commonwealth,  
 and that it was not proper to admit the intervention under  
 the rules of rebuttal; and that it was not constitutive  
 any possible testimony, but the court overruled said ob-  
 jection and permitted the witness to answer said question  
 as follows: "I did not see talking about the convention  
 and he said to me: 'I am going to claim our rights in the  
 convention today; you may call it revolutionary or not.'  
 To which section of the party in admitting the proposed  
 convention today; you may call it revolutionary or not.  
 and he said to me: 'I am going to claim our rights in the  
 convention and pointed the witness to answer said question  
 any possible testimony, but the court overruled said objection  
 of the defendant; and that it was not constitutive  
 and that it was not proper to admit the intervention under

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ing of said question and in permitting the witness to answer, as above set forth, the defendants, by counsel, except, and pray that this, their Bill of Exceptions No. 4 may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of the record in this cause, which is accordingly done.

Geoffrattian (SEAL)

top of said question and in permitting the witness to an-  
swer, as above set forth, the defendant, by counsel, ex-  
hibits to the jury their Bill of Exceptions No. 4

and is stated, verbatim and enrolled and made a part of the  
record in this cause, which is accordingly done.

William H. ...  
(State)

Virginia In the County Court of Rockingham County Nov. Term 17, 1902  
Virginia In the Circuit Court of Rockingham County October  
Term Nov. 7, 1902.

C. H. Hamme & Plffs

vs

} On an Appeal from the County Court of Rockingham County

The Commonwealth deft

This day came the appellant by counsel, and the appellee by  
Geo. N. Bourad, Atty. for the Commonwealth, and the court having  
heard arguments of counsel for the appellants and for the  
appellee, and having maturely considered the same, as well  
as the transcript of the record in this cause, is of opinion  
that the County Court of Rockingham County erred in refus-  
ing to sustain the motion of appellants to quash the  
execution against them set out in the said transcript.

And it is therefore ordered that the judgment of the  
County Court in the petition of appellants complained  
of be reversed and annulled, and the court now pro-  
ceeding to render such judgment as the County Court  
ought to have rendered, doth order that the execution  
in favor of the Commonwealth of Virginia against the  
appellants for certain fines and costs particularly set  
forth in the transcript of the record be quashed for the  
reason that there is embraced in the cause included  
in said execution the sum of seventy-three dollars and  
<sup>36</sup>/<sub>100</sub> (\$ 73.36, being for allowances to witnesses for the Com-  
monwealth erroneously taxed against the appellants, and  
this cause is now remanded to said County Court with  
instructions to direct the issuance against the defendant  
in the execution set forth in the transcript of the record

an execution for the same sum for which the said  
execution set forth in said transcript of the record  
originally issued, less the said sum of \$7376 above  
held to be erroneously taxed against the appellants

A Copy Dite

D. H. Lee Martz clerk

A Copy Tester

J. S. Messerley clerk

Book  $\frac{15}{4}$

A Copy of Order



#:#:#:#:#:#:#:#:#

Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause the Commonwealth, by counsel, prayed the Court to give certain instructions, which were objected to by the defendants, by counsel, and the objection so made sustained by the Court, and thereupon the Court, of its own motion, in lieu of said instructions so prayed for by, the Commonwealth and rejected by it, gave the following instruction: to-wit:-

The jury are instructed that, if they believe from the evidence beyond any reasonable doubt that an unlawful and unjustifiable assault and battery was made upon John Acker, and that any of the defendants, while not personally ~~making~~ ly and actualy making such assault and battery, were yet present, aiding and abetting such asault and batte~~r~~ tery the jury may find all of them so aiding and abetting such assault and battery~~x~~ guilty thereof.

To the giving of which instruction so given by the Court the defendants, by counsel, objected, but the Court, overruling said objection, gave said instruction, ~~an~~ and the defendants, by counsel, except, and pray that this their Bill of Exceptions No. 10 may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of the record in this cause, which is accordingly done.

Geo. S. Stanton (SEAL)

\*\*\*\*\*

Be it remembered that upon the trial of this  
cause the Commonwealth, by counsel, prayed the Court to  
give certain instructions, which were objected to by the  
defendants, by counsel, and the objection so made sustained  
by the Court, and thereupon the Court, of its own motion,  
in lieu of said instructions so prayed for by the Common-  
wealth and rejected by it, gave the following instruction:  
to-wit:-

The jury are instructed that, if they believe from  
the evidence beyond any reasonable doubt that an unlawful  
and intentional assault and battery was made upon John  
Aker, and that any of the defendants, while not personal-  
ly and actually making such assault and battery,  
were yet present, aiding and abetting such assault and batte-  
ry the jury may find all of them so aiding and abetting  
such assault and battery guilty thereof.

To the giving of which instruction so given by  
the Court the defendants, by counsel, objected, but the  
Court, overruling said objection, gave said instruction, and  
the defendants, by counsel, except, and pray that this  
their Bill of Exceptions No. 10 may be signed, sealed  
and enrolled and made a part of the record in this cause,  
which is accordingly done.

Richardson (SEAL)

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*In order to contradict testimony introduced by the defendants to the effect that said Davis was attacking Hammer and Staff. Since when he was struck.*

Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause, after the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon *as set out in Bill of Exceptions No. 1* its part, had introduced all of its evidence in chief, *which* is here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and rested its case, and after the defendants, to maintain the issue upon their part, had introduced all of their evidence in chief, as set forth in said same Bill of Exceptions, the Commonwealth, to further maintain the issue upon its part, *in rebuttal* called one, Isaac D. Davis, to whom it propounded the following question: *+ to wit: -* "When you were knocked down at the convention, were you attacking anybody"? To the propounding of which question the defendants, by course objected, upon the ground that the question did not seek to elicit any evidence properly admissible in rebuttal, but that the same should have been offered by the Commonwealth along with its other evidence, but the Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer said question as follows: "I was not". . . To which action of the Court in so permitting the asking of said question, in so overruling said objection and in permitting the witness to answer said question as set forth above, the defendants, by counsel, except and pray that this, their Bill of Exceptions No. 6 may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, which is accordingly done.

Geo. G. Stanton (SEAL)

4:44:44:44

It is remembered that upon the trial of this

case, after the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon

its part, had introduced all its evidence in chief, while

in here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Excep-

tion, and stated its case, and after the defendant, to

maintain the issue upon their part, had introduced all of

their evidence in chief, as set forth in said same Bill of

Exception, the Commonwealth, to further maintain the issue

upon its part, called one, Isaac D. Davis, to whom it pro-

posed the following question: "When you were knocked

down at the conviction, was any striking anybody?" To

the proposition of which question the defendant, by counsel

objected, upon the ground that the question did not seek to

elicit any evidence properly admissible in rebuttal, but

that the same should have been offered by the Commonwealth

along with the other evidence; but the Court overruled said

objection and permitted the witness to answer said question

as follows: "I was not". To which action of the Court in

so permitting the asking of said question, in so overruling

the objection and so permitting the witness to answer said

question as set forth above, the defendant, by counsel, ex-

cept and pray that this, their Bill of Exception No. 2

may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of this

Bill of Exception, which is accordingly done.

(SEAL) *[Signature]*

*[Vertical handwritten notes on the right margin]*

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Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause, after the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon its part, had introduced all of its evidence in chief, as set out in Bill of Exceptions No.     , which is here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and had rested its case, and after the defendants, to maintain the issue upon ~~its part~~ their part, had introduced all of their evidence in chief, as set out in said same Bill of Exceptions, the Commonwealth to ~~main~~ further maintain the issue upon its part, <sup>in rebuttal</sup> called one, John C. Beery, to whom it propounded the following question: <sup>to wit:</sup> "State whether or not Ike Davis, when he was knocked down, was attacking anybody". To the propounding of which question the defendants, by counsel, objected, on the ground that the witness had been interrogated with reference to the difficulty in which said Ike Davis was involved, during his first testimony in the cause and that the question now propounded did not seek to ~~elicit~~ any evidence properly admissible in rebuttal. But the Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer the same as ~~xxx~~ follows: "He was making an attack upon no one". To which action of the Court in so permitting the propounding of said question and in so overruling the said objection, and in so permitting the witness to answer, as above stated, the defendants, by counsel, except, and pray that this, their Bill of Exceptions No. 7, may be signed, sealed and enrolled, and made a part of the record in this cause, which

*In order to contradict testimony introduced by the defendants to the effect that Ike Davis was attacking Samuel and Staff Lewis when he was struck*

*[Handwritten notes in the left margin, including names and dates, possibly a list of names and their corresponding page numbers or dates.]*

*[Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page, appearing as bleed-through. The text is largely illegible due to its orientation and fading.]*

*[Faint, illegible text centered at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a date.]*

2.

is accordingly done.

*W. H. Harrison* (SEAL)

2

is accordingly done.

(SEAL)

*[Faint, illegible signature or stamp]*



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Be it remembered that upon the trial of this case the following evidence was introduced in behalf of the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon its part: (Here insert the Commonwealth's evidence in chief)

And the Commonwealth having rested its case, the defendants, to maintain the issue upon their part, introduced the following evidence, to-wit: (here insert defendant's evidence in chief).

And the defendants having rested their case, the Commonwealth, to further maintain the issue upon its part introduced, in rebuttal, the following evidence to-wit: (here insert Commonwealth's evidence in rebuttal).

And the Commonwealth having closed its case, thereupon the defendants, to further maintain the issue upon their part, introduced the following evidence in rebuttal; to-wit: (here insert defendant's evidence in rebuttal).

And this being all of the evidence introduced by the Commonwealth and the defendants, and the Court having given the instructions as set out in Bill of Exceptions Nos 9 and 10 <sup>and the argument of counsel being heard</sup>, the jury retired to consult of their verdict and after some time returned into Court and rendered the following verdict, to-wit: (here insert verdict). And thereupon the defendants, by counsel, moved ~~th~~ the Court to set aside the said verdict and grant them a new trial, upon the ground that the said verdict was contrary to the law and the evidence in the cause, which mo-

\*\*\*\*\*

Be it remembered that upon the trial of this

case the following evidence was introduced in behalf of

the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon the part:

(Here insert the Commonwealth's evidence in chief.)

And the Commonwealth having rested its case, the

defendants, to maintain the issue upon their part, in-

roduced the following evidence, to-wit: (here insert

defendant's evidence in chief.)

And the defendants having rested their case, the

Commonwealth, to further maintain the issue upon its part

introduced, in rebuttal, the following evidence to-wit: (he

here insert Commonwealth's evidence in rebuttal.)

And the Commonwealth having closed its case,

thereupon the defendants, to further maintain the issue

upon their part, introduced the following evidence in re-

buttal; to-wit: (here insert defendant's evidence in re-

buttal.)

And this being all of the evidence introduced by

the Commonwealth and the defendants, and the Court having

given the instructions as set out in Bill of Exceptions Nos

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the jury retired to consult of

their verdict and after some time returned into Court and

rendered the following verdict, to-wit: (here insert ver-

dict.) And thereupon the defendants, by counsel, moved the

Court to set aside the said verdict and grant them a

new trial, upon the ground that the said verdict was con-

trary to the law and the evidence in the cause, which mo-

2.

tion to set aside said verdict and grant them a new trial  
the Court overruled. To which action of the Court in so  
overruling said motion. the defendants, by counsel, except  
and pray that this, their first Bill of Exceptions, ~~it~~  
may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of the  
record in this cause, which is accordingly done.

Geo. Hutton (SEAL)

tion to set aside said verdict and grant them a new trial  
 the Court overruled. To which action of the Court in so  
 overruling said motion the defendant, by counsel, except  
 and pray that this, their Bill of Exceptions, m  
 may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of the  
 record in this cause, which is accordingly done.

(SEAL) Robertson

#:#:#:#:#:#:#:#:#:#

Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause, after the Jury had returned the verdict therein, set forth in the ~~1st~~ <sup>1st</sup> Bill of Exceptions, which is here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and the Court had overruled the said motion for a new trial, as set forth in Bill of Exceptions No.       , which is also here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions the prisoners moved the Court to arrest the judgment of the Court upon said verdict, upon the ground, 1st, that the record in this cause shows that as to five of said prisoners, to-wit, C. W. Fletcher, E. L. Dechert, M. M. Jarman, Chas. A. Hammer and S. A. Davis, there was no charge of any offense against the laws of this state properly cognizable in this Court, for the reason that it appears from the certificate of the Mayor of the town of Harrisonburg, endorsed upon the warrant in this cause, that said five prisoners <sup>by him</sup> were convicted not of assault and battery upon John Acker, but of being aiders and abettors in an assault and battery upon said Acker, and that no such thing as an aider and abettor in a misdemeanor is known to the law of this state; and that said five prisoners ought, therefore, to be discharged from custody; and 2nd, that said verdict of said jury states that ~~said prisoners~~ these prisoners are found guilty "of assault and battery upon John Acker in manner and form as charged in the warrant." and that inasmuch as the charge in said warrant contained is a charge of assault with intent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill, being a

Examination

It is requested that upon the trial of this  
 case, the jury be instructed that the words "I  
 have no objection" which is here re-  
 ferred to and also a part of this Bill of Exceptions, and  
 the Court had overruled the said motion for a new trial, as  
 set forth in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which is also  
 here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions  
 the prisoners moved the Court to arrest the judgment of  
 the Court upon said verdict, upon the ground, first, that the  
 record in this case shows that as to five of said prison-  
 ers, to-wit: J. W. Fletcher, N. L. Bennett, W. H. Brown,  
 J. H. Brown and J. A. Davis, there was no charge of any  
 offense against the law of this state properly cognizable  
 in this Court, for the reason that it appears from the cer-  
 tificates of the Mayor of the town of Harrisonburg, endorsed  
 upon the warrant in this case, that said five prisoners  
 were convicted not of assault and battery upon John Acker,  
 but of being without and without in an assault and battery  
 upon said Acker, and that no such thing as an assault and  
 battery is a misdemeanor in the law of this state;  
 and that said five prisoners ought, therefore, to be dis-  
 charged from custody; and that said verdict of said  
 jury states that said five prisoners were found  
 guilty "of assault and battery upon John Acker in manner  
 and form as charged in the warrant"; and that inasmuch as  
 the charge in said warrant contained in a charge of assault  
 in intent to kill, disfigure, disable and kill, being a

2.

felony, and which charge, so contained in said warrant this Court in the present proceeding was without power to try, and the punishment fixed by the jury in their said verdict, being the punishment prescribed by law for assault and battery, said verdict was ~~defective~~ improper, null and void, and that judgment should not be rendered thereupon. But the Court overruled said motion and refused to arrest said judgment and rendered judgment upon said verdict against the prisoner as appears from the record in this case To which action of the Court, in so overruling the motion to arrest said judgment and in so rendering judgment upon said verdict, the prisoners, by counsel, except, and pray that this, their 11<sup>th</sup> Bill of Exceptions, may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of the record, which is accordingly done.

Geo. Huntington (SEAL)

felony, and which charge, so contained in said verdict this Court in the present proceeding was allowed to try.

and the judgment that in the law is that said verdict before the judgment prescribed by law for assault and bat-

tery, said verdict was satisfactory, and it is said, and that judgment should not be rendered thereupon. But the Court overruled said motion and refused to arrest

said judgment and rendered judgment upon said verdict a-  
-tained the prisoner as appears from the record in this case

to which motion of the Court, in an overruling the motion to arrest said judgment and in so rendering judgment upon

said verdict, the prisoners, by counsel, except, and pray  
that this Court <sup>do</sup> give them their full and complete

trial, and that the Court be and be a part of the record,  
which is respectfully done.

Wm. H. [Signature] (2511)



6

*given*

The Jury are instructed that a party assaulted may strike without first retreating and is entitled to use such force to repel the attack, as, from his point of view may be reasonably necessary, if he is without fault in bringing that necessity upon himself.

The jury are instructed that a party assaulted may  
strike without first retreating and is entitled to use such  
force to repel the attack, as, from his point of view may be  
reasonably necessary, if he is without fault in bringing that  
necessity upon himself.

*Plaintiff*

Virginia:

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*Handwritten:* ~~Handwritten~~ ~~to wit:-~~

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:

Whereas, John Acker of the said County has this day made complaint and in

Switzer, Mayor of the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, and ex officio Justice of the said County, that D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, H. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, of the said County, on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously make an assault upon him, the said John Acker, and maliciously wound him the said John Acker, and cause him bodily injury, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill him, the said John Acker. ~~these are~~ ~~in the name of the~~ Commonwealth, to command you to ~~execute~~ forthwith to apprehend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, H. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint, and be farther dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of March, in the year 1900.

*Handwritten:* Switzer Mayor, (L. S.)

*Vertical stamp:* Filed May 19 1900  
Clerk

*Large handwritten notes at bottom:*  
The body of John B. Lewis before  
to the body of the  
for the town of Harrisonburg  
of Harrisonburg  
1900

Virginia

Executive March 29-1900 by Arresting the within

Warrant E. L. Dechert and bringing him before Hon. O. M. Switzer Mayor Town of

John Long Policeman

John E. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hamner,

M. M. Jarman, E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, of the said

County, on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of

Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously make an assault

upon him, the said John Acker, and maliciously wound him

the said John Acker, and cause him bodily injury, with in-

tent to aim, disfigure, disable and kill him, the said

John Acker, in the name of the

Commonwealth, to demand for a return to the

hand and bring before me, or some other Justice of said

County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis Jr., John E.

Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hamner, M. M. Jarman,

E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint,

and be further dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of

March, in the year 1900.

*[Signature]*  
Mayor, (D. S.)

Filed  
Mar 10 1900

Virginia:

Rockingham County, to-wit:-

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:

Whereas, John Acker of the said County has this day made complaint and information on oath before me, D. M. Switzer, Mayor of the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, and ex officio, a Justice of the said County, that D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, of the said County, on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously make an assault upon him, the said John Acker, and maliciously wound him the said John Acker, and cause him bodily injury, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill him, the said John Acker. These are therefore, in the name of the Commonwealth, to command you to ~~execute~~ forthwith to apprehend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint, and be farther dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of March, in the year 1900.

*J. M. Switzer*

Mayor, (L. S.)

*Executed the within warrant by arresting and delivering the body of John F. Lewis before me in the Town of Harrisonburg in the County of Rockingham, this 20th day of March, 1900.*

*D. M. Switzer*

1900

To all or any one of the Constables of said County:

Rockingham County, Virginia

That on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of  
Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously take an assault  
upon him, the said John Aker, and maliciously wound him  
the said John Aker, and cause his bodily injury, with in-  
jury to said John Aker, in the name of the  
Commonwealth, to command you to answer forthwith to appo-  
inted and bring before me, or some other Justice of said  
County, the bodies of the said D. S. Davis Jr., John F.  
Davis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hamner, M. M. Jarman,  
E. L. Debert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint,  
and be further dealt with according to law.  
Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of  
March, in the year 1900.

*W. M. Switzer*

Executed the within warrant by arresting and  
delivering the body of John F. Lewis before  
S. M. Switzer, this 30th day of March, 1900.  
Mayor for the Town of Harrisonburg in the  
County of Rockingham, this 30th day of March  
1900

G. R. Black, C. R. C.

*Executed March 28<sup>th</sup> 1900 by*  
*John A. Switzer Mayor*  
*Rockingham County, Virginia:*  
*John A. Switzer Mayor*  
*John A. Switzer Mayor*

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:

Whereas, John Acker of the said County has this day made complaint and information on oath before me, D. M. Switzer, Mayor of the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, and ex officio a Justice of the said County, that D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, of the said County, on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously make an assault upon him, the said John Acker, and maliciously wound him the said John Acker, and cause him bodily injury, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill him, the said John Acker. These are therefore, in the name of the Commonwealth, to command you to ~~execute~~ forthwith to apprehend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint, and be farther dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of March, in the year 1900.

John A. Switzer Mayor, (L. S.)

Executed March 28<sup>th</sup> 1900 by Arresting the within  
name ~~of~~ D S Lewis Jr and bringing him before  
Hon O M Switzer Mayor Town Harrisonburg Va  
John Long Policeman

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:  
Whereas, John Aker of the said County has this  
day made complaint and information on oath before me, D. S. Lewis  
Switzer, Mayor of the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County,  
and ex officio Justice of the said County, that D. S. Lewis  
Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer,  
M. M. Jarman, E. L. Debert and S. A. Davis, of the said  
County, on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of  
Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously make an assault  
upon him, the said John Aker, and maliciously wound him  
the said John Aker, and cause him bodily injury, with in-  
tent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill him, the said  
John Aker. These are therefore, in the name of the  
Commonwealth, to command you to KEEPEM forthwith to appre-  
hend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said  
County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis Jr., John F.  
Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman,  
E. L. Debert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint,  
and be further dealt with according to law.  
Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of  
March, in the year 1900.

*[Signature]*

Executed the within warrant by arresting and  
delivering the body of John F. Lewis before  
O M Switzer, this 30th day of March 1900.  
Mayor for the Town of Harrisonburg in the  
County of Rockingham, this 30th day of March  
1900  
S. R. Black



Executed March 28th 1900 by *[Signature]*  
108 Lewis Ave. and bringing my name before  
from 10 M 11

Virginia:  
Virginia:  
Rockingham County, to-wit:-  
Rockingham County, to-wit:-

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:

Whereas, John Acker of the said County has this  
day made complaint and information on oath before me, D. H.  
[Signature], Mayor of the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County,  
Justice of the Peace of the said County, that D. S. Lewis  
Jr., John J. Davis, Charles E. Fletcher, Chas. A. Warner,  
W. F. Jarman, W. B. Robertson and S. A. Davis, of the said  
County, on the 27th day of March, 1900, in the Town of  
Harrisonburg, in said County, did unlawfully make an assault  
upon him, the said John Acker, and did unlawfully beat and  
injure him, and cause him bodily injury, with in-  
tent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill him, the said  
John Acker. There are therefore, in the name of the

Commonwealth, to command you to summon forthwith to appre-  
hend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said

Executed March 27th 1900 by *[Signature]*  
W. B. Robertson  
W. F. Jarman  
Chas. A. Warner  
Charles E. Fletcher  
John J. Davis  
D. S. Lewis Jr.  
John Acker  
Mayor of Harrisonburg  
to answer the said complaint,  
with according to law.  
Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of  
March, in the year 1900.

*[Signature]* Mayor, (L. S.)

Executed March 29<sup>th</sup> 1900 by Arresting the within  
name on S. Davis and bringing him before  
Hon D M Switzer Mayor Town of Harrisonby Va

John Long Policeman

*[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

Executed Mar 29<sup>th</sup> 1900 by Arresting the within  
<sup>name</sup> ~~name~~ on S. Davis and bringing him before  
Hon D M Switzer Mayor Town of Harrisonby Va  
John Long Policeman

*[Handwritten signature or initials.]*

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Virginia:

Rockingham County, to-wit:-

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:

Whereas, John Acker of the said County has this day made complaint and information on oath before me, D. M.

*Handwritten notes:*  
Switzer, Mayor of the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, and ex officio Justice of the said County, that D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, of the said County, on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously make an assault upon him, the said John Acker, and maliciously wound him the said John Acker, and cause him bodily injury, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill him, the said John Acker, and therefore, in the name of the Commonwealth, to command you to ~~xxxxx~~ forthwith to apprehend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. M. Jarman, E. L. Dechert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint, and be farther dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of March, in the year 1900.

*D. M. Switzer* Mayor, (L. S.)

*Faint, illegible handwritten text at the bottom of the page.*

Virginia:

Rockingham County, to-wit:-

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:

Executed the within warrant by arresting and  
delivering the body of Charles W. Fletcher  
before J. M. Switzer, Mayor of Harrisonburg  
in the County of Rockingham this 30<sup>th</sup>  
day of March, 1900.

J. R. Black, C. R. C.

upon him, the said John Aker, and maliciously wound him  
the said John Aker, and cause him bodily injury, with in-  
tent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill him, the said

John Aker, to command you to command you to command you to appre-  
hend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said

County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis, Jr., John T. Lewis,  
Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. A. Hammer, M. W. Jarman,  
E. L. Deibert and S. A. Davis, to answer the said complaint,

and be further dealt with according to law.  
Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of  
March, in the year 1900.

Mayor, (J. S.)

m

Virginia:

Rockingham County, to-wit:-

To All or any one of the Constables of said County:

Whereas, John Aker of the said County has this day made complaint and information or oath before me, D. S. Switzer, Mayor of the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, and ex officio Justice of the said County, that D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. W. Hamner, M. K. Jarman, E. L. Dechart and C. A. Davis, of the said County, on the 17th day of March, 1900, in the Town of Harrisonburg, in said County, did maliciously and assault upon him, the said John Aker, and maliciously wound him, the said John Aker, and gave him bodily injury, with intent to kill, defame, humiliate and kill him, the said John Aker. There are therefore, in the name of the Commonwealth, to command you to ~~execute~~ forthwith to apprehend and bring before me, or some other Justice of said County, the bodies of the said D. S. Lewis Jr., John F. Lewis, Charles W. Fletcher, Chas. W. Hamner, M. K. Jarman, E. L. Dechart and C. A. Davis, to answer the said Complaint, and be farther dealt with according to Law.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of March, in the year 1900.

*D. S. Switzer* Mayor, (L. S.)

*John F. Lewis*  
*Charles W. Fletcher*  
*Chas. W. Hamner*  
*M. K. Jarman*  
*E. L. Dechart*  
*C. A. Davis*

Executed this 31: day of March 1900  
by arresting the within named Charles A. Hammer  
and bringing him before D. M. Switzer M. J. H.  
John Long Policeman

*[Signature]*

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*



King Lam County, to wit: Be it Remembred  
 that the day of 1900 A. S. Lewis Jr., Jno. F. Lewis  
 W. F. Leitch, Charles A. Hammer, M. M. Jamman, E. L.  
 Dechert + S. A. Davis, were brought before me D. M. Switzer  
 Mayor of the town of Harrisonburg, Va. & ex officio justice of the  
 peace on the charge contained in the ~~original~~ <sup>within</sup> warrant, &  
 on motion of the said prisoners the hearing of the case was  
 continued until the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1900 when the hearing of the  
 case was begun & said case was concluded on the  
 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1900 & the said ~~prisoners~~ prisoners are by  
 me on the evidence on oath of the witnesses who testified in  
 the case, found guilty as follows: A. S. Lewis Jr. & Jno. F. Lewis are  
 found guilty of assault & battery on John Acker; Charles W.  
 Leitch, Charles A. Hammer, M. M. Jamman, E. L. Dechert - & S. A.  
 Davis are found guilty as aiders & abettors or principals  
 in the second degree to said assault & battery on  
 said John Acker; wherefore I adjudge that A. S. Lewis Jr.  
 be fined the sum of \$50., that Jno. F. Lewis be fined the  
 sum of \$50., that Charles W. Leitch, Charles A. Hammer,  
 M. M. Jamman, E. L. Dechert - & S. A. Davis be each fined the  
 sum of \$15. <sup>in addition to the said A. S. Lewis Jr., Jno. F. Lewis, Ch. A. Hammer, Ch. W. Leitch,</sup>  
 But the said A. S. Lewis Jr., John F.  
 Lewis, Charles W. Leitch, Charles A. Hammer, M. M. Jamman  
 & E. L. Dechert - and S. A. Davis having payed an appeal  
 from my said judgment, an appeal is hereby granted <sup>them</sup>  
 to the next term of the County Court of Rockingham County, <sup>except the said Leitch</sup>  
 having given bail for their appearance before said Court on the  
 1<sup>st</sup> day of the May term 1900, & the said judgment and conviction, as  
 well as said appeal and bail, are hereby certified to the  
 said Court.

Given under my hand & seal this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1900

D. M. Switzer Seal  
 Mayor of the town of Harrisonburg, Va. ex officio J. D.

Executed the within warrant by arresting and  
 delivering the body of M. M. Jamman before  
 D. M. Switzer, Mayor for the town of  
 Harrisonburg in the County of Rockingham,  
 this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1900.

H. R. Black, C. R. A.



*Given*

The Jury are instructed that the question as to which of the factions of the Republican party had a majority of delegates in the Convention of the 17th of March, 1900, or who was rightfully Chairman of said Convention, Webb or Acker, or which of said factions was entitled to the possession of the stage, is not for the Jury to determine, and any evidence upon this point is to be disregarded by them in coming to a conclusion as to the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

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of said factions was entitled to the possession of the state.

*W. H. Webb*

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as to the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

##M##C##S##

CHAS. M. KEEZEL.

I was Chairman of the Republican party for Rockingham County, and, as such, called the Convention of Mar. 17th, 1900, which met in the Assembly Hall, in the Court House in Harrisonburg, to order, and proceeded to the election of Temporary Chairman. For the past two years, until a short time before Convention, there had been rival organizations, I being Chairman of one, and M. M. Jarman, Chairman of the other, but Jarman had resigned, and both came into Convention called by me. I placed on roll, and called, in taking the vote for Temporary Chairman, the precincts whose delegations had been certified to me as provided in party regulations. There were contests from various precincts, one of them being East Harrisonburg. Dr. J. B. Webb and John Acker were nominated. Botts Lewis and A. P. Funkhouser, at my request, acted as Tellers. Some times when a precinct was called, a vote would be announced for each of the nominees, and Botts Lewis would record it one way and Funkhouser another. I never completed roll-call -- two or three precincts which I had temporarily passed yet remained, when there were cries from all over the house, calling on Botts Lewis to announce the vote, and he, without announcing it to me, got up from the table, advanced to the front of the stage, held up his hands, and called out, "Webb 35, Acker 30, we've got them, boys." I announced that Acker was elected, knew it by mental count. Funkhouser did not tell me. There was instantly great confusion, and a voice in the crowd in the body of the house near the stage, which I recognized as that of James Sullivan, an anti-Ackerite, or Lewisite, called out, "Get the papers, get the papers, no matter how you get them." A number of peo-

Before the introduction of any witnesses the jury accompanied by the Court and Attorney for the Commonwealth and for prisoners went to the upper room of the Court House in which the trial was being held and viewed the scene where the alleged offense was committed.

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*Handwritten notes on the right side of the page, written vertically. The text is difficult to decipher but appears to be a commentary or additional account related to the typed text.*



I saw people arise from their seats and started for the stage. I saw an attempt was being made to get the papers and turned to the table and began putting them in my pocket and got all but a few. While doing so, people were brushing against me all around, and other hands were reaching for the papers. No violence was offered to me. I stayed on the stage all during the difficulties which followed, but did not see Aker knocked down. During the roll-call, I had seen Ed. Dechert in the East wing of the stage with stick in his hand, and he came out several times and accused me of cheating, and used insulting words to me, but I merely glanced at him over my shoulder, and paid no further attention to him. I think Mr. Aker was in the West wing of the stage when I called the Convention to order and during the roll-call. Before I turned to the table, I saw D. S. Lewis, Jr., jump on the stage from the East box. I did not see any of the others when they came on the stage. I first noticed Aker after he had been knocked down and was being taken off of the stage. He was walking and others were assisting him.

*Handwritten notes on the right margin, including names like "Dechert" and "Lewis".*

*Large handwritten scribbles at the bottom of the page.*

Witness further stated that he complied with the party regulations and placed before the convention the roll as certified to him from the various precincts of the County, as required by the party regulations.

After Acker was down I saw Chas. Fletcher approach Acker with a chair raised. I do not know whether any one else than Philips was between Acker and Fletcher, and do not know whether Fletcher could have hit Acker without advancing a step or two.

I told Botts Lewis that I would announce the vote when ready, but he (Lewis) first announced Webb elected and I immediately announced that Acker was elected. It was the duty of the chairman to announce and I knew from the responses that Acker had been elected.

Before the rush was made for the stage I saw Sam Davis take off his overcoat and nervously walking up and down in front of the stage; also saw John F. Lewis before the rush was made take off his overcoat and move his position nearer to the stage.

~~(To go in between pages 2 and 3)~~

Witness further stated that he complied with the party regulations and placed before the convention the roll as certified to him from the various precincts of the County, as required by the party regulations.

After Aker was down I saw Chas. Fletcher approach Aker with a chair raised. I do not know whether any one else than Phillips was between Aker and Fletcher, and do not know whether they could have hit Aker without advancing a chair.

I told Phillips to announce the vote when ready, but he did not. Aker was elected and I immediately announced that Aker was elected. It was the duty of the chairman to announce and I knew from the responses that Aker had been elected.

Before the rush was made for the stage I saw Sam Davis take off his overcoat and nervousness showing up and down in front of the stage; also saw W. F. Lewis before the rush was made take off his overcoat and move his position nearer to the stage.

~~To go in between pages 2 and 3~~



Admissions to Albion's Evidence

Don't think I told Bazzie I was struck  
only once - may have been said that I  
didn't mind being hit by a man but don't  
like being hit by that little ever sheff Lewis  
Prior to my conversation with Bazzie I had  
been informed that I had been struck  
by sheff Lewis - The only friend of mine  
on the stage who was hit some time since  
because he was and sheff. I don't know whether that is

That I thought

~~that~~

Were other there or not

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.]*

JOHN M. RODGERS.

I was in Dan O'Donnell's bar-room, shortly after the Convention, and heard S. A. Davis say that, "We went there to seat our Chairman, and we did it."

JOHN ACKER.

I was at the Convention as an alternate from my precinct of Edom. My principal was present, though I did not know it at the time. I am the Acker who is generally recognized as the head of what is known as the "Acker faction" of the Republican party in this County. Funkhouser, Keezel and myself were in the West wing of the stage before the Convention was called to order, ~~passing in and out~~. When Keezel went on the Stage to call the Convention to order, I may have been in the West wing, or it may be that I was in the box right in front of the door leading into the ~~east~~ wing. Mr. Keezel When ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ announced the vote, as stated by Mr. Keezel, I went out on the Stage to call the Convention to order. Keezel's announcement was immediately after Botts Lewis had called out, "Webb 35, Acker 30, we've got them boys." <sup>Come on</sup> Just before I went out, there had been a rush for the stage by a number of people -- I don't know who all they were. I went up to the

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of people -- I don't know who all they were. I went up

table that stood near the center of the stage and put my hand on the back of a chair. I think it was the one on which Funkhouser had been sitting. Just about that time, Ike Davis, who also belonged to our faction of the party, was knocked down over on the East side of the stage. I saw him fall, and started towards him. When I got to the East end of the table, I met John F. Lewis, and he caught hold of my arms. I don't know whether I grabbed him or not. Right after that, some one struck me in the face. I don't know <sup>who</sup> it was that hit me nor what I was struck with, but I have always thought it was a chair. The blow knocked me down. I don't know whether I fell on my back or not. I was confined to my house for a week and was in bed during that time. The blow paralyzed the muscles in the right side of my face and mouth and ~~is still that way~~ <sup>is still that way</sup> I was taken off of the stage and after washing my face and getting the blood off, which flowed freely from my nose, I returned to the stage and found that Dr. Webb had taken the chair and was presiding over a Convention. I said that I had been elected chairman and was going to act as such, and from that time, there were two Conventions, held side by side in the hall, Dr. Webb presiding over one and I over the other. There was no further violence or disturbance of any kind. During the time I was out, several policemen and Sheriffs had restored order, and during the rest of the Convention, some of them stayed on the stage. I was not carried off of the stage, after I was knocked down, but walked off, perhaps assisted by others. When I came out

I may have been a club  
thrust I was  
struck at twice

There is still  
a numbness in  
my lips on  
the right side  
of my nose  
and depression  
of the maxilla  
bone

first time I did not sit in the Convention and  
think I made such statement before  
the Mayor - I made this statement  
the second time I came out  
(Add additional evidence on separate sheet)  
4.

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*Handwritten notes on the right margin:*  
I was struck with a chair  
I fell on my back  
I was confined to my house  
The blow paralyzed the muscles  
I was taken off the stage  
I was washed  
I returned to the stage  
I was elected chairman  
I was struck with a chair  
I fell on my back  
I was confined to my house  
The blow paralyzed the muscles  
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I was washed  
I returned to the stage  
I was elected chairman

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The blow paralyzed the muscles  
I was taken off the stage  
I was washed  
I returned to the stage  
I was elected chairman

Dr. James Bowman.

I was called to see Mr. Acker the morning after the convention and found extensive injuries. He had foul breath and tongue which follow severe injuries; there was depression of malar bone; slight paralysis of upper lip; and there were blood clots from his nose indications ~~from~~<sup>of</sup> a blow on the side of his head, and to the right side of his face. I visited Mr. Acker three times professionally--the Sunday, Monday and Wednesday after he was hurt; almost impossible to say just how many blows Acker received, but I think must have been more than one; think blow on face must have been from something flat, if by fist, it must have been powerful and hand would have needed dressing. On cross examination witness stated that the blood clots in the nose were evidence of the malar bone being depressed by a blow. Blows could have been inflicted by fist. I think blow must have been struck by a man standing in front of Acker and at Acker's right side

(page 5, after Simmons).

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(page 5, after Simmons).



C. C. Simmons.

I heard Jarman say, in my store at Elkton, shortly after the convention, that he reckoned if others had not hit Acker he would. The witness further stated on cross-examination that he thought Jarman also said he had a small plank in his hand which he had picked up and broken across his knee and held a piece in his hand to protect himself if attacked, and that Jarman also said that Acker had a stick also; think Jarman said he (Jarman) had a small plank.

( page 5 )

C. C. Simmons.

I heard Jarman say, in my store at Wilketon, shortly after the convention, that he reckoned if others had not hit Acker he would. The witness further stated on cross-examination that he thought Jarman also said he had a small plank in his hand which he had picked up and broken across his knee and held a piece in his hand to protect himself if attacked, and that Jarman also said that Acker had a stick also; think Jarman said he (Jarman) had a small plank.

( page 5 )

and the hand of the man who struck him, I should think, would have to have <sup>been</sup> his hand dressed after striking such a blow. I think the blow must have been struck by a man ~~striking~~ standing in front of Mr. Acker and his -- Acker's -- right side.

W. C. SWITZER.

*I am a deputy sheriff in this county*

I was in the gallery when the Convention was called to order and until Mr. Acker was knocked down. Just as he began to fall, I left my seat in the gallery and came downstairs, into the body of the hall. I heard Mr. Keezel call the roll, and there was a great deal of excitement while this was being done. During the roll-call, I think when West Harrisonburg had been called, there was considerable disturbance and some one in the audience, I think Mr. Orville Dechert, got up and said something about its not being fair, and said "off with your coats boys," and Mr. Sam Davis, who was sitting down near the front, got up and took off his over coat and laid it on the seat in front of him. He was the only one that I saw take off his coat. This was early in the roll-call, and some time before the trouble on the ~~xxx~~ stage. When Mr. Keezel had about finished the roll, there was a great deal of noise, people shouting, and some of them shouting to

and the hand of the man who struck him, I should think  
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A portion of the Harrowbury allegations appeared  
to Acker, some others appeared to Acker were sitting  
down near the stage before the rush was  
made, those included Jarman, pro Lewis, S. A. Davis,

to Botts Lewis to announce, <sup>the vote</sup> and Mr. Lewis got up and walked  
to the front of the stage and held up to his hand, as if to  
command silence, and said "Webb 35, Acker 30,— we've got  
them, boys," and Mr. Keezel denied it. I didn't hear what  
Keezel said. As soon as Mr. Lewis made this announcement,  
there was a rush for the stage. Some of them went up over  
the piano, which sat in front of the stage, and some of  
them went up through the wing. About the first on the stage  
were D. S. Lewis, Jr., S. A. Davis, Chas. A. Hammer and M.  
M. Jarman and John F. Lewis. Ed Dechert, I had seen on the  
stage before the Convention was called to order but during  
the roll-call, he was back behind some of the scenery, and I  
did not see him when the rush was made. I didn't see Fletcher  
er on the stage until after the difficulty, nor did I see  
Jarman after <sup>he</sup> got on the stage. When D. S. Lewis, Jr., got  
on the stage, he faced towards the audience and waved his hat  
and hurried, and then turned and went towards the table  
where Funkhouser was sitting and grabbed something out of Funk-  
houser's hand, and about that time I saw <sup>Ike</sup> the West side of  
coming from the <sup>East</sup> West side with his hands up and going towards  
Charlie Hammer. When he got a little past the East end of  
the table, in front, Hammer struck at him and I thought hit  
him, and D.S. Lewis struck at just the same time and hit him  
in the face, and Davis fell. Sheff Lewis hit Davis once with  
his fist. I saw nothing else in his hand, don't think he  
had anything else. After Davis was knocked down, Lewis and  
Hammer went towards Acker and D. S. Lewis, Jr., struck <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
the face with his fist and knocked him down. Lewis struck  
Acker twice. Just as Acker started to fall, I left my seat  
in the gallery. Acker was not struck with any chair or stick.  
I didn't see Acker attempt to hit any one, but when he was  
struck, his hands were down and people were between him and  
me so that I could not see his hands nor what he was doing with

J.S. Lewis, Jr.  
I saw <sup>myself</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>struck</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>A.</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>only</sup> <sup>one</sup> <sup>struck</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>A.</sup>



When I got on the stage there were fully a hundred people there, some of them belonging to ~~each~~ each faction, and some democrats. I didn't see Hammer strike anybody or attempt to strike anybody, after the blow he struck at Davis, nor was he close enough when Acker was struck to have struck him. After S. A. Davis got to the stage, I saw no more of him until I got on the stage, and when I got there, the fighting was over. I did not hear Acker say anything after he came on the stage. I thought he was trying to get to somebody, -

*as if separate them, maybe Mr. Ike Davis. Only two I recognized close enough to him Acker were pro, and Sheff Lewis. -*

There was something in Acker's way when he was coming along back of table. He seemed to be trying to get back. Don't know whether it was a chair or a person.

after I got on stage and after the fight, stood Ed. Deebert down his stick, he replied, "they've cheated us out of this thing before and we don't intend they shall do it again."

*I saw pro Lewis grab the stick back Lewis on no. whether Acker had hold of pro Lewis on no.*

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*as a separate thing*  
maybe Mr. Ike Davis.

*There was something in  
the way when he was  
going about back of table, he  
seemed to be trying to get back  
back from where he was  
a chair or a person.*

*After I got on stage and  
after the fight, I saw  
about seven or eight, the re-  
sult, they're scattered on end  
of the thing before audience  
about where they stand  
back again."*

*There was something in  
the way when he was  
going about back of table, he  
seemed to be trying to get back  
back from where he was  
a chair or a person.*



DR. J. B. AMISS,

I was at Acker's house on Wednesday after the Convention. My visit was one of friendship, only, and not professional. As I sat talking to Acker, something about his face, which I had not noticed before, attracted my attention and I got up and walked over to him and examined it and found his malar bone depressed. I can't say whether he was born that way or not. If it was depressed by a blow, I should think it must have been done with a stick or some instrument, because it would require a very powerful blow with the fist to depress it, though it would be done with a blow from the fist. I also noticed that the marks on his face indicated that he must have been struck two blows with the fist, or with a flat stick. It may be that the depression of this bone had existed from Acker's birth and I may have just noticed it on that occasion because of the position in which we sat relative to each other.

*The paralysis of the muscle extending down from side of nose to upper lip was the natural result from the depressing of the malar.*

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 sat relative to each other.

*The depression of the  
 bone is probably from a blow of  
 some kind. It is the nature  
 of the depression of the  
 bone.*

raised the chair to hit ~~him~~<sup>me</sup>. Some one caught the chair and he put it down without striking any one. ~~And~~ This attempt hit me with the chair was after the statement that he tried to hit "Lewis" with a chair.

JOHN LOWMAN.

I was sitting in the gallery at the Convention, and saw Sheff Lewis hit John Acker in the face with his fist. He only hit him once -- had nothing in his hand that I saw. He was not hit with ~~any~~ any sticks or chairs. I only saw one stick on the stage. That was the one Ed. Dechert had. I saw him with it after the Convention was called to order, before there was any difficulty, and when I saw him, he was standing on the side of the stage leaning on the stick.

*There was no one near S. Lewis when he struck Acker except J. C. Davis, and I saw no one else strike Acker.*

*S. J. Davis  
J. C. Davis  
J. C. Davis*

raised the chair to hit him. Some one caught the chair and

he put it down without striking any one.

*Hit one with the chair was after the  
statement that he threw a chair  
with a chair.*

JOHN LOWMAN.

I was sitting in the gallery at the convention, and saw Sheriff Lewis hit John Acker in the face with his fist. He only hit him once -- had nothing in his hand that I saw. He was not hit with any sticks or chairs. I only saw one stick on the stage. That was the one Ed. Dechert had. I saw him with it after the convention was called to order. before there was any difficulty, and when I saw him, he was

standing on the side of the stage leaning on the stick. There was no one near S. Lewis when he returned better, as before, for above, and because we see also other persons.

GEORGE W. RICKARD.

I went on the stage, after Acker was knocked down. I saw Fletcher there then. He raised a chair and tried to hit Otis Cooley, my nephew whom I had raised, and I told him if he hit Cooley, I would kill him right there. Some one caught the chair and he didn't hit any body with it.

*and threw  
off the stage*

JACOB W. DEPUTY.

I was at the Convention, and I placed Acker in nomination for Temporary Chairman. At that time, I was sitting back near the gallery, on the East side of the house, but I changed my place, and when the difficulties occurred on the stage, I was ~~in~~ in the West box. I heard Botts Lewis make the announcement of the vote and saw the rush for the stage. I recognized a good many of them at the time, but can't name them all now. I saw Mr. Sheff Lewis jump from the box <sup>on</sup> from which I was standing on to the stage. I saw Sheff Lewis ~~pushing~~ *pushing Acker, & John looked off him* and then I went around on the stage and helped Acker off.

*Saw for Lewis grab  
Acker & Sheff with  
him.*

*+ I saw the board in  
Jarman's hand on  
stage - it was about  
as wide as your  
hand + 1/2 in. thick.*

I was talking to Jarman several days after then Convention and he said that he had a <sup>piece of a</sup> board on the stage for the purpose of protecting himself. I believed that he had it to protect himself, because Jarman is a truthful man, and I would believe anything he told me. + When I saw Sheff and John Lewis with Acker, there was nobody else near Acker that I saw.

*Saw Acker go down quick as a leaf.*

*Saw Fletcher with chair  
up. When Acker came out on  
the stage a rush was made  
at him*

GEORGE W. RICKARD.

I went on the stage, after Acker was knocked down. I saw Fletcher there then. He raised a chair and tried to hit Otis Goolley, my nephew whom I had raised, and I told him if he hit Goolley, I would kill him right there. Some one caught the chair and he didn't hit any body with it.

JACOB W. DEPUTY.

I was at the Convention, and I placed Acker in nomination for Temporary Chairman. At that time, I was sitting back near the gallery, on the West side of the house, but I changed my place, and when the difficulties occurred on the stage, I was in the West box. I heard Botte Lewis make the announcement of the vote and saw the rush for the stage. I recognized a good many of them at the time, but can't name them all now. I saw Mr. Sherr Lewis jump from the box from which I was standing on to the stage. I saw Sherr Lewis jumping down from the box and then I went forward on the stage and helped Acker off. I was talking to Jarman several days after the Convention and he said that he had a board on the stage for the purpose of protecting himself. I believed that he had it to protect himself, because Jarman is a truthful man, and I would believe anything he told me. When I saw Sherr and John Lewis with Acker, there was nobody else near Acker that I saw.

*Handwritten notes on right margin, partially obscured.*

*Large handwritten scribble or diagram on right margin.*

*Vertical handwritten notes on right margin.*

*Vertical handwritten notes on left margin.*

*Large handwritten scribbles at the bottom of the page.*

W. H. Keister.

I am principal of public school of Harris-  
onburg. I was in the East box and saw Ed. Dechert  
with a stick in his hand before the convention was  
called to order. It was just a little stick, about  
a half an inch thick and two feet long and maybe three  
or four inches wide. He came off of the stage into  
the box where I was and I asked him who had a majority  
in the convention--the Ackerites or the Lewisites, and  
he said the Lewisites and they are going to hold the  
convention. "We are going to have our rights today  
if we have to do it by blood. Acker and Funkhouser  
have run this County long enough" I saw the rush for  
the stage when Botts Lewis made some announcement,  
either that Acker was elected or that Webb was elected  
I don't know which--that Webb had thirty and Acker  
thirty-five or that Acker had thirty and Webb thirty-  
five, I don't know which. In that rush I saw Mr.  
Hammer and Mr. John Lewis and Mr. Orville Dechert, and  
I saw Sheff Lewis jump from the box opposite me onto  
the stage. I went onto the stage myself, I am a demo-  
crat. I don't know why I went there. I was not at  
all excited. I went to keep some of my friends from  
getting hurt. I went because I thought I might be of  
use in helping somebody get off the stage if they got  
hurt. I really don't know why I went. I am sorry  
I am here. I saw Mr. Acker come on the stage. I  
thought he was coming to preside over the convention.  
I saw Acker make no demonstration. I saw Acker wlk-  
ing up and down in the West wing of the stage when the

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 ing up and down in the West wing of the stage when the



convention was called to order and ruing the roll call. I said to somebody that Acker was holding his aces. I don't know what that means, I saw it in the newspaper. When Acker was back there in the wing, before the convention, Keezel and Funkhouser were with him; I thought he was giving Keezel instructions. I saw John Lewis catch Acker's hands as if to press them down and I saw Sheff Lewis hit Mr. Acker with his fist and Acker sank down. Just after Acker was knocked down I saw a thin stick go down in the air from the West toward and near him, but it did not hit him; afterwards I heard John Lewis say he held Acker's hands and "Sheff hit him a devil of a crack". After the difficulty between Jarman and Lam, and before the convention was called to order Charlie Hammer came to me and offered me his pistol, asking me to keep it, saying that he feared there might be trouble and he didn't want his pistol on him if there was, but I declined to take it.

convention was called to order and during the roll call I said to somebody that Acker was holding his ass. I don't know what that means, I saw it in the newspaper. When Acker was back there in the wing, before the convention, Keasel and Tunkhouser were with him; I thought he was giving Keasel instructions. I saw John Lewis catch Acker's hands as if to press them down and I saw Sheriff Lewis hit Mr. Acker with his fist and Acker sank down. Just after Acker was knocked down I saw a thin stick go down in the air from the West toward and near him, but it did not hit him; afterwards I heard John Lewis say he held Acker's hands and "Sheriff hit him a devil of a crack". After the difficulty between Jarman and Lam, and before the convention was called to order Charlie Hammer came to me and offered me his pistol, asking me to keep it, saying that he feared there might be trouble and he didn't want his pistol on him if there was, but I declined to take it.

13-1/2

James Coxer

I was at the convention and saw Sheff Lewis hit Acker with his fist. I saw a stick strike Acker from the other side at the same time that Sheff Lewis hit him, but did not know who had the stick. I saw Acker come on stage. He walked out, picked up a chair, carried it a piece, set it down and walked on with his hands out.

Jos. Carver.

When Botts Lewis made his announcement the crowd rushed for the stage. I saw Mr. Acker on the stage, coming in peaceably, and saw him put his hand on the back of a chair, ~~xxxxxx~~ but ~~xxxx~~ I didn't see him carry it, and he seemed to be going to sit on it. I saw John Lewis go up and grab Acker's arms. It looked like Acker was trying to get to Ike Davis. While John Lewis had hold of Acker's arms Sheff Lewis ran in and struck Acker and knocked him down. I couldn't see Acker's hands, and don't know whether he had hold of John Lewis or not. I saw Ed. Dechert walk out on the stage from the East wing towards Acker with a stick in his hand, raised, after Sheff Lewis had hit Acker, but don't know how close he got to him and did not see him strike with the stick at anybody. I saw two chairs raised, but don't know who had them. After it was over I met Ed. Dechert on the stage and asked him who had hit John Acker; he said a chair hit him and I said: "But who had the chair?", and he said

James Garver

I was at the convention and saw Sheriff Lewis hit Acker with his fist. I saw a stick strike Acker from the other side at the same time that Sheriff Lewis hit him, but did not know who had the stick. I saw Acker come on stage. He walked out, picked up a chair, carried it a piece, set it down and walked on with his hands out.

Joe Garver

When Sheriff Lewis made his announcement the crowd rushed for the stage. I saw Mr. Acker on the stage, coming in peacefully, and saw him put his hand on the back of a chair, but I didn't see him carry it, and he seemed to be going to sit on it. I saw John Lewis go up and grab Acker's arms. It looked like Acker was trying to get to Ike Davis. While John Lewis had hold of Acker's arms Sheriff Lewis ran in and struck Acker and knocked him down. I couldn't see Acker's hands, and don't know whether he had hold of John Lewis or not. I saw Ed Dechert walk out on the stage from the East wing towards Acker with a stick in his hand, raised, after Sheriff Lewis had hit Acker, but don't know how close he got to him and did not see him strike with the stick at anybody. I saw two chairs raised, but don't know who had them. After it was over I met Ed Dechert on the stage and asked him who had hit John Acker; he said a chair hit him and I said: "But who had the chair?", and he said

"That's something else". Shortly after the roll call began I heard Orville Dechert call for coats off, but nobody but Sam Davis took off his coat--that was an overcoat that he took off. That was a good while too before the rush for the stage. The stick that Ed. Dechert had looked like a garden pailing. I did not see Fletcher or Jarman until after the fight was over. Sam Davis was on the front of that stage with his cane in his hand--that was the only place I saw him and I didn't see him attempt to strike anyone.

On Cross-Examination he said: Botts Lewis said "Thirty-five to thirty: come on boys, we've got them". Ed. Dechert's approaching with stick was after Sheff Lewis had struck Acker once. Acker was not down, though Sheff had hit him once. Dechert was ten or twelve feet from Acker when the stick was up. Everybody seemed eager to get to Acker. Acker had no time to advance towards Davis before John Lewis grabbed him

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to advance towards Davis before John Lewis grabbed him

Jasper Ham

Hammer responded: No, there is no chance  
of our getting together, there is going to be a  
fight. I thought perhaps he meant  
simply a contest and I asked him  
What do you mean by a fight? a contest  
before the Convention? He replied No, (they  
are trying to steal from us and) there is  
going to be a fight and an C. of Examiners  
he further stated that Hammer said (they  
are trying to steal our rights) and  
~~there is going to be a Kevanist~~  
~~or regular fight~~

Joseph Adams

I have been thinking of you very much lately  
 and wondering how you are getting on  
 I hope you are well and happy  
 I have not much news to write at present  
 but I will write again soon  
 Give my love to all the folks  
 I am your affectionate friend  
 J. Adams



JASPER HAWSE. *Am. Club*

*(cut)*  
I met Charlie Hammer at the <sup>East entrance</sup> front door of the Court <sup>yard</sup> House on the day of the Convention. I knew that there had been a sharp contest between the factions at the primaries, and that Hammer was a prominent worker, and I asked him, "Are you going to get together today," meaning that, as I supposed the Convention was for the purpose of harmonizing the differences between the factions, I wanted to know whether that result was likely. *Hammer responded,* "I shouldn't be at all surprised if we do get together. I shouldn't be surprised if there was a knock-out." *on regular fight* After this conversation, ~~ix~~ thinking it was best to remain away, I did not go to the Convention. I had no particular interest ~~ix~~ in it at any rate, as I am not a Republican.

B. F. RALSTON.

*Monday after*  
On the ~~afternoon~~ of the Convention, ~~after it was over,~~ when I ~~was~~ home, I saw S. A. Davis, at Gay's stable, in the North end of Town, and referring to the trouble at the Convention, he said, "We didn't get the game *Decker and Sue Davis are good men.* we were after. We were after Funkhouser and Keezel." After the fighting on the stage, I heard John F. Lewis talking to some one, whom I didn't know and don't know now, down in

(back)

JASPER HAWSE.

I met Charlie Hammer at the front door of the Court House on the day of the Convention. I knew that there had been a sharp contest between the factions at the parties, and that Hammer was a prominent worker, and I asked him, "Are you going to get together today," meaning that, as I supposed the Convention was for the purpose of harmonizing the differences between the factions, I wanted to know whether that result was likely. Hammer responded, "I shouldn't be at all surprised if we do get together. I shouldn't be surprised if there was a knock-out." After this conversation, thinking it was best to remain away, I did not go to the Convention. I had no particular interest in it at any rate as I am not a Republican.

B. F. RALSTON.

On the ~~stage~~ <sup>Monday after</sup> of the Convention, after it was over, ~~when I was on my way home~~, I saw S. A. Davis, at Gay's stable, in the North end of town, and referring to the trouble at the Convention, he said, "We didn't get the game we were after. We were after Funkhouser and Kezel." At- <sup>ter the fighting on the stage, I heard John F. Lewis talking to some one, whom I didn't know and don't know now, down in</sup>

the body of the house near the stage, and I heard him say,

"I held John Acker's arms ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> Sheff knocked him down."

*I saw* ~~Acen~~ came on stage in a peaceable manner so far as I saw. I saw no noise of him. Saw Ed. Dechuk on stage with stick. Saw Davis was there with cane uplifted. Didn't see either of them use the stick.

JOHN C. BEERY.

I was present as a spectator at the Convention, and saw Ike Davis knocked down. He was not attacking any one when I saw him, which was just before he was knocked down. Sheff Lewis hit him on one side and Charlie Hammer on the other at the same time, and he fell to the floor.

In rebuttal, this witness repeated the statements that Mr. Davis came in from the West side of the stage directly after the rush. Mr. Davis was making an attack on nobody. Don't think Mr. Davis saw Sheff Lewis at all. *Saw Sheff Lewis, John Lewis and Charles Hammer go on the stage at the time of the rush.*

the body of the house near the stage, and I heard him say,  
"I held John Acker's arms when Sheriff knocked him down."

*2000*  
Sheriff came on stage in  
a peculiar manner, as if  
he had been no more of him.  
Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff  
Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff  
Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff  
Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff  
Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff, Sheriff

JOHN C. BERRY.

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when I saw him, which was just before he was knocked down.  
Sheriff Lewis hit him on one side and Charlie Hammer on the other  
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attack on nobody. Don't think Mr. Davis saw Sheriff Lewis at

all. Saw Sheriff Lewis, John Lewis and  
Charlie Hammer go on the stage at  
the time of the fight.

ED. KOONTZ.

I was not at the Convention, being then in Hagerstown, where I now live, having moved from here there, some time before. I was in Harrisonburg some time after the Convention and had a Conversation with S. A. Davis with reference to the happenings at the Convention. He told me that the Lewisites had determined to have their rights that day if they had to go through blood, that it had all been arranged on the morning of the Convention, at a meeting held at the Spirit of the Valley office. He said he was sorry that they had hurt Acker and Davis that they were good men, but that they were after Funkhouser and Keezel. *Davis said he didn't like anybody.*

JOHN PHILLIPS.

I am the janitor of the CourtHouse and went into the hall on the day of the Convention about the time the people began to arrive, or a little before. I saw Ed. Dechert there before the Convention was called to order and before many people had arrived. It may be that I met him at the door of the hall. Dechert was, at that time, acting as manager of the Opera House (for which purpose the hall is also used), ~~xxxx~~ I had arranged the stage for the Convention by placing the table out near the front and running out the first scene, the scene nearest the front of the stage. Mr. Dechert remarked to me that he thought there was hardly room enough with the scenery that way, and he and I went up on the

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hurt Acker and Davis that they were good men, but that they  
were after Funkhouser and Keesel. *Down and to liberty*

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Dechert remarked to me that he thought there was hardly room  
enough with the scenery that way, and he and I went up on the

*Insert*  
~~Sub~~  
stage, pushed back the first scene and ran out the third one from the front. I thought too that that was better. I went back off of the stage, and after Acker was knocked down, came back on and saw Mr. Fletcher with a chair raised over on the East side of the stage and trying to get to some one. I caught the chair and told him to put it down and he put it down very quietly. I saw no sticks on the stage except one in the hands of Mr. Ed Dechert, which looked like a little lathe. He had that before the convention was called to order. Ed Dechert was standing back near the East Wing of the stage when Fletcher had the chair up.

~~Part of substitute was  
be added~~

JEHU LONG.

I am a policeman of the town of Harrisonburg. I was in the hall during the Convention and before it was called to order. Before the Convention was organized there was some difficulty between Mr. Marion ~~and~~ Lamb, from down near Elkton and Mr. Jarman. Lam had been drinking a good deal and insisted on trying to have a difficulty with Mr. Jarman. My attention was called to it and I went to Mr. Lam and tried to get him quiet. He wouldn't behave, and I started to take him out of the hall.. I was going up the aisle with him towards the door, getting along very slowly, when I heard the disturbance on the stage, and turning around, saw the fight going on. I at once went up to keep order. When

stage, pushed back the first scene and ran out the third one  
from the front. I thought too that was better. I  
went back off of the stage, and after aker was knocked down,  
came back on and saw Mr. Fletcher with a chair raised over on  
the East side of the stage and trying to get to some one. I  
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down very quietly. I saw no sticks on the stage except one  
in the hands of Mr. Ed Dechert, which looked like a little  
bathe. He had that before the convention was called to order.  
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JERU LONG.  
I am a policeman of the town of Harrisonburg.  
I was in the hall during the convention and before it was call-  
ed to order. Before the convention was organized there was  
some difficulty between Mr. Harrison and Mr. Lamb, from down  
near Harrison and Mr. Jarman. Lamb had been drinking a good  
deal and insisted on trying to have a difficulty with Mr. Jar-  
man. My attention was called to it and I went to Mr. Lamb and  
tried to get him quiet. He wouldn't behave, and I started  
to take him out of the hall... I was going up the aisle with  
him towards the door, getting along very slowly, when I  
heard the disturbance on the stage, and turning around, saw  
the fight going on. I spoke went up to keep order. When



I got there, Acker had been knocked down. I didn't see him when he was struck... He was going off of the stage when I got there. I saw Charlie Fletcher on the East side of the stage with a chair in his hand, raised as if to strike some one, and he was facing in the direction of Mr. Acker. He was not within a closer distance of Mr. Acker than ~~six~~<sup>5</sup> or ~~eight~~<sup>6</sup> feet, and he would have had to have stepped forward several steps in order to have struck him, and he was standing still at the time. I was between Fletcher and Acker, and if the blow had been delivered, it would have struck me and not Acker. There may have been other people between Acker and Fletcher. I heard some one behind me say, "Damn, him, I'll get him," and turning saw Fletcher with the chair, and reached up and caught hold of it and took it out of his hands. I arrested, or rather I summoned several of the parties who were engaged in the difficulties on the stage, to appear before the Mayor, after the Convantion was over. I arrested everybody that I could find had been engaged, who were, D. S. Lewis, Jr., Charles A. Hammer, Mr. Fletcher, John Acker and Ike Davis. When I told Mr. Hammer to appear before the Mayor, he said to me, "What are you arresting me for, I didn't hit John Acker," and I said, "I am not arresting you for Acker. I am arresting you for hitting Ike Davis." Hammer said, "That's right." I wasn't paying much attention to what the parties were saying to me.-- What I was after was stopping the row and summoning the parties before the Mayor. When I summoned Sheff Lewis, Sheff asked me, "Who else are you arresting?" and I told him I was arresting everybody that was in the row. I arrested Sheff Lewis after he was ~~on the stage~~ while I was on the stage, right after the fighting. Ed. Decker asked me who hit Acker. Wilup further said that he asked who struck Acker & no one 20. ~~was named~~ told

I got there, Aker had been knocked down. I didn't see him when he was struck... He was going off of the stage when I got there. I saw Charlie Fletcher on the East side of the stage with a chair in his hand, raised as if to strike some one, and he was facing in the direction of Mr. Aker. He was not within a closer distance of Mr. Aker than ~~the~~ or ~~right~~ feet, and he would have had to have stepped forward several steps in order to have struck him, and he was standing still at the time. I was between Fletcher and Aker, and if the blow had been delivered, it would have struck me and not Aker. There may have been other people between Aker and Fletcher. I heard some one behind me say, "Damn, him, I'll get him," and turning saw Fletcher with the chair, and reached up and caught hold of it and took it out of his hands. I arrested, or rather I summoned several of the parties who were engaged in the difficulties on the stage, to appear before the Mayor, after the Convention was over. I arrested everybody that I could find had been engaged, who were D. S. Lewis, Jr., Charles A. Hammer, Mr. Fletcher, John Aker and Ike Davis. When I told Mr. Hammer to appear before the Mayor, he said to me, "What are you arresting me for?" I didn't hit John Aker," and I said, "I am not arresting you for Aker. I am arresting you for hitting Ike Davis." Hammer said, "That's right." I wasn't paying much attention to what the parties were saying to me.-- What I was after was stopping the row and summoning the parties before the Mayor. When I summoned Sheriff Lewis, Sheriff asked me, "Who else are you arresting?" and I told him I was arresting everybody that was in the

row. I arrested Sheriff Lewis after the row of the stage right after the fight with Mr. Aker and Mr. Davis who hit him. I think further that he came into the room & no one else was there.

(At end of John Philips). Page 19

After the rush was made to the stage and Acker do  
down, but before he went off, I went back on the  
stage and saw Fletcher raise a chair, leaning over  
facing Acker, about five or six feet from him; I  
grabbed the chair, took it and set it down, without  
opposition from Fletcher. Before Acker was knocked  
down, and before the convention was called to order, I  
saw Ed. Dechert beind the scenes with a stick in his  
hands

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 grabbed the chair, took it and set it down, without  
 opposition from Fletcher. Before Aker was knocked  
 down, and before the convention was called to order, I  
 saw Ed. Doherty behind the scenes with a stick in his  
 hands

~~(out)~~  
A. U. WISE. I am a member of the Board  
of Supervisors of Rockingham Co

I am an adherent of Mr. Acker's in the party.

I was at the Convention and heard Botts Lewis make the announce-  
ment that has been testified to, and immediately there was  
a rush for the stage by parties sitting down near the stage.  
The delegation from Harrisonburg and others. I recognized in  
the rush, ~~XXXXXX~~, a number of parties I could not now  
remember. The only one I recall now was D. S. Lewis, Jr.,  
who jumped on the stage from the <sup>west</sup> East box. Mr. Acker came  
I saw him behind the table, with his hands out, as though to  
on the stage just after the rush began. I didn't see him  
make any hostile demonstrations towards anybody. I only saw  
Acker put his hand on back of chair as though to sit down.  
him at the East end of the table. I saw him fall backwards  
- saw three fists go to his head, on right and left -  
but did not see who struck him, and just before he was struck,  
I saw some one step in front of him, but don't know who it  
was. I did not see the parson catch hold of Mr. Acker -- they  
seemed to be backing. I saw no sticks nor chairs. There was  
a great deal of confusion. There was about a dozen in the  
crowd around Mr. Acker at the time he went down.

~~(out)~~  
The crowd came  
from the front  
seats - it  
was the deacons  
crowd.  
I was here to go back  
in the crowd.

very something

JAMES. E. ROLLER.

I was at the Convention, back near the Gallery,  
heard Botts Lewis make his announcement and saw the rush for  
the stage. I recognized in the rush, John F. Lewis, and M.  
M. Jarman, S. A. Davis, who had a stick in his hand, -- his  
walking cane, I think, -- and Charlie Hammer. After they got  
on the stage, I saw a crowd go towards Mr. Acker -- about all

~~(out)~~  
Sitting on the  
East side  
of the stage  
the

~~James E. Roller~~  
A. U. WISE. I am a member of the Board

I am an adherent of Mr. Acker's in the party.

I was at the Convention and heard Botta Lewis make the announcement that has been testified to, and immediately there was a rush for the stage by parties sitting down near the stage. The delegation from Harrisburg and others. I recognized in the rush, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~, a number of parties I could not now remember. The only one I recall now was D. S. Lewis, Jr., who jumped on the stage from the East box. Mr. Acker came on the stage just after the rush began. I didn't see him make any hostile demonstrations towards anybody. I only saw Acker put his hand on back of chair as though to sit down. I saw him at the East end of the table. I saw him fall backwards ~~our three fists go to his back or right and left~~ but did not see who struck him, and just before he was struck I saw some one step in front of him, but don't know who it was. I did not see the person catch hold of Mr. Acker -- they seemed to be backing. I saw no sticks nor chairs. There was a great deal of confusion. There was about a dozen in the crowd around Mr. Acker at the time he went down.

*James E. Roller*

*(over)*  
*James E. Roller*  
*was*  
*at the*  
*convention*  
*and*  
*heard*  
*Botta*  
*Lewis*  
*make*  
*the*  
*announcement*  
*that*  
*has*  
*been*  
*testified*  
*to*  
*and*  
*immediately*  
*there*  
*was*  
*a*  
*rush*  
*for*  
*the*  
*stage*  
*by*  
*parties*  
*sitting*  
*down*  
*near*  
*the*  
*stage*  
*The*  
*delegation*  
*from*  
*Harrisburg*  
*and*  
*others*  
*I*  
*recognized*  
*in*  
*the*  
*rush*  
*XXXXXXXXXXXX*  
*a*  
*number*  
*of*  
*parties*  
*I*  
*could*  
*not*  
*now*  
*remember*  
*The*  
*only*  
*one*  
*I*  
*recall*  
*now*  
*was*  
*D. S. Lewis, Jr.,*  
*who*  
*jumped*  
*on*  
*the*  
*stage*  
*from*  
*the*  
*East*  
*box*  
*Mr. Acker*  
*came*  
*on*  
*the*  
*stage*  
*just*  
*after*  
*the*  
*rush*  
*began*  
*I*  
*didn't*  
*see*  
*him*  
*make*  
*any*  
*hostile*  
*demonstrations*  
*towards*  
*anybody*  
*I*  
*only*  
*saw*  
*Acker*  
*put*  
*his*  
*hand*  
*on*  
*back*  
*of*  
*chair*  
*as*  
*though*  
*to*  
*sit*  
*down*  
*I*  
*saw*  
*him*  
*at*  
*the*  
*East*  
*end*  
*of*  
*the*  
*table*  
*I*  
*saw*  
*him*  
*fall*  
*backwards*  
*our*  
*three*  
*fists*  
*go*  
*to*  
*his*  
*back*  
*or*  
*right*  
*and*  
*left*  
*but*  
*did*  
*not*  
*see*  
*who*  
*struck*  
*him*  
*and*  
*just*  
*before*  
*he*  
*was*  
*struck*  
*I*  
*saw*  
*some*  
*one*  
*step*  
*in*  
*front*  
*of*  
*him*  
*but*  
*don't*  
*know*  
*who*  
*it*  
*was*  
*I*  
*did*  
*not*  
*see*  
*the*  
*person*  
*catch*  
*hold*  
*of*  
*Mr. Acker*  
*they*  
*seemed*  
*to*  
*be*  
*backing*  
*I*  
*saw*  
*no*  
*sticks*  
*nor*  
*chairs*  
*There*  
*was*  
*a*  
*great*  
*deal*  
*of*  
*confusion*  
*There*  
*was*  
*about*  
*a*  
*dozen*  
*in*  
*the*  
*crowd*  
*around*  
*Mr. Acker*  
*at*  
*the*  
*time*  
*he*  
*went*  
*down*

JAMES E. ROLLER.

I was at the Convention, back near the Gallery, heard Botta Lewis make his announcement and saw the rush for the stage. I recognized in the rush, John T. Lewis, and M. Jarman, S. A. Davis, who had a stick in his hand. -- his walking cane, I think, -- and Charlie Hammer. After they got on the stage, I saw a crowd go towards Mr. Acker -- about all

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*John T. Lewis,*  
*and*  
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*S. A. Davis,*  
*who*  
*had*  
*a*  
*stick*  
*in*  
*his*  
*hand*  
*--*  
*his*  
*walking*  
*cane,*  
*I*  
*think,*  
*--*  
*and*  
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*Hammer.*  
*After*  
*they*  
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*--*  
*about*  
*all*

that were on the stage. Charlie Hammer, D. S. Lewis, Jr.,

John F. Lewis, Luther Burke, and Charlie Zettie, and Harry

Vorhees, and there were others, all mixed up. *Acker had a paper in his hands.* I didn't ~~see~~ *see*

*he was*

*falling.* ~~He~~ Acker ~~until he was down~~. I saw John F. Lewis, just after

Acker was down. He seemed to be behind Acker, with Acker's

head in his lap, and he had a hold of Acker's elbows. I

couldn't tell whether Acker had pulled him down with him in

~~the~~ falling or whether he simply had hold of Acker and contin-

ued to hold him when he fell. I saw a number of sticks in the

air at the time Acker fell, -- sticks and chairs. I didn't

see any of them come down and can't say that any of those

who had them tried to hit Acker.. Ed Dechert was walking

up and down, flourishing his stick, but I didn't see him make

any effort to hit anybody. I saw John F. Lewis that same

afternoon in Ott's drugstore, and heard him say that he

held John Acker's arms when Sheff Lewis struck him. It may

be that Otis Cooley and George W. Rickard were on the stage.

~~XX.~~

*I am pretty certain  
Fletcher was on the stage when  
Acker was struck.*

*Saw Sam Davis with stick  
on case, but didn't see him as  
it & Dechert had his stick up  
before Acker was hit.*

W. C. FUNK.

I was at the Convention sitting back under the  
Gallery; I was sitting with my brother, Joseph, When Ike Davis  
was knocked down we left our seats and went into the East box.

Just then we saw Mr. Acker going off of the stage; I did not

see Mr. Acker when he was hit. *I don't know he was hurt* My brother and I then went a-

round on the stage and there were a great many people there

when we arrived, but the fighting was all over. I saw John

that were on the stage. Charlie Hanner, D. S. Lewis, Jr.,

John F. Lewis, Luther Burke, and Charlie Zettle, and Harry

*before he was*  
Vorhees, and there were others, all mixed up. I ~~was~~

Acker fell ~~to the ground~~ I saw John F. Lewis, just after

Acker was down. He seemed to be behind Acker, with Acker's

head in his lap, and he had a hold of Acker's elbows. I

couldn't tell whether Acker had pulled him down with him in

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

*W. C. FUNK.*  
*before he was*  
*it is probable that*  
*on could but did not*  
*some time before*  
*to the stage when*  
*then he was hit*

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Gallery; I was sitting with my brother, Joseph. When Ike Davis

was knocked down we left our seats and went into the East box.

Just then we saw Mr. Acker going off of the stage; I did not

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when we arrived, but the fighting was all over. I saw John



Lew and Sheff Lewis, each with a stick in his hand, after I got on the stage. The time I saw John Lewis with a stick was after both conventions had been organized and were in session. I heard John Lewis talking to P. O. Sullivan on the East side of the stage, after the difficulty was over, and heard him say that he held Acker's arms when Sheff Lewis hit him.

*I saw Fletcher raise the chair facing Acker. (Acker was on the stage and a very stout man and the crowd rushed forward by Acker)*

*ouch*

Joseph Funk.

I was at the convention sitting back under the gallery with my brother, W. C. Funk. We left our seats and went into the East box just after Davuss was knocked down. We saw Acker going off of the stage. I did not see Acker when he was hit. My brother and I when we saw Acker go off of the stage went around onto the stage and saw a good many people there, but there was no more fighting. I saw Sheff Lewis and John Lewis while I was on the stage with sticks in their hands. I thought at first that Sheff had a base-ball bat, and I looked again and saw it was only a slat. John Lewis had been in a committee room on the side of the stage, and when he came out he threw the stick away, Jim Sullivan spoke to him--I did not hear what he said--before he threw the stick away.

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him.~~

*only*

Joseph Frank.

I was at the convention sitting back under the gal-  
lery with my brother, W. G. Frank. We left our seats and went  
into the East box just after Davina was knocked down. We saw  
Acker going off of the stage. I did not see Acker when he  
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I thought at first that Sheriff had a base-ball bat, and I looked  
again and saw it was only a stick. John Lewis had been in a  
committee room on the side of the stage, and when he came out  
he threw the stick away. Jim Sullivan spoke to him—I did  
not hear what he said—before he threw the stick away.

J. L. Long.

I saw Sheff Lewis jump on the stage, and he went right back of the scenery--ran back--and came out again with a stick in his hand, and came to the front of the stage and there he met Ike Davis and hit him in the face with a stick and knocked him down. I didn't see Acker knocked down.

*When Botts Lewis made his announcement he made a motion with his hands and a half dozen rushed up on stage, and toward Keizer. I was on stage, too, when the rush took place. I am an absolute.*

A. P. Funkhouser.

*I am Post Master at Ham...*

I belong to the same party organization with Mr. Acker and Mr. Keezel. On the day of the convention I acted as one of the tellers and Botts Lewis as the other. There was a great deal of confusion during the roll call. When it was about completed there were a number of persons calling on Botts Lewis to announce the vote and he got up and went to the front of the stage and called out "Webb 35; Acker 30; we've got them boys". I had not yet completed my addition. When he made this announcement a number of people started for the stage. I rose from my seat and stood there trying to add up the columns. I did not see who came upon the stage except that D. S. Lewis, Jr., came running up to me, on the opposite side of the table and grabbed the paper from my hands and started off with it. I followed him around the table, saying "See here, young man, that doesn't belong to you," and he turned and tore the paper in two and threw it upon the floor. I went and picked it up, and proceeded with my figures. I remained on the stage throughout the entire difficulty and except when D. S. Lewis, Jr., took the paper from my hand, which he did, without saying anything to me. No violence was offered to me. I glanced up from my paper at one time, and in that glance, I saw Garman ~~EXXING~~ *come in* on the East side of the stage,

J. L. Long.

I saw Sheriff Lewis jump on the stage, and he went right back of the scenery--ran back--and came out again with a stick in his hand, and came to the front of the stage and there he met Ike Davis and hit him in the face with a stick and knocked

him down. I didn't see Aker knocked down. When Aker knocked down, I made his announcement to make a meeting with his hands and a stick. I was on stage, and I was on the floor.

A. P. Frankhouser.

I belong to the same party organization with Mr. Aker and Mr. Kezel. On the day of the convention I acted as one of the tellers and Botte Lewis as the other. There was a great deal of confusion during the roll call. When it was about completed there were a number of persons calling on Botte Lewis to announce the vote and he got up and went to the front of the stage and called out "Webb 35; Aker 30; we've got them boys". I had not yet completed my addition. When he made this announcement a number of people started for the stage. I rose from my seat and stood there trying to add up the columns. I did not see who came upon the stage except that D. S. Lewis, Jr., came running up to me, on the opposite side of the table and grabbed the paper from my hands and started off with it. I followed him around the table, saying "See here, young man, that doesn't belong to you," and he turned and tore the paper in two and threw it upon the floor. I went and picked it up, and proceeded with my figures. I remained on the stage throughout the entire difficulty and except when D. S. Lewis, Jr., took the paper from my hands, which he did, without saying anything to me, no violence was offered to me. I glanced up from my paper at one time, and in that glance, I saw Estlin looking on the East side of the stage.

*raised on*  
with a stick in his hand, and continuing to glance around, I saw Sheff Lewis' fist apparently going into Acker's face. Then I looked down again at my paper. In the glance up, I saw a chair raised in the hands of young Phillips, the cigar maker. The chair was not raised up, because some one pulled it down. Just when I saw this chair, I started to go to Mr. Acker. I don't know whether Sheff Lewis hit him or not. I know that I am very much disliked by the members of the Lewis Faction of the party, and that I am somewhat unpopular in the town of Harrisonburg where I live, though I don't think everybody in the town dislikes me. When I got to Acker, he was down and there were quite a number of ~~misxfrrends~~ persons around him and he was assisted off of the stage. So far as I know, at the time Mr. Acker was knocked down, there were <sup>no</sup> political friends of his upon the stage, except Mr. Keezel and myself. There might have been others, but I didn't see them.

*no longer*

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 I looked down again at my paper. In the glance up, I saw a  
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 of his upon the stage, except Mr. Kezel and myself. There might  
 have been others, but I didn't see them.

~~Handwritten scribbles and marks on the right margin, including what appears to be a large 'A' and some illegible text.~~

D. P. Shifflett.

*hit*  
*Hammer*  
I was at the convention and saw <sup>OK</sup> Mr. Davis <sup>hit by</sup> knocked down. *Sheff Lewis's Hammer* He was going towards Mr. Hammer with his hands stretched out in front of him, like he was going to put his hands on Hammer's shoulder. I don't know whether he touched Hammer or not, but I think he did put his hand on his shoulder. He didn't say anything. Hammer hit him on the left side and some body else, whom I didn't know, hit him at the same time on the right side. I don't know whether Davis fell or not; I didn't see him fall. Neither of the men who struck Davis had anything in his hand, but they struck him with their fists. There was a great deal of confusion at the time in the hall and on the stage. Davis was going towards Hammer at the time -

*After Mr Davis was struck, a rush was then made towards Mr Welles and Ham and Sheff Lewis were in the rush - Saw a chair up but don't know who had it - Sam Davis had a stick flourishing it -*

D. P. Shifflett.

I was at the convention and saw Mr. Davis kneel  
down. He was going towards Mr. Hammer with his hands  
stretched out in front of him, like he was going to put  
his hands on Hammer's shoulder. I don't know whether  
he touched Hammer or not, but I think he did put his  
hand on his shoulder. He didn't say anything. Ham-  
mer hit him on the left side and some body else, whom I  
didn't know, hit him at the same time on the right side.  
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him fall. Neither of the men who struck Davis had any  
thing in his hand, but they struck him with their fists.  
There was a great deal of confusion at the time in the  
hall and on the stage. Davis was going towards Hammer

at the time - After the time was  
short, a man was there in a  
tavern, Mr. Decker, and  
and Jeff Decker was in the  
place - Saw a chair up  
at back of the room and  
it - Saw a man and  
see something it -



J. R. LONG.

I was at the Convention and saw the rush for the stage when Botts Lewis announced the vote. I knew a good many of them at the time but can't say who were in the rush now. I saw Sheff Lewis and Charlie Hammer on the stage. When Sheff Lewis went towards Mr. Acker, Charlie Hammer was behind him. I didn't see Ed. Dechert nor Fletcher on the stage. I saw Sam Davis. He had a cane in his hand -- looked like the stick he walks with. About the time Acker was knocked down, Davis was on the front of the stage and looked like he was looking for a place to get off. I didn't see Acker try to strike anybody.

*out in* John Lewis caught Acker by the arms) and Sheff  
Went toward Acker - Some one  
Came from behind with stick  
and struck at John Acker, but  
did not hit him. -

B. F. RODEFFER.

I was in Ott's drugstore on the day of the Convention, after it was over, and overheard John F. Lewis talk-  
ing about it. He said that he had held John Acker's arms <sup>of</sup> ~~when~~ <sup>while</sup>  
Sheff Lewis hit him.

*which  
he was  
struck*

J. R. LONG.

I was at the Convention and saw the man for the stage when Botz Lewis announced the vote. I knew a good many of them at the time but can't say who were in the man now. I saw Sheriff Lewis and Charlie Hammer on the stage. Sheriff Lewis went towards Mr. Acker, Charlie Hammer was behind him. I didn't see Ed. Dechert nor Fletcher on the stage. I saw Sam Davis. He had a cane in his hand -- looked like the stick he walks with. About the time Acker was knocked down, Davis was on the front of the stage and looked like he was looking for a place to get off. I didn't see Acker try to strike anybody.

*John Lewis caught  
Acker by the arm (out of  
what was Acker - some one  
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and was hit him.*

B. F. RODEFERR.

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*What  
Lewis  
did*

WM. M. MYERS.

I was sitting in the fifth or sixth row back from the stage at the Convention and saw the difficulties on the stage. I did not see who hit Mr. Acker, because my attention was turned to Ike Davis, on the front of the stage, and when I looked again, there was a crowd on the front of the stage in front of Mr. Acker, and I didn't see who struck him. At that time, there were on the stage, Mr. Sheff Lewis, Mr. D O. Dechert, Mr. Ed. Dechert, Mr. Sam Davis, Mr. Hammer and of course Botts Lewis and Funkhouser and Keezel were there. There may have been others, but I don't recollect. The majority of the crowd went over the front of the stage. I didn't see Acker when he was knocked down, nor did I see him when he first came on the stage. There was a great deal of excitement, and I can't tell who it was, for certain, that went up over the front of the stage -- they had their backs to me. I saw Sheff Lewis and Hammer strike at Davis at the same time-- one on each side of him. Sheff Lewis struck him with his fist and I thought Hammer did too, and he fell. When I saw Acker, there was a crowd around him, and I only caught a glimpse of him through the crowd. I don't know who were around him. I saw a man with a chair to the right of where Acker was standing, but didn't see him strike anybody with it.

*Sheff Lewis, Sam Davis, <sup>and</sup> Orville  
Dechert ~~and Ed Dechert~~ were  
in the rush -*

WM. M. MYERS.

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*Mr. the ...*  
~~...~~  
*Sheff Lewis, Sam Davis, ...*



WM. A. HERRON.

I got to the Convention late and sat back near the gallery. When Botta Lewis made his announcement, there was a rush for the stage, mostly from down towards the front. When they got on the stage, the crowd seemed to go right in the direction of Mr. Acker. I didn't see Acker attempt to hit any one. I didn't see Davis knocked down at all, and didn't know he was hurt. I saw Acker come out and lift up his hands and then there was a crowd pressed around him and the first thing I knew he was down. I didn't see who strike him -- I don't know who hit him. There were several people on the stage at that time with sticks and clubs, but I didn't see any of them hit him. During the roll-call, I noticed that John F. Lewis, who was sitting down near the front, appeared to be very nervous, and he got up and stepped across the back of the seat in front of him and sat down there. John Lewis of a nervous temperament. I don't know whether John Lewis had been sick before the Convention or not. I do know that he and Mr. Jarman live in same district and are good friends. I didn't know that there had been any difficulty before the Convention between Jarman and Marion Lam. I didn't get into the Convention until after it was called to order and the roll-call had begun. Marion Lam is an Akerite. I saw Sheriff Lewis sitting straddle of the rail of the West box. Just then John Lewis jumped up and somebody hollered go ahead or come ahead, I don't know which, and I don't know whether it was him or not, and Sheriff Lewis jumped over from the box on to the corner of the stage, and Jarman went up over the piano. I didn't see Jarman after he got on the stage. After that, I don't know who got on the stage.

*Handwritten notes:*  
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 I didn't know that there had been any difficulty before the Convention between Jarman and Marion Lam  
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 I saw Sheriff Lewis sitting straddle of the rail of the West box  
 Just then John Lewis jumped up and somebody hollered go ahead or come ahead  
 I don't know whether it was him or not and Sheriff Lewis jumped over from the box on to the corner of the stage and Jarman went up over the piano  
 I didn't see Jarman after he got on the stage  
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the first thing I knew, it was full of people.

the first thing I knew, it was full of people.



M. BOTTS LEWIS.

I was at the Convention and at the request of Mr. Keegel, acted as one of the tellers. Keegel called the roll of precincts for the vote on temporary chairman, and said that completes the roll, and then there were cries from all over the house for me to announce the result. I got up walked to the front of the stage, held up my hands for silence, and announced, "Webb 35, Acker 20, We've got 'em boys!" Then I turned around and went back to the table and didn't see anybody come on the stage at all. As I stood beside the table, at the East end, Charlie Hammer passed me going around the table, and in about a second, I saw him standing in front of Mr. Acker with his hands up in a defensive attitude, and Acker with his arm drawn back ready to strike a blow. Acker was within striking distance of Hammer. I pushed in between them and just as Acker struck at Hammer, I struck his arm with my right hand and warded off the blow and at the same time, with my left hand caught Hammer just under the chin and pushed him back in the opposite direction. Hammer went back eight or ten feet, I suppose, towards the front of the stage. I said to Acker, "Why don't you hit a man your size?" Just after I warded off the blow from Hammer, Acker turned and struck behind him in the air, as though some one had hit him on that side. I saw no one strike Acker from there. I didn't see Davis knocked down at all. After I separated Acker and Hammer, I separated two other couples, ~~xxx~~ who were fighting on the stage, and after I had separated the other two couples, I saw Fletcher on the stage. That was the first time I had seen Fletcher! He was on the East side of the stage when I saw him. The blow that Acker struck at Hammer was what started the row on the stage. The next time I saw Acker after separating him and Hammer he was down. I didn't

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*On Cross Exam, he said:-*

There was an informal meeting of members of our faction of the party at the office of the Spirit of the Valley, of which my father is the publisher, on the day of the Convention, before the Convention. It was not at all a secret meeting. The office of the Town Treasurer is also there, and various people having business with him came in and out during the time this meeting was in progress. The door was not locked and while it was not expected that any Ackerites should participate in the discussion, I think that at least one of the Ackerites was in the room for a part of the time. There was nothing at all unusual in the holding of this meeting. Such meetings or <sup>causes</sup> ~~causes~~ have been held in that office before every Convention which has been held in the last few years, to discuss plans for proceeding in the Convention, and that is what this meeting was for. The meeting was informal and no organization was gone into at all and no vote was taken on any subject. There was simply a discussion of the methods of procedure, <sup>to be used in the convention</sup> We concluded that if we had a majority of the delegates, as we believed we had, from reports we had heard from the various precincts of the County, in the event the delegation from Timberville got here in time for the Convention, <sup>having been</sup> ~~as~~ the train upon which they would come was reported late) that we would not leave the Hall, as we had done two years ago when we had a majority of the dele-

see him struck

*Mr. John E. ...*

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~~to~~

(Add to M. B. Lewis, page 31). X-Examination.

Our faction had determined to hold their convention in that hall and if anybody left it was to be the other side. This was reached at the informal meeting held in the "Spirit of the Valley" office in Harrisonburg, on the day of the convention, and just before the convention. We had determined, from reports we had received that if the delegates from Timberville arrived, we did have a majority. We had also determined, in the meeting at the office of the "Spirit of the Valley", the morning of the convention, not to abide by the certificates from precincts which had ~~been~~ been certified ~~by~~ to Chairman Keezel. I acted as teller and I did not record the vote in all cases as announced by Mr. Keezel, but I decided the question myself between certain contesting delegates as to how to record their votes

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of the delegates, and when, at the District Convention, upon the contest between the two factions, for the delegation from this County, the argument was used against us, that nobody ever heard of the people having a majority in the Convention, leaving the minority in the Hall. If we found that we had a minority of the legally elected delegates, we determined to submit quietly and let the other faction take control of the Convention. There was no determination to use any force towards anybody, and there was no discussion of the use of force. There were present in and out at various times during the morning, Mr. Jarman, Dr. Webb, D. Washington, W. L. Dechert, D. O. Dechert, Charlie Hammer, John F. Lewis, D. S. Lewis, Jr., and a number of others, of our faction, but neither S. A. Davis nor E. L. Dechert was at that meeting at all, nor was Charles Fletcher.

*Appendix - Ex -*  
*(Part of addition by [unclear] is already a separate sheet objected to)*

P. O. SULLIVAN.

I was at the Convention as one of the uncontested delegates from West Harrisonburg. During the first proceedings, I stood back behind the last row of seats at the head of the Western aisle, which is near the door of the Hall. I saw Mr. Acker come out upon the stage, and advance to the table. There I saw him strike out in front of him at some one -- I did not see who it was when he struck, but immediately afterwards thought it must have been Charlie Hammer, because I saw

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*Part of a letter to [unclear] dated [unclear]*

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him <sup>totter</sup> stagger back, with his face upturned. Just after Hammer tottered back, I saw a tall, slender young man, a very lithe active fellow, whom I did not recognize, and whom I do not know, and who was standing on the opposite side of Acker from me, strike a blow at Acker's head. Whether that blow landed, I could not tell, but from Acker's action, I believed that it did, and that the blow dazed him, for he immediately turned and lunged out behind him, as though intending to return a blow. The next I remember was the striking of Ike Davis and his falling. One of the men who struck him I can't possibly identify. The other was D. S. Lewis, Jr. After Davis fell, I started to go upon the stage. I walked down the aisle at the head of which I had been standing. I am a lame man, and it would take me somewhat longer than other men to cover the distance to the stage, and in addition, the aisle was obstructed by people standing in it. When I got to the stage I started to climb upon it, over the railing in front, and as I did so, I heard some one say, "Let me help you up, Mr. Sullivan," and looking around, I saw that it was Charlie Fletcher. He did help me up, and I got upon the stage before he did. I did not see Acker when he was knocked down, but I am satisfied that this took place before I got upon the stage, because when I got there, the fighting seemed to be all over, though there was some slight disturbance afterwards. Before I got upon the stage, I called for the police to help quell the disturbance. I had a conversation with John F. Lewis on the stage that day after the difficulty which was the only conversation I had with him. I met him there and asked him how he was, and he told me that he had been confined to the house for several days.

me that he had been confined to the house for several days. there and asked him how he was, and he told which was the only conversation I had with him. I met him with John F. Lewis on the stage that day after the difficulty to help quell the disturbance. I had a conversation words. Before I got upon the stage, I called for the police all over, though there was some slight disturbance after- stage, because when I got there, the fighting seemed to be am satisfied that this took place before I got upon the he did. I did not see Acker when he was knocked down, but I Fletcher. He did help me up, and I got upon the stage before Mr. Sullivan, and looking around, I saw that it was Charlie and as I did so, I heard some one say, "Let me help you up, stage I started to climb upon it, over the railing in front, attracted by people standing in it. When I got to the the distance to the stage, and in addition, the aisle was ob- and it would take me somewhat longer than other men to cover at the head of which I had been standing. I am a lame man, fell, I started to go upon the stage. I walked down the aisle sibly identify. The other was D. S. Lewis, Jr. After Davis and his falling. One of the men who struck him I can't pos- The next I remember was The striking of Ike Davis return a blow. turned and lunged out behind him, as though intending to that it did, and that the blow passed him, for he immediately ed, I could not tell, but from Acker's action, I believed me, strike a blow at Acker's head. Whether that blow landed know, and who was standing on the opposite side of Acker from active fellow, whom I did not recognize, and whom I do not tottered back, I saw a tall, slender young man, a very little him stagger back, with his face upturned. Just after Hammer

I then asked him what mission he had on the stage, to which he replied that he didn't have any, except that Acker had rushed at him with arms extended and that he had caught hold of Acker's arms, near the elbows, and that at about that time Sheff Lewis had struck him.

*I saw James have a stick four or five feet long - Saw Davis has a stick and Ed Deane also has a stick - I saw these sticks after I was on stage & difficultly over,*

BENJAMIN BILLHEIMER.

I was at the Convention in the East box, when Botts Lewis made his announcement, there was a rush for the stage. I saw Sheff Lewis and Hammer on the stage, ~~these~~ they were the first I saw. <sup>Mr</sup> Davis came in with his arms raised, and seemed to be striking at Hammer, and then Sheff Lewis struck him. Davis was in a striking position at the time he was hit. ~~Then~~ I saw Mr. Acker come in on the Westside of the stage with his arm raised and his fist closed, as though he was going to strike some one. He came on towards the table, and when he got there, he laid his hand on the back of a chair and lifted it up a little piece off of the floor, and then put the chair down.

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*A short time or five feet long - down  
down had a shorter one but shorter  
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*W.  
The stage  
over*

~~Sullivan~~  
If I had  
been there  
and they  
had rushed  
up on me  
that way  
I would  
have used  
it -

If I had been in Acker's place, I would have used  
the chair, the way they were crowd<sup>ing</sup> around him.

~~That is the way they were crowd~~  
~~ing around him.~~

JAMES B. POINTS.

I was at the Convention and saw a part of the  
difficulties on the stage. I heard Botts Lewis announce that  
Webb was elected and saw Sheff Lewis jump from the box on to  
the stage. I then went up on the stage myself. I had a spec<sup>ial</sup>  
object in view in going there which was to look for a cer-  
tain person. After Sheff Lewis jumped on the stage, I saw Ack-  
er come out with his arms up and extended in front of him,  
knocking -- appearing to be very aggressive in his manner, and  
he then put his hand upon John F. Lewis' shoulder. I was in  
a line with Mr. Acker as we both came upon the stage, from the  
West wing. When I glanced around, I saw Acker with his hands  
up and he took hold of Mr. John F. Lewis. I saw Mr. Sullivan  
come on the stage and try to quiet the parties there.

~~Don't know  
whether  
hands were  
on shoulders~~

didn't see Acker make an attack  
except the tapping legs of J. Lewis  
on my body - I was on the West  
side about 25 feet from the stage  
and was a delegate from Park Hill

If I had been in Acker's place, I would have used

the chair, the way they were crowded around him.

*[Faint handwritten notes on the right margin, including "If I had been in Acker's place..."]*

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*[Handwritten notes on the right margin, including "I saw Acker..."]*

*[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "I saw Acker..."]*

I came on the stage from the West  
and returned at the same time Acker  
did - only the length of the table before Acker  
jumped when he came on stage -

W. M. BUCHER.

I am a Democrat, but was present at the Republican Convention as a spectator. I saw Acker on the stage and saw him strike at some one, I didn't know who, and ~~xxxx~~ don't know whether he hit anybody. I didn't see anybody strike at him. Before the Convention was called to order, I was standing in the extreme Western aisle, with Mr. Jacob N. Liggett, and saw Acker come down into the body of the house from the stage. He came up to some men, near where I was standing and spoke to them and as he was about to leave them, I heard him say, "Come on up here you fellows," and ~~xxxxxxx~~ a man right there said, "Yes, go on up there with John, you fellows," and Mr. Acker then left and went back on the stage, into the West wing. At that time, I left the place where I was standing and went and sat down in one of the seats. And was sitting down when the Convention was called to order.

~~When~~ When Acker was talking to those men  
I didn't know whether  
he was ~~in~~ in an angry mood  
or not

ISAAC HOLLANDER.

I was sitting on the West side of the Hall during the Convention, about half way back from the stage. I was not a delegate, but an innocent sight seer, and a Democrat. I saw Acker come out on the stage from the East side, and saw him striking away two blows, first with one hand and then with the other. I didn't see who it was that he was striking at. Acker came in from the East

and went toward the table

*I came on the stage for the first time  
and looked at the same time  
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I didn't see anybody strike  
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P. M. ROUHOF.

I was at the Republican Convention. I saw Acker come on the stage. He came in an aggressive manner, coming fast and hands drawn back. Would not say positively whether open or closed. Made a demonstration as though he was going to strike some one =

*Saw Sheff Lewis strike Acker. (Acker was ~~not~~ ~~doing anything~~) ~~but~~ ~~did~~ ~~not~~ ~~see~~ ~~Acker~~ ~~doing~~ ~~anything~~ ~~when~~ ~~Lewis~~ ~~hit~~ ~~him~~ —*

R. H. BRIDGES.

I was at the Convention and saw part of the trouble on the stage. The first time I saw Mr. Acker, he was already on the stage and was throwing his arms around as if to hit some one or to push them out of the way. I saw ~~him~~ grab John Lewis by the Arms, and then John Lewis And then Sheff Lewis struck him, while he had John's arms grabbed him. There was great confusion in the Hall, people shouting and jumping up from their seats, and rushing on the stage over the front and through the wings, and immediately after I saw Acker grab Lewis, followed by Lewis grabbing Ackers and Sheff's striking Acker, arms, my view was cut off by people getting between me and them.

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~~Staff Lewis~~  
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J. L. ~~RIDER~~ *Ritter*

I was sitting in the East side of the gallery, at the Convention, and saw part of the trouble. I saw Acker draw back to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ hit Hammer, and Hammer went back. Then Ike Davis came running after Hammer, with his arms up, and followed him down the stage. He followed Hammer some distance and struck at him and then at Sheff Lewis, and they both struck back at him, and Davis went down under the table, or by the table.

W. R. BOWMAN.

I was at the Convention, but am a Democrat, and was present as a spectator, on the East side of the house, in the box. I saw Acker come on the stage -- may have said something, but I didn't hear it. He came with uplifted hands, as though he was going to hit some one or defend himself. When he got to the table, he took hold of the chair and picked it up a little way, then put it down and drew back as though going to hit Hammer, and then Botts Lewis came in between them and separated them. Botts pushed Hammer back, and he went back eight or ten feet. Ike Davis came in from the West and struck first at some one, whom I didn't recognize, and then at Sheff Lewis, and Sheff Lewis struck Davis., and he fell.. Fletcher did not seem to be in that fight, but af-

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terwards, he and Mr. Cooley seemed to have some difficulty, and George Rickard took it up. It looked like Rickard and Fletcher wanted to fight.. Before the fighting began, Acker and the two Mr. Funks and Jake Deputy and maybe others that I didn't see, were back in the West wing together. I was appointed a Special Policeman by the Mayor, who was in the Hall, and went on the stage and helped in restoring order. There must have been a hundred people on the stage. While I was up there, I saw the two Funks with sticks in their hands. They were the only people I saw on the stage with sticks.

On cross examination, the witness said that he might have been mistaken as to the two Funks having been in the West wing with Acker before the Convention was called to order. but that they were on the stage with the sticks during the time that he was helping to quiet the disturbance.

*From the way the crowd reacted up there I thought some one needed to defend themselves -*

WINFIELD LIGGETT, JR.

I was in the East box with Mr. Keister and Mr. Payne, both of whom were teachers in the Public-School. Mr. Ed Dechert came off of the stage into the box where <sup>we</sup> were, and I noticed he had a little stick in his hand and I jestingly said to him, "What are you going to do with that stick," and then Mr. Keister said, "Whose's got the Convention to-day, the Ackerites or the Anti-Ackerites," and Mr. Dechert replied "The Anti-Ackerites," and then either Mr. Keister or myself said, laughing, "And you are going to have your rights, if you have to have them by blood," to which Mr. Dechert, also laughing, replied, "Yes."

*by a good many*

terwards, he and Mr. Cooley seemed to have some difficulty, and George Rickard took it up. It looked like Rickard and Fletcher wanted to fight. Before the fighting began, Ack-er and the two Mr. Funks and Jake Deputy and maybe others that I didn't see, were back in the West wing together. I was appointed a Special Policeman by the Mayor, who was in the Hall, and went on the stage and helped in restoring order. There must have been a hundred people on the stage. While I was up there, I saw the two Funks with sticks in their hands. They were the only people I saw on the stage with sticks. On cross examination, the witness said that he might have been mistaken as to the two Funks having been in the West wing with Acker before the convention was called to order. but that they were on the stage with the sticks during the time

*that he was helping to quiet the disturbance. I thought there were no sticks in the West wing.*

WINIFRED LIGGETT, JR.

I was in the East box with Mr. Keister and Mr. Payne, both of whom were teachers in the Public-School. Mr. Ed Dechert came off of the stage into the box where we were, and I noticed he had a little stick in his hand and I jestingly said to him, "What are you going to do with that stick," and then Mr. Keister said, "Whose's got the convention to-day, the Ackerites or the Anti-Ackerites," and Mr. Dechert replied "The Anti-Ackerites," and then either Mr. Keister or myself said, laughingly, "And you are going to have your rights, if you have to have them by blood," to which Mr. Dechert, also

*the box*

On 2-2-1911. He said: -

The whole conversation was a jocular one, and I am certain that it was not Dechert, but Keister or myself, who made the reference to the blood. *The more I think of it the more certain I am* I saw the Davis difficulty, Ike Davis rushed across the stage with his arms raised and rushed at Hammer, and Hammer kept going back until he was very near the front of the stage. When Davis was hit, his arm was right up over Sheff Lewis, and Hammer's arm was out toward Ike Davis, but I don't know whether he was striking at him or not. *I think my memory is a great deal better than Keister's - he is about minded. The Committee with Dechert refused to vote about 10 minutes before Convention closed to vote and the stock he had was a piece of goods too - and could not have hurt anybody much.*

S. W. LAUCK.

I sat on the West side of the dress circle, five or six rows back from the stage. I was a delegate from East Harrisonburg. I saw part of the difficulty. I saw Sheff Lewis jump upon the stage and turn round and wave his hat and cheer, and then some one was calling for Webb to go upon the stage and I turned around and went and joined several gentlemen who were escorting him there. I think there were with me D. S. Lewis, Sr., and James Sullivan, and ~~others~~ others whom I do not now remember. When I got up into the West wing and could see out on the stage, ~~Hammer~~ There seemed to be a clamor towards the table, and Mr. Acker started towards Charlie Hammer with a blow. Some one rushed between them and shoved Hammer back and shoved Acker back the other way. I could not see who it was that separated them. Then Ike Davis started towards Hammer with his hands ~~up~~ up, and Hammer backed from him. I didn't see Davis knocked down. I saw Acker knocked down. At that time, there was some person slightly to Acker's left, and Acker was advancing

Mr. W. Lauck. to a card.

11  
12  
13

The whole conversation was a jocular one, and I am certain that it was not Debert, but Kelsler or myself, who made the reference to the blood. I saw the Davis difficulty.

Ike Davis rushed across the stage with his arms raised and rushed at Hammer, and Hammer kept going back until he was very near the front of the stage. When Davis was hit, his arm was right up over Sheriff Lewis, and Hammer's arm was

out toward Ike Davis, but I don't know whether he was striking

at him or not. I think my memory is a good deal better than this - it is about 10 minutes. The Commission will be before the court in about 10 minutes. I have been in the room since the 10th. I have been in the room since the 10th. I have been in the room since the 10th.

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stage and I turned around and went and joined several gentlemen who were escorting him there. I think there were with me D. S. Lewis, Sr., and James Sullivan, and several others whom I do not now remember. When I got up into the West wing and

could see out on the stage, I saw Sheriff Lewis and Mr. Aker started towards Charlie Hammer with a blow. Some one rushed between them and shoved Hammer back and shoved Aker back the other way. I could not see who it was that separated them. Then Ike Davis started towards Hammer with his hands

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on him. And then Sheff Lewis came from in front of Acker and to his right and struck him with his fist and Acker sank down. That was the only lick I saw Acker receive. At that time I was in a place where I could see well. I was on the stage then. After Acker was knocked down, I saw Orville Dechert on the West side of the stage and two men had hold of him dragging him off into the back corner of the stage, on the West side. I pushed one of them away from him and he got loose from the other one himself, in some way

GEORGE WILLIS.

I am a policeman of the town. I was at the Convention. Directly after the row on the stage, I started and went up on the stage. Mr. Acker was down when I got on the stage -- went immediately to him. He was helped out. Then my attention was called to Otis Cooley, C. W. Fletcher and George Rickard. Cooley and Fletcher were having a difficulty. Fletcher had a chair raised and Rickard said, "If you strike Cooley with that chair, I will kill you." I said, "Mr. Rickard, let's stop this fighting," and Rickard said, "I don't want it stopped." Mr. Rickard is generally understood to be a follower of Mr. Acker. When I got on the stage, both factions of the Republican party were ~~ix~~ pretty fully represented there." Did not see any one with sticks

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immediately around Mr. Acker. I did see, afterward, Mr. E. L. Dechert and Mr. Jarman on the stage with sticks. Mr. Dechert was over in the East corner of the stage.

*When I got on the stage Acker was down. I took hold of him and helped him out into parties on either side of him*

SANDY BOWMAN.

I was at the Convention but did not see the fighting. I saw Ed Dechert over by the East wing of the stage leaning on a small stick.

*(I think it was immediately after Acker was knocked down I saw Dechert on East side of the stage)*

D. S. Lewis, Sr.

I was at the Convention and when Botts Lewis announced the vote, I started to go upon the stage as one of several gentlemen who were escorting Dr. Webb to his chair. Our going with him was for the ordinary purpose of forming an escort of courtesy, such as is usual on such occasions, in Conventions. Before I started for the stage, I saw a number of persons from both factions of the party, running upon the stage over the front. *another continued to do so after* Before the Convention was called to order, I had seen Acker and a number of his adherents in

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the West wing of the stage. I, with Webb and the other gentle-  
~~men~~ men, went on to the stage through the West wing, and as  
we passed through there, I again saw quite a number of Acker-  
ites in that wing. When I got into the wing, or just as I  
was coming on the stage proper, I saw Acker and John Lewis  
have hold of each other and tussling, and I started towards  
them, intending to separate them if I could. I didn't know  
which had grabbed first. *thinking from their position that I could*  
If I had known that it was Acker, *who grabbed first*  
I would probably have gone with the intention of striking him,  
and if I had known that it was John Lewis, *who grabbed first*  
I would have let them alone. John had been sick for about a week, before  
the Convention, and got out of his bed to come to the Conven-  
tion. Before I got to Acker and John Lewis, Sheff Lewis ran  
in and hit Mr. Acker a powerful blow with his fist. It was  
one of the hardest blows I ever saw delivered. Acker at  
once sank to the floor. John Lewis is my brother and Sheff  
Lewis is my son. Botts Lewis also my son. I did not see the  
difficulty which resulted in the knocking down of Ike Davis.  
If I had known that there had been fighting already going on,  
my feeling of separating Acker and John Lewis might have been  
different.

I am the Editor and Publisher of the Spirit of the  
Valley, and was present at the informal conference or meeting  
of ~~the~~ members of our *faction* meeting held at that office and referred  
to by my son Botts Lewis. As he stated, the meeting was in  
no sense a secret one, all of the doors being open and people  
coming in and going out freely, just as on any other day,  
transacting their business with the Town Treasurer, and such  
other business as they might have at that office. The meeting  
was one such as *has* usually been held *in that office* before every Convention for  
a number of years. People from the various precincts came  
in and reported the results of their primaries, and we dis

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a number of years. People from the various precincts came  
in and reported the results of their primaries, and we dis-

cussed plans for our action at the convention. Dr. Webb, Jarman, D. S. Lewis, Jr., Botts Lewis, possibly Mr. Bridges, J. W. Revercomb, John F. Lewis, W. L. Dechert, D. O. Dechert and others were present at that meeting. Neither C. W. Fletcher, E. L. Dechert, nor S. A. Davis was there. Such a thing as the use of force at the convention was not even suggested. It was determined that if we had, as our returns showed, a majority of the legally elected delegates in the convention, we would place Dr. Webb in nomination and elect him as temporary chairman of the convention. If we did not have a majority we agreed to submit and let the Ackerites take charge of the convention. We believed, from our information of the results of the primaries, that we did have a majority of the legally elected delegates, but as to whether we would have enough of them present to control the convention seemed to depend ~~on~~ upon whether the train from Timberville (the primary at which place had been carried by our people) arrived in time for the convention. If our rights were denied us by the party machinery, and we found that we had a legal majority, it was agreed that we would proceed with the election of our chairman and hold our convention in that hall and not retire from the hall, as we had done at a convention held two years before where we had a majority of the legally elected delegates and when at the district convention the argument was used against the seating of the delegates elected by our seceding convention that nobody

Dr. ... the convention. ...  
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elected delegates and when at the district convention  
the argument was used against the seating of the dele-  
gates elected by our succeeding convention that nobody



had ever heard of a majority leaving a minority in possession of the hall. We intended to abide by our returns, regardless of the certificates of the precinct chairmen to Keezel, unless we believed the Ackerites to be entitled to the delegation, and not accept Keezel's decision as to contested precinct if he decided against us where we were right. It was not at all contemplated that we would eject the others from the hall if they also determined to remain there. They might if they choose go on peaceably and hold a convention of their own there, just as was done in fact after the fighting was over, when Dr. Webb presided over one convention and Acker over another held side by side

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Dr. J. B. WEBB.

I am the Dr. Webb who was nominated for Temporary Chairman of the Convention and who in fact presided over one Convention, while Mr. Acker presided over another, both of us seated upon the same stage, and the two Conventions being carried on side by side in the same Hall. I did not see the difficulties in which Acker and Davis were knocked down. When Botts Lewis announced my election, and there were calls for me to go upon the stage, I left my seat for that purpose and went up there, accompanied by D. S. Lewis, Sr. James Sullivan, S. W. Lauck, and other gentlemen of my friends. I had been at the caucus or informal meeting of Anti-Ackerites held at the Spirit of the Valley office before the Convention. There was simply an informal discussion of our plans for action at the convention. No secrecy, whatever, what was sought to be had, the doors were left open, and various people having business to transact in the office came in and out while we were there. It was determined that if we had a majority <sup>by</sup> that if we had a majority of the legally elected delegates of the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Republican Party of the County of Rockingham, that we would not withdraw from the Convention Hall as we had done when two years before we had had a majority of the legally elected delegates, but that we would remain in the Hall and hold our Convention there. There was no suggestion of the use of force as against anybody, and if such a thing had been mentioned, I would have opposed it with all my force. We believed from the information we had as to the result of the various primaries held over the County the day before, that we would have a majority of the legally elected delegates, but we believed also that there would be, as there had been before, and as it turned out that ~~that~~ there was, bogus contests from some of the precincts, for the purpose

*There was no definite conclusion as to what we would do if we were in the minority.*

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*Handwritten notes:*  
 This was the  
 result of the  
 election of  
 the year 1852  
 as the result of  
 the election of  
 the year 1852

of defeating us in our rights at the Convention, and we would not have been willing to submit and would not have submitted ~~and it was not intended that we should use force in resisting it,~~ to any decision of either Funkhouser or Keezel, adverse to us,

*but it was not intended that we should use force in resisting it,* if it turned out at the Convention, as we believed it would, that we were entitled to control it, I am and have always been

friendly with Acker, personally, though he has gotten into very bad hands in the party. I roomed with Acker when we were both members of the House of Delegates of Virginia, from this County, and ~~each~~ <sup>each has</sup> have often been at the home of the other, and eaten meals there. Funkhouser never ~~ate~~ ate a meal at my house and he never will. I don't feel the same towards Funkhouser that I do towards Acker. I think he is responsible for most of Acker's misdoings.

ANDREW BAZZEL.

I was at the Republican Convention and occupied a seat in the Hall on the West side of the West ~~king~~ aisle, in the third or fourth row of seats from the door. I occupied the first seat next to the aisle, my son, L. A. Bazzle, occupied the next seat to me, and C. W. Fletcher occupied the third seat. Mr. Fletcher remained in that seat until Isaac Davis had been knocked down on the stage. Mr. Davis was down on the floor of the stage when Chas. Fletcher started from his seat. He then passed down the West aisle to the stage. I do not

of defeating us in our rights at the Convention, and we would

not have been willing to admit and would not have admitted

~~and we should have been prepared to resist to the last~~  
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Dr.  
"Who hit you?"  
Acker replied "I  
don't know but they  
say it was Sheff  
Lewis."

think he could have possibly gotten on the stage before Mr. Acker was knocked down. I saw Mr. Acker on the evening of the Convention, about dark, or thereafter, up near the post office in Harrisonburg, and I spoke to him and asked him whether he was much hurt, and he replied that he had gotten one lick, and that he wouldn't have minded it if a man had struck him, but he didn't like to be struck by that damned little cur, Sheff Lewis.

E. M. Harnesberger.

I was at the Convention as a delegate from Elkton. I am a comparative stranger in this part of the County and didn't know many of the people whom I saw on the stage. Didn't know Acker at the time. After Acker had been knocked down, I saw Fletcher on stage with chair in his hand. The chair never came down while I saw it. I saw Jarman after the ~~difficultly xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ I think after Acker had been knocked down, pick up a stick and break it across his knee. I saw Sam Davis on the stage but he was just walking around flourishing his stick.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Sheff Lewis  
Jarman  
Fletcher  
Davis

On 7-2-1861, he said  
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*Handwritten notes:*  
"I think it was Sheriff Lewis who struck him."

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ishing his stick.

*Handwritten notes:*  
"I think it was Fletcher who struck him with chair."

*Handwritten scribbles and marks.*



G. G. HERRING.

I am a Democrat and a member of the Harrisonburg bar. I was present at the Republican Convention as a spectator. I first saw Acker at the West end of the table, and then my eyes left him and followed Ike Davis, who came upon the stage and went at Charlie Hammer, with his hands upraised in an aggressive manner and Hammer retreated, Davis following him up. Hammer backed almost to the front of the stage and Sheff Lewis was just about to cross Hammer's path going in the opposite direction. Davis struck at Hammer and then at Sheff Lewis, with what is called a chop lick, both Hammer and Lewis struck at Davis and Sheff hit him. I thought Hammer did too, but couldn't be positive. He fell in the direction of Lewis' blow. When I next saw Acker, he was at the East end of the table, and grabbed at somebody, first with one hand, and then with the other, and seemed to be shaking <sup>him.</sup> ~~them.~~ The crowd was all around in front of Acker by that time, and he seemed to be pushing them back, they surged backwards and forwards. ~~Had~~ <sup>+</sup> Davis was the first man I saw strike. He was advancing rapidly.

+ I next saw  
Acker fall.

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 I saw strike. He was advancing rapidly.

Was Davis was the first man  
 I saw strike.

R. W. HARRISON.

I was at the Republican Convention and sat on the Eastern side of the Hall, just back of the railing. I ~~xxxx~~ know C. W. Fletcher and have known him from his childhood. I saw Mr. Acker's heels fly up when I suppose he was knocked down, and I saw Fletcher at the piano on the floor of the Hall in front of the stage, after Acker was knocked down. I saw Mr. Acker and Mr. Davis before they were struck and did not see them making any hostile demonstrations.

A. H. SNYDER.

I am the Editor and Publisher of the Rockingham Register, a Democratic newspaper, published in Harrisonburg, and was present at the Convention <sup>held in the Court House in Harrisonburg</sup> as a spectator, and was seated in the West box. I have a distinct recollection as to some of the occurrences on the stage, and but an indistinct recollection as to others. I should be unwilling to testify as to some of the occurrences, because of the indistinctness of my recollection. There is no doubt of the fact <sup>Ike</sup> that Davis came upon the stage in a very aggressive way, and that he attacked Charlie Hammer and Sheff Lewis, who returned his blows, Sheff hitting him and it seemed to me that Hammer's blow also landed. Ike Davis was the first man I saw in an aggressive attitude. I don't recollect that I saw Acker make any demonstration to hit anybody, but my view of the stage

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knocked down, and I saw Fletcher at the piano on the floor of  
the Hall in front of the stage, after Acker was knocked down.  
I saw Mr. Acker and Mr. Davis before they were struck and did  
not see them making any hostile demonstrations.

A. H. SNYDER.

I am the Editor and Publisher of the Rocking-

ham Register, a Democratic newspaper, published in Harrison-  
burg, and was present at the Convention as a spectator, and  
was seated in the West box. I have a distinct recollection  
as to some of the occurrences on the stage, and but an indistinct  
recollection as to others. I should be unwilling to  
testify as to some of the occurrences, because of the indistinct-  
ness of my recollection. There is no doubt of the fact  
that Davis came upon the stage in a very aggressive way, and  
that he attacked Charlie Hammer and Shelf Lewis, who returned  
his blows, Shelf hitting him and it seemed to me that Hammer's  
blow also landed. Ike Davis was the first man I saw in an  
aggressive attitude. I don't recollect that I saw Acker make  
any demonstration to hit anybody, but my view of the stage

was not complete, part of it being cut off by the West wing, in front of which I sat. I saw Acker come out of the West wing and go up to the table on the stage as if to take charge of the meeting - after that I saw Acker surge back & forwards and Charles H. Hume, Sheff Lewis were certain in the crowd that surge toward Acker - Acker was knocked down immediately after the slaying of the crowd

W. T. HENTON.

I was at the Republican Convention and sat on the East side of the Hall in the second seat from the stage. About the time Mr. Botts Lewis announced the vote, or directly after, Mr. Acker came in and was walking rapidly from the West wing of the stage. I do not know when he came in whether he had a chair or not, but when he reached the table, I noticed he had a chair in his hand. According to my recollection, when he went up to the table, he put his hand on the chair. Mr. Ike Davis run in then and cut off my view from Mr. Acker and drew my attention to Mr. Davis, and when Mr. Davis was struck and fell, I turned ~~back~~ and went back to the window, on the East side of the Hall where I could see across. When I got to the window, Mr. Acker, I suppose, was past the middle of the table. Of course there were a good many around him, one with each hand, and almost instantly, he was knocked down. After I got back to the window, I saw Charlie Fletcher, who did not go up on the stage until after ~~Acker~~ I went back. He got on the stage about the time Acker fell. Crowd surging around Acker when he laid his arms - Saw Sam Doh's leaning over the table leaning his stick - Acker was then back of the table - it was before Acker was knocked down -

was not complete, part of it being cut off by the West wing,

*I saw Acker come out in front of which I sat. The West wing was so far that I could not see the table on the stage as it was behind me. After that I saw Acker come back and see that the table was in the center of the stage. Acker was in the center of the stage after the meeting.*

W. T. HENTON.

I was at the Republican Convention and sat on the East side of the Hall in the second seat from the stage. About the time Mr. Botta Lewis announced the vote, or directly after, Mr. Acker came in and was walking rapidly from the West wing of the stage. I do not know when he came in whether he had a chair or not, but when he reached the table, I noticed he had a chair in his hand. According to my recollection, when he went up to the table, he put his hand on the chair. Mr. Ike Davis ran in then and out of my view from Mr. Acker and drew my attention to Mr. Davis, and when Mr. Davis was struck and fell, I turned back and went back to the window, on the East side of the Hall where I could see across. When I got to the window, Mr. Acker, I suppose, was past the middle of the table. Of course there were a good many around him, one with each hand, and almost instantly he was knocked down. After I got back to the window, I saw Charlie Fletcher, who did not go up on the stage until after Acker I went back. He got on the stage about the time Acker

*fell. I saw Acker come out in front of which I sat. The West wing was so far that I could not see the table on the stage as it was behind me. After that I saw Acker come back and see that the table was in the center of the stage. Acker was in the center of the stage after the meeting.*

Jno. W. Bryant.

I was at the Convention, but not as a delegate--I am a Democrat--. I saw Ike Davis rushing at Charlie Hammer, with his hands up--can't say whether they were closed or not; his manner was very aggressive. I saw Acker as he passed along behind the table, walking briskly, with his hands up and in front of him, looking aggressive. I don't know whether his hands were closed or open.

L. A. Bazzle.

I was sitting in the convention three or four seats from the back, between my father, Andrew Bazzle, and Charlie Fletcher. Fletcher did not leave his seat until after Davis was knocked down; I am certain he could not have gotten on the stage before Acker was down--he couldn't have had time. I saw Acker and Davis come on the stage; Davis came a little in front of Acker. Davis made a rush, with his hands up like he was making at some one. When I last saw Acker (before Davis was knocked down) he had his hands out like he was going to strike some one. When Acker was struck he was bend-

Geo. W. Bryant.

I was at the Convention, but not as a delegate--I am a Democrat--. I saw Ike Davis rushing at Charlie Hammer, with his hands up--can't say whether they were closed or not; his manner was very aggressive. I saw Acker as he passed along behind the table, walking briskly, with his hands up and in front of him, looking aggressive. I don't know whether his hands were closed or open.

J. A. Basile.

I was sitting in the convention three or four seats from the back, between my father, Andrew Basile, and Charlie Fletcher. Fletcher did not leave his seat until after Davis was knocked down; I am certain he could not have gotten on the stage before Acker was down--he couldn't have had time. I saw Acker and Davis come on the stage; Davis came a little in front of Acker; Davis made a rush, with his hands up like he was making at some one. When I last saw Acker (before Davis was knocked down) he had his hands out like he was going to strike some one. When Acker was struck he was bend-



~~at 20~~  
~~9~~  
~~10~~  
~~11~~  
~~12~~  
ing forward, <sup>might</sup> (as if he had hold of some one.) Then Sheff  
Lewis struck him with his fist. There were not more  
than five or six people on the stage when Acker and  
Davis came out.

— on X. 30. witness stated  
that Acker was bending when he  
was hit but could not tell what he  
was doing when he was hit

Chas. G. Herring.

I was sitting beside my brother, Geo. G.  
Herring, at the Republican Convention. I am a Demo-  
crat and a member of the Harrisonburg Bar. When the  
troubles began on the stage and people began jumping  
up on their seats all over the house my brother and I  
climbed up on the backs of the seats on which we had  
been sitting, holding to a post which supports the gal-  
lery, so that we had a very good view of the stage, ex-  
cept when it would be cut off by people going up over  
the front of the stage, or the crowd getting between us  
and anything at which we might be looking. I saw a  
number of Mr. Acker's friends and supporters in the  
West wing of the stage before the convention was called  
to order and during the roll call, and when the rush f  
for the stage was made the two factions of the party  
were about equally well represented. I knew quite a

missed 257 -

*Handwritten signature*

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Lewis struck him with his fist. There were not more  
than five or six people on the stage when Acker and  
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*Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.*

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West wing of the stage before the convention was called  
to order and during the roll call, and when the rush  
for the stage was made the two factions of the party  
were about equally well represented.

a number of the Ackerits who were there at the time, but but it has been some time and I do not recollect very distinctly now just who they were. I think I recollect Mr. J. W. Deputy, Mr. Abe Paul and Mr. Charlie Masters, and there were quite a number more. Davis and Acker came out on the stage about the same time, Davis somewhat ahead of Acker. Davis came in with his arms up and flourishing his fists and advanced on Charlie Hammer who retreated before him for some distance, until, just as Davis struck at Hammer, Sheff Lewis was just about to cross their path, going the other way, and Davis, after striking at Hammer, turned and struck at Sheff and both Sheff and Hammer returned his blow, Sheff striking him with his fist, but whether Hammer's blow landed or not I don't know--I couldn't see--he was on the opposite side of Davis from me. I thought though that Hammer's lick did land. Davis was the first man on the stage whom I saw making any hostile demonstrations. After Davis was knocked down my eyes went back to Mr. Acker. He had passed the East end of the table at that time and there were people between us so that I could not see his hands, but his face was very angry and his bearing indicated that he was about to attack some one. He reached out in front of him, as if grabbing some one; who was in front of him I could not see. The crowd got pretty thick between us then and I did not see ~~xxxxxx~~ Mr. Acker strike anybody, nor

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if grabbing some one; who was in front of him I could  
not see. The crowd got pretty thick between us then  
and I did not see anyone strike anybody, nor

did I see any one strike at him, but I saw him fall.  
I think Acker said something when he first came in, but  
I could not hear what it was. I saw ~~xxxxxxx~~  
someone raise a chair on the East side of the stage af-  
ter Acker was knocked down, and also saw Ed. Dechert  
with a slat under his arm after Acker was knocked down.  
I don't pretend to have seen everything that happened,  
and I don't think anybody else did. There were cer-  
tainly twelve or thirteen of Acker's followers that  
came on the stage so close to him that they must have  
been already in the wing with him. *Don't think*

*Acker struck at anybody -  
the Cross ~~was~~ on the stage  
in front of Acker was facing  
Acker - Hammer went into  
the Cross towards Acker after  
striking the Dan's -*

Ed. C. Martz.

Just before the Convention I went up into the  
lobby outside of the room in which it was held and met  
Charlie Hammer who had just come out of the room, and  
Hammer gave me the pistol which he usually carries as a  
Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue for the United  
States and I kept it until the next morning for him.

did I see any one strike him, but I saw him fall.  
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came on the stage so close to him that they must have  
been already in the wing with him. *and came on the stage with him*  
*but that*  
Aker struck at everybody -  
the crowd ~~xxxxxxxx~~ on the stage  
in front of Aker was ~~xxxxxxxx~~  
Aker - ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxx~~  
the crowd ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxx~~  
struck the ~~xxxxxxxx~~

Ed. C. Martin.

Just before the Convention I went up into the  
lobby outside of the room in which it was held and met  
Charlie Hammer who had just come out of the room, and  
Hammer gave me the pistol which he usually carries as a  
Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue for the United  
States and I kept it until the next morning for him.

J. H. Skelton.

I saw Davis knocked down. He rushed at Charlie Hammer and Sheff Lewis with both hands up, *Can't say whether his fists were clinched*

D. S. Lewis, Jr.

I was standing in the West Box during the roll call, and when it was announced that we had elected Webb I stepped across on the corner of the stage and turned around to the audience and cheered. Then I turned around and went to the table where Funkhouser was and took the paper out of his hand and turned away, tore it in two and dropped it on the floor and went on ~~the~~ away, and just about that time Ike Davis, with whom my relations were entirely friendly, he having been a customer of my father's printing office, and having been to various places with the fire company of which I am a member, coming towards me with his arms raised, Hammer backing in front of him. He struck at Charlie Hammer and then turned towards me and struck at me. I returned his blow and hit him in the face with my fist and at the same time some one struck him from the other side; whom that was I do not know. I didn't know that it was Ike Davis at the time, and would have struck my brother if he had come at me in the same way. I struck him once only, and after he fell I turned around and saw Mr. Acker grab ahold of my uncle, John F. Lewis, and

57

J. H. Skelton.

I saw Davis knocked down. He rushed at Charlie

Hammer and Sheriff Lewis with both hands up, *Call boy*  
*Robertson he first saw Skelton*

E. S. Lewis, Jr.

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was and took the paper out of his hand and turned away,  
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the way, and just about that time Ike Davis, with whom  
my relations were entirely friendly, he having been a  
customer of my father's printing office, and having  
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am a member, coming towards me with his arms raised,  
Hammer backing in front of him. He struck at Charlie  
Hammer and then turned towards me and struck at me. I  
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brother if he had come at me in the same way. I struck  
him once only, and after he fell I turned around and  
saw Mr. Acker grab hold of my uncle, John T. Lewis, and



and then my uncle grabbed him. I thought Acker was pushing my uncle off of the stage, and knew that my uncle had just gotten out of bed where he had been confined by sickness for some time before, besides my uncle is a small weak man, and Acker is a very large and I thought a very powerful man. Seeing him have hold of my uncle and pushing him back, as he was, I ran towards him and struck him in the face with my fist. I had no stick or any other instrument in my hand when I struck either Acker or Davis. Acker fell back when I hit him. I struck Acker to protect my uncle, whom I believed to be in danger of bodily <sup>harm</sup> hands at his (Acker's) hands; and I struck Davis to protect myself. I did not see anybody come upon the stage and didn't know who was there when I struck these men, except, of course, that I knew Keezel and Funkhouser and Acker and Ike Davis, Botts Lewis, Charlie Hammer and my uncle, John Lewis, were there, and I didn't know what anybody else was doing. I didn't see Fletcher there until after Acker was knocked down, nor Ed. Dechert, nor Sam Davis, nor Jarman. I was at the meeting at the "Spirit of the Valley" office. There was no mention <sup>at the meeting</sup> even of the use of force or violence of any sort at the ~~convention~~. If we were in a minority, we intended to submit quietly and let the Ackerites control the convention. ( If we ~~had~~ had, as we believed we had, a majority of the legally elected delegates, we determined not to leave the hall but to stay there and hold our meeting there, and if anybody left the other

I struck Acker because he had attacked my uncle

(advice)  
Surrender  
If the people  
had enough  
will elect  
we would  
hold the  
convention  
in the hall

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had, a majority of the legally elected delegates, we  
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hold our meeting there, and if anybody left the other

*Handwritten notes on the right margin, partially obscured.*

*Large handwritten scribble or signature on the right margin.*

side would have to do it, but we never contemplated ejecting them by force, nor ~~onXXXXXXEAXXKAXKXK~~ the use of force in order to hold our own convention, or for any other purpose. Neither Ed. Dechert, nor Sam Davis nor Charlie Fletcher was at that meeting. The stick I had in my hand that has been mentioned by some of the witnesses I did not get until after Acker had been knocked down and the fighting had ceased. I met Ed. Dechert on the stage with this stick under his arm, and just took it out from under his arm and carried it in my hand.

~~about the same time~~ I can't say why I went on the stage.

M. M. Jarman.

I was a delegate to the convention from Elkton and was there. Mrion Lam was there as a contesting dlegate. He had been drinking considerably, and before the convention was called to order he used insulting words to me, although I continued to tell him that I wanted to have no difficulty with him. Finally I pushed him on the head, or perhaps slapped him, and a po-

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~~Step 2~~

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x I left  
my seat  
about the  
time of the  
squabble over  
the papers

liceman came and tried to quiet him, but failing to do so started to take him out of the hall. I went upon the stage, but did not go right at first. x I was not at all excited, but suppose I went for the same reason that men gather around a dog fight, or anything of that sort--from curiosity just to see what was going on. A After I got on the stage I saw Acker pick up a chair and he seemed to weigh it just as if to see if it would make a good weapon, and he seemed to be looking at me. The space between us <sup>was</sup> clear and I thought that if that was his game I had better be prepared to protect myself and looked around to see if I couldn't get a chair too, but my eye fell on a piece of board behind the scenery, so I just went back there and got a piece of a thin board and broke it across my knee and held a piece in my hand. I did not hit anybody, nor try to hit anybody. If anybody had attacked me I would have struck them to protect myself. When I got back on the main part of the stage with the stick in my hand I saw Acker have hold of Jno. F. Lewis by the arms and I saw Sheff Lewis run in and hit ~~him~~ <sup>across</sup> and knock him down. (Directly after the difficulty I met Jno. F. Lewis on the stage and he asked me if I had seen Jno. Acker grab him. I told him I had not, and he said: "Well, he did grab me by the arms, and then I grabbed him by the arms, and then Sheff, when we had each other that way, struck him"

x  
Acker  
Lewis  
Sheff  
Lewis

the difficulty  
was in  
the middle  
of the  
stage

then Sheriff, when we had each other that way, struck him  
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so started to take him out of the hall. I went upon  
fireman came and tried to quiet him, but failing to do

+ 2 left  
right  
left  
right  
left  
right

*[Handwritten scribbles and lines]*

I was at the "Spirit" office meeting which has been referred to. It was an open meeting--that is no one was prevented from coming in; the doors were not locked, and people did come in and go out freely, attending to various matters of business which they had to attend to there. Such a thing as force was not even suggested. We determined that if we had, as we believed we did have, a majority of the legal delegates to the convention, that we would not withdraw as we did two years before, but that we would hold our convention in that hall. If the others wanted to hold one there they could do so too, but we were going to hold ours there. We had no idea of resorting to violence, either for the purpose of holding our own, or for the purpose of preventing the others from holding theirs. Of course, if they had attempted to put us out by force we would have resisted force by force, but such a possibility was not even mentioned. Before the convention was called

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to order I saw Acker, Funkhouser and Keezel back in the West wing together. If Acker and Davis had not come out as they did and struck at other persons on the stage, I don't believe that there would have been the slightest trouble. I didn't go on the stage with any intention of taking possession of it, or holding it by force. I ~~didn't~~ went up over the

piano - I saw John Lewis and Sam Davis go on the stage ahead of me - At the meeting at the Spirit office we decided if the delegates from Timberville would come here a message - in the Convention because of the reports we had received

Chas. A. Hammer.

Hammer

I came into the convention hall about one o'clock, the hour which had been fixed for its convening, and while there I saw the difficulty between Lam and Jarman, which has been referred to already in this testimony. I had with me my pistol, which I carried as a United States Officer, and knowing that the feeling between the factions was quite intense, and in view of the fact that this difficulty had already taken place, I feared that there might be further trouble and in that event did not want to have the pistol about me, so I offered it to Mr. Keister, asking him to take care of it for me until after the convention. He declined to receive it, and I immediately went outside and met E. C. Martz just outside of the door and gave it to him and he kept it for me until the next morning.

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stage, I don't believe that there would have been the  
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intention of taking possession of it, or holding it by

*force. I don't believe I would have been able to  
do so - I saw John Jones and  
Sam & was for me the difficulty  
of me - At the meeting at the  
office we were all called of the  
four gentlemen and we were  
overwhelmed in the  
presence of the  
James A. Hamner*

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and met E. C. Wertz just outside of the door and gave  
it to him and he kept it for me until the next morning.

Before I left the room I had ascertained that the calling of the convention to order had been postponed to await the arrival of the delayed train from Elkton, which was expected to bring some of the delegation, among them that of Swift Run, which I had been informed would vote for the anti-Ackerites. After I had given the pistol to Martz I went out of the building and down street, desiring to see the Swift Run delegation on its way from the depot and talk with its members. On returning to the convention, just as I got to the East entrance to the Court yard I met Jasper Hawse and he asked me if the factions were going to get together, and I told him that I didn't think so and it wouldn't surprise me if there was a fight. This was after the Lam and Jarman difficulty and it was because that had already occurred and because of the intense feeling that I knew existed that I so expressed myself. I had no other reason to expect a fight. I went on up into the convention again and found that it had been called to order and that the roll call was in progress. When Oak Grove was reached, a precinct, from which Col. Roller had been elected a delegate, as I knew, a man by the name of Custer, an Ackerite, got up and announced the vote of Oak Grove for Acker. I was near him and went up to him, and I believe that I told him that he was a damned thief, then I went on down the aisle and spoke to several other gentlemen. And finally I was

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standing talking to Col. Roller when Botts Lewis announced the vote, and seeing the others go upon the stage I went too. I went up to the table at which Funkhouser and Botts Lewis, the tellers, had been seated and *asked Botts Lewis how he got the result - "did you count the ballot for Acker" - he said "for Becker"* and when I got there Mr. Acker was just coming in from the West side back of the table and put his hand on a chair and I thought he was going to use it, and I went up to him and said: "Don't do that, Mr. Acker", and he put the chair down and drew back his fist and struck at me. Fortunately for me, owing to the disparity in our size and strength, Botts Lewis interposed between us and struck off Acker's blow with his right hand and with his left caught me under the chin and threw me backwards, and just as I was recovering my balance I saw Ike Davis making at me with his hands up. He struck at me with his left hand, and with my left hand I ~~waved~~ *pushed* his arm aside and warded off his blow and struck at him with my right hand, but that blow did not land. In warding off his blow the position of his body was turned somewhat towards the right and just then Sheff Lewis was standing there, or passing there, and Davis struck at him with his right hand, and Sheff Lewis struck him in the face, and at the same time some man, whom I cannot identify, struck him from the side that I was on and he fell down. I was at no time, after that, within ten feet of Mr. Acker. I did not strike him and I made no effort to strike him.

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strike him and I made no effort to strike him.

Sub, If we found that we had a  
majorities. I would not have ac-  
cepted a decision by Keyzel ad-  
verse to us.

I think I saw Jacob Deputy, Charlie Masters and Abe Paul, who are Ackerites, in the wing when I got on the stage.

~~I may have stepped toward Acker~~  
After the Davis affair - ~~it was not~~  
~~not that I accepted Keyzel's decision~~  
~~it is not true that we did not~~  
I saw Fletcher on the stage just after Acker was knocked down

I was at the "Spirit of the Valley" meeting. Neither Ed. Dechert, nor Sam Davis, nor Charlie Fletcher was there. There was no discussion of the use of force in the convention, nor was the <sup>a</sup>suggestion of any that I heard. The discussions and determinations of the meeting have all been described by other witnesses.

— It may be that I had a conversation with Mr. Hooke just before the convention in Abe Loewener's store, but if I did, I don't remember it. I did not tell Jno. Rogers on the train on the way to Richmond that I had hit Ike Davis and that Sheff Lewis had hit John Acker.

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E. L. Dechert.

At the time of the convention I was acting as manager of the opera house,--my brother, W. L. Dechert was the manager in fact, but I attended to it for him. I came into the convention when scarcely any one had arrived and met Mr. Philips, the janitor of the building at the door of the hall and suggested to him that his arrangement of the scenery could be improved by giving more room for the persons who would be upon the stage, and he agreed with me and we went together to the stage and changed the scenery so as to make more room. While up there I picked up a thin piece of board, about ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a half inch thick and about two and a half feet long, and perhaps two or three inches wide which was a part of a crate in which theatrical goods had been packed, and carried it in my hand. Before the convention was called to order I went out into the East box and there had a joking conversation with Mr. Keister and Winfield Liggett, Jr., and perhaps some others in the box about who had the majority of the convention. I don't remember anything at all about any reference to blood, though I don't deny it was made, though it would be impossible for me to say who made it

W. L. Deibert.

At the time of the convention I was acting as manager of the opera house--my brother, W. L. Deibert was the manager in fact, but I attended to it for him. I came into the convention when scarcely any one had arrived and met Mr. Phillips, the janitor of the building at the door of the hall and suggested to him that his arrangement of the scenery could be improved by giving more room for the persons who would be upon the stage, and he agreed with me and we went together to the stage and changed the scenery so as to make more room. While up there I picked up a thin piece of board, about six inches long and a half inch thick and about two and a half feet long, and perhaps two or three inches wide which was a part of a crate in which theatrical goods had been packed, and carried it in my hand. Before the convention was called to order I went out into the East box and there had a joking conversation with Mr. Keister and Winfield Liggett, Jr., and perhaps some others in the box about who had the majority of the convention. I don't remember anything at all about any reference to blood, though I don't deny it was made, though it would be impossible for me to say who made it

MARION D. SHEPHERD  
STENOGRAPHER  
HARRISBURG, VA.

Whoever said it, it was said in jest, just like the rest of the conversation. After that I went back on the stage and stayed there throughout the roll call. I think when it was finished I came out of the East wing, where I had been standing, and told Botts Lewis to announce the vote, which he did. Just after that the people began to come on the stage and Acker came out of the West wing, where I had seen him with a number of his followers, during the roll call, with the most venomous look I ever saw on the face of a man. I saw Acker draw back and strike at Charlie Hammer, and saw Botts Lewis rush in and separate them, and then ~~xxxx~~ I turned and walked away. As I did so, looking back over my right shoulder, I saw Acker fall. I didn't see who hit him. I ~~was~~ did not strike Acker; I did not strike at him, and when he was knocked down I was fully ten or fifteen feet away, and could not have struck him if I had tried. Neither did I strike any one else, nor did I make any effort to use the stick which I had in my hand. After the fighting was over I met Shefff. Lewis on the stage and I had the stick under my arm and Sheff just reached up and took it. I deny most positively that I ever had any conversation with Jos. Carver on the stage that day. ~~I did not~~ I was not in the "Spirit of the Valley" meeting. I had been sick the day before and been unable to go to the

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been sick the day before and been unable to go to the

primaries and was still sick that day and did not leave my house until nearly the time for the convention.

I was not examined on the James trial but was present & heard Keiskie's evidence - Nobody came on the stand with a case at all that I saw

primaries and was still sick that day and did not leave  
my house until nearly the time for the convention.

I was not expected on the ground  
that day and was present at the  
meeting in the afternoon - (History of  
the State with some other  
things I had)

W. H. Keister.

There is no doubt that it was not I or Winfield Liggett, Jr., but Ed. Dechert who made the reference to holding the convention by blood. I did not see any one back in the wing with Acker except Funkhouser and Keezel, but I am not prepared to say they were not there. I could not see the whole wing. Did not see any one with Acker when he came on stage. I was impressed with the fact that no one of Mr. Acker's friends was there for the reason that every one was attacking him. Ed Dechert and I had conversations several times after my evidence at call trial, about the case, and Dechert never suggested that I had been mistaken in my statement, but I never talked to him on the subject of what I had testified to, or any special subject in the case. I told him I was sorry to have to testify. On Cross examination the witness admitted that the whole conversation with Ed Dechert was a jocular one and that, as Winfield Liggett, Jr., had testified, he, (witness), was absent-minded. He admitted that on one occasion having gone with a party of young ladies and gentlemen, *to Rowley 5 p.m. 5,* he had gone into the river to bathe and that upon coming out of the water he had started to rejoin the ladies of the party without resuming his trousers, and that upon another occasion having come home from school to his dinner at midday he had gone to his room for the purpose of retiring, thinking it was evening and forgetful of the after-

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noon session of his school which was yet to take place

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J. D. Rogers.

I saw Charlie Hammer shortly after the convention here, on the train going to Richmond, and asked him about Acker and Davis, both of whom I had heard were right badly hurt; and then I asked him who hit them and he said: "I hit Davis and Sheff Lewis hit John Acker".

John Acker.

When Oak Grove precinct was called Col. Roller cast the vote for that precinct and I went back to seek Mr. Custer to see why he hadn't voted and found him back in the hall--he had started to leave-- and told me that Hammer had cursed him, and I told him to come on up there and attend to his duty. That was when the roll was about a third complete and I don't remember having gone out into the body of the house at any other time. Don't know that I said "fellows". It was the second time that I came out on the stage that Mr. Herring saw my friends in the West wing, and that I said I was elected Chairman and was going to be Chairman.

J. D. Rogers.

I saw Charlie Hammer shortly after the convention here, on the train going to Richmond, and asked him about Acker and Davis, both of whom I had heard were right badly hurt; and then I asked him who hit them and he said: "I hit Davis and Sheriff Lewis hit John Acker."

John Acker.

When Oak Grove precinct was called Col. Bolter cast the vote for that precinct and I went back to seek Mr. Guster to see why he hadn't voted and found him back in the hall--he had started to leave-- and told me that Hammer had cursed him, and I told him to come on up there and attend to his duty. That was when the roll was about a third complete and I don't remember having gone out into the body of the house at any other time. Don't know that I said "fellows". It was the second time that I came out on the stage that Mr. Her- ring saw my friends in the West wing, and that I said I was elected Chairman and was going to be Chairman.

J. C. Sibert.

I was standing back in the aisle, right under the edge of the gallery and saw Mr. Acker <sup>come</sup> on the stage--I saw him strike at nobody and ~~xxxxxxx~~ think it was possible for him to strike at any body. <sup>and it was</sup>

~~impossible for him to have struck at any one Hammer as described by Rotts Lewis's Hammer in their testimony~~

H. S. Hooke.

About an hour or an hour and a half before the convention I saw Charlie Hammer in Loewner's restaurant and he said to me: "We are going to claim our rights in the convention; you may call it revolutionary, or not."

*Handwritten notes on the left margin:*  
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not to connect  
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*impossible for him to do  
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*Handwritten scribbles and notes on the right side of the page, including a large circular mark and several lines of cursive text.*

Charlie Masters.

I was not in the West wing with Acker, except that before the roll call I went up there for a little while to speak with Jacob Deputy, and then went back and sat down in the hall. When the racket was about over I went up on the stage. When Mr. Acker came out the second time, to preside over the convention, Mr. Orville Dechert stood up behind him, hollering, and I heard him say:- "Come on boys, lets drown him out". I have known Orville Dechert and all of his brotherswell ever since they were children and there can't be any mistake about its having been he. (

After another witness had been examined this witness returned to the stand to make a correction and said it was not Orville Dechert whom he had seen on the stage behind Mr. Acker, but one of his brothers who resembles him somewhat, and that he knew it was not Orville Dechert, but his brother, because when he left the stand the first time Chas. M. Keezel had told him

~~so.~~ that it was Burton Dechert

beside  
Capt Leary  
and that  
his son  
Walter  
was standing  
near them  
and did not  
go on stage  
until after  
difficultly  
began

Charlie Masters.

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*that it was Dechert's brother*

*Dechert  
Orville Dechert  
his brother  
witness  
was seen  
and Dechert  
to be Dechert  
witness  
Dechert*



Abe Paul.

I was not on the stage until after Acker was knocked down. *I was sitting to the left of the west-aisle.*  
*When I got on the stage they were taking Acker off*

I. D. Davis.

When I was knocked down it is not true that I was making an assault upon either Charlie Hammer or Sheff. Lewis. Hammer and I have always been good friends. ~~and~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

C. M. Keezel.

Orville Dechert and his brother, Burton, do resemble each other a good deal. I told Mr. Masters, after he left the stand a few minutes ago that it was Burton, and not Orville, Dechert, because I thought it was ~~likely~~ <sup>likely</sup> that he was to be contradicted. I heard Acker say the second time he came out that he was elected and was going to preside, but heard no such statement the first time.

Abe Paul.

I was not on the stage until after Acker was knock-

ed down. I was sitting to the left of the door - and when Acker was taken off the stage the door was closed.

I. D. Davis.

When I was knocked down it is not true that I was making an assault upon either Charlie Hammer or Sheriff Davis. Hammer and I have always been good friends.

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C. M. Kezel.

Orville Dechert and his brother, Burton, do resemble each other a good deal. I told Mr. Masters after he left the stand a few minutes ago that it was Burton, and not Orville, Dechert, because I thought it was <sup>likely</sup> ~~likely~~ that he was to be contradicted. I heard Acker say the second time he came out that he was elected and was going to preside, but heard no such statement the first time.

Jos. Funk.

Did not hear Acker make any statement the first time he came out on the stage, but I did the last time. I had forgotten that I and my brother had picked up any sticks until Mr. Bowman testified to it. We were examining them to see if we could find any blood on them.

W. C. Funk.

I had lost sight of examining the sticks until Walter Switzer called my attention to it. My brother and I were looking to see if we could find any blood on them.

Joe. Frank.

Did not hear Acker make any statement the first  
time he came out on the stage, but I did the last time.  
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sticks until Mr. Bowman testified to it. We were ex-  
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Walter Switzer called my attention to it. My brother  
and I were looking to see if we could find any blood on  
them.

W. C. Swätzer.

I was with the two Funks when they were examining the sticks to see if they could find any blood on them. One of them picked up the stick that Jno. Lewis had thrown down.

J. C. Beery.

Mr. Ike Davis came in from West side of stage directly after rush. Mr. Davis *was* making an attack on nobody; don't think that Mr. Davis saw Sheff. Lewis at all.

C. C. Herring.

I was at the convention. I saw Mr. Isaac Davis struck. I did not see him until in the position in which he was when struck--both arms were up. Sheff. Lewis struck him on the right side of the face, and at about the same time Harry Voorhees struck him on the other side, and Davis fell down by, or under, the table

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G. C. Herring.

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Jehu Long

~~Jehu Long~~ Saw Davis just as he was struck. Some one  
XXXXXXXXXX had told me they were fighting on the stage, and just  
then Hammer struck him on one side and Sheff. Lewis on  
the other. I don't know whether Davis had attacked  
them or not. I couldn't swear that Hammer could not  
have said that's "all right" when I arrested him and  
told him to appear before the Mayor, but I thought he s  
said that's "right", when I told him he was arrested  
for striking Davis. *I didn't arrest Sheff  
Lewis on the stage, but down on  
the body of the house.*

D. S. Lewis. jr

I was on the stage when arrested. Mr. Long, the  
policeman, said he did not know who did the hitting,  
but he just arrested me for being in the "furse". If  
Mr. Davis was not making an assault on me when I struck  
him, I thought he was.

W. M. Bucher.

It was before the roll call had begun, while I  
was still standing on the Western side of the hall,  
that Acker came out and told those men of whom I spoke

John Long

~~John Long~~ Davis just as he was struck. Some one had told me they were fighting on the stage, and just then Hammer struck him on one side and Sheriff Lewis on the other. I don't know whether Davis had attacked them or not. I couldn't swear that Hammer could not have said that's "all right" when I arrested him and told him to appear before the Mayor, but I thought he said that's "right", when I told him he was arrested

for striking Davis. I don't know about Sheriff Lewis on the stage, but I don't know about the body of the horse.

D. S. Lewis.

I was on the stage when arrested. Mr. Long, the policeman, said he did not know who did the hitting, but he just arrested me for being in the "house". If Mr. Lewis had not taken an account of me when I struck him, I thought he was.

W. M. Bucher.

It was before the roll call had begun, while I was still standing on the Western side of the hall, that Aker came out and told those men of whom I spoke



to come on up there, and I don't know what he meant by  
"up there", unless he meant for them to come on up ther  
on the stage with him--he went back up on the stage, in  
to.the West wing.

*Primrose*  
*W. S. 28*  
Harry Voorhees.

It is not true, as stated by Chas. C. Herring,  
that I struck Ike Davis. I did not strike him.

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"up there", unless he meant for them to come on up there  
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to the West wing.

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It is not true, as stated by Chas. G. Herring,  
Harry Woodhead.

*Benjamin Franklin*  
*W. J. Davis*  
*John J. Davis*

GEORGE W. ALTAFFER.

I was sitting on the rail of the East box near the stage at the Convention when the difficulties transpired on the stage. I saw Mr. Acker after he got on the stage, come up to the table and take up a chair with both of his hands. I don't know whether he raised it or not. He said, "Gentlemen, I am elected Chairman of this Convention, and I am going to be Chairman." He said this just about the same time he picked up the chair. ( Then there was a general melee. Acker rushed at the crowd and they gave back from him. I didn't see any sticks or chairs used. I did see one stick in the air about the time Acker was knocked down, but it was a little thin stick that bent in the air as it wa~~v~~ved, and that stick didn't come down at Acker. Acker's manner when he came on the stage was very aggressive, (and I think he started the row.) The whole thing happened very quickly. Davis was knocked down just about the time or immediately after Acker took hold of the chair. )

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Substitute

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GEORGE W. ALTAPHER

I was sitting on the rail of the East box near

the stage at the Convention when the difficulties transpired

on the stage. I saw Mr. Aker after he got on the stage, come

up to the table and take up a chair with both of his hands.

I don't know whether he raised it or not. He said, "Gentle-

ment I am elected Chairman of this Convention, and I am going

to be Chairman." He said this just about the same time he

picked up the chair. Then there was a general melee.

Aker rushed at the crowd and they gave back from him. I didn't

see any sticks or chairs used. I did see one stick in the air

about the time Aker was knocked down, but it was a little thin

stick that bent in the air as it whirled, and that stick didn't

come down at Aker. Aker's manner when he came on the stage

was very aggressive, and I think he started the row. The

whole thing happened very quickly. Davis was knocked down

just about the time or immediately after Aker took hold of

the chair.

*Blind*  
*Sub*  
*at the*  
*stage*  
*at the*  
*stage*  
*at the*  
*stage*

*out*

On <sup>Cross</sup> ~~the~~ exam, he said

~~Geo. W. Altaffer.~~

Acker came to table and put his hands on a chair; said: "I've been elected Chairman and am going to preside!" Ike Davis came to front of stage; saw two men <sup>in</sup> strike around between Davis' arms. Next saw Acker hit or push at some one and crowd went back. Saw chair raised East and back of table. Can't say Acker raised chair; think he ~~was~~ <sup>may have</sup> put his hands on ~~some~~ chair to have hands on some thing.

Think both Hammer and Lewis struck ~~xxxx~~ Acker. <sup>Davis</sup> ~~xxxx~~ Acker had done nothing up to the time that Davis was ~~knocked~~ <sup>knocked down</sup>; crowd was facing Acker. Don't know whether Hammer went towards Acker when Davis was knocked down; think he did.

Class

Geo. W. Alford.

think he did  
 Hammer went towards Aker when Davis was knocked down;  
 crowd was facing Aker. Don't know whether  
 Aker had done nothing up to the time that Davis was st-  
 Think both Hammer and Lewis struck Davis Aker.  
 chair to have hands on some thing.  
 Aker raised chair; think he ~~more~~ put his hands on ~~XXXXX~~  
 Saw chair raised East and back of table. Can't say  
 Aker hit or push at some one and crowd went back.  
 saw two men ~~struck~~ around between Davis' arms. Next saw  
 going to preside. Ike Davis came to front of stage;  
 on a chair; said: "I've been elected Chairman and am  
 Aker came to table and put his hands

OK

*Davis*  
*Aker*

CHARLES CLATTERBUCK.

I was at the Convention and sat near the stage in a seat next to one of the aisles. After the difficulty on the stage was over, I overheard John F. Lewis, who was standing in the aisle near me, talking to another man, whom I did not know, and heard him say, "I had hold of Acker's arms when Sheff, (meaning D. S. Lewis, Jr.,), struck him."

O. B. COOLEY.

I was at the Convention. Did not see Acker or Davis knocked down. I went upon the stage and got there just as Acker was going off. I saw Charlie Fletcher on the East side of the stage, and heard him talking to some one and say, "Dam<sup>n</sup> <sup>him</sup> him, I tried to hit <sup>him</sup> with a chair, but couldn't get to him." I don't know to whom he referred by "him," and don't know who the man was that he was talking to. I had never seen him before and have never seen him since. Fletcher and I have not been on good terms for a couple of years. Fletcher saw me and raised a chair as if he was going to hit me and called me a "Damned son of a bitch." I didn't answer him, but my uncle, George Rickard, who was on the stage with me, told him, "If you hit Cooley, I'll kill you." Fletcher, undoubted-

CHARLES QUATTERBUCK.

I was at the Convention and sat near the stage  
in a seat next to one of the aisles. After the difficulty  
on the stage was over, I overheard John F. Lewis, who was  
standing in the aisle near me, talking to another man, whom I  
did not know, and heard him say, "I had hold of Acker's arms  
when Sheriff (meaning D. S. Lewis, Jr.), struck him."

O. B. GOOLEY.

I was at the Convention. Did not see Acker  
or Davis knocked down. I went upon the stage and got there  
just as Acker was going off. I saw Charlie Fletcher on the  
East side of the stage, and heard him talking to some one and  
say, "Damn him, I tried to hit with a chair, but couldn't get  
to him." I don't know to whom he referred by "him," and don't  
know who the man was that he was talking to. I had never  
seen him before and have never seen him since. Fletcher and  
I have not been on good terms for a couple of years. Fletcher  
saw me and raised a chair as if he was going to hit me and  
called me a "Damned son of a bitch." I didn't answer him, but  
my wife, George Rickard, who was on the stage with me, told  
him, "If you hit Gooley, I'll kill you." Fletcher, undoubted-



Commonwealth.

②

D. S. Lewis & others.

J. N. Hale

~~R. J. H. C.~~  
~~R. J. H. C.~~

James S. Fry

Jacob L. Harlin

G. F. Sanger

Samuel W. Bredler

H. J. Archart

Jacob W. Fawley

E. P. Myers

Samuel Myers, Jr.

Robert J. Miller

Jacob V. Lago

Charles F. Armentrout



IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF <sup>Augusta</sup> ~~ROCKINGHAM~~ COUNTY--GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon

*Jno S. Rodger*

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the *2nd* day of the *November* Court next, being the *20* day of *November 1900* <sup>189</sup>, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against

who stands charged with and indicted for *Misdemeanor*.

And this *he* shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the *13* day of *November 1900*, 189, and in the *125*th year of the Commonwealth.

*J. S. Messerley*, Clerk.

Jno D Rodgers.

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY---GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon *Jim D. Rodgers*

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the *2<sup>nd</sup>* day of the *November* Court next, being the *20<sup>th</sup>* day of *November 1901*~~1899~~, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against *D. J. Lewis for Robbery*

~~who stands charged with and indicted for~~

And this *he* shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the *12* day of *November 1901*~~1899~~, and in the *28<sup>th</sup>* year of the Commonwealth.

*J. S. Messerley*, Clerk.

J. D. Redger

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY---GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon

*John Rodgers*

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the *2<sup>nd</sup>* day of *this November* Court next, being the *20<sup>th</sup>* day of *November 1900*, ~~189~~, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against

*D. S. Linnis Jr. + C. A. Hammer*

who stands charged with and indicted for

*Misdemeanor*

And this *he* shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the *20<sup>th</sup>* day of *November 1900*, ~~189~~, and in the *126<sup>th</sup>* year of the Commonwealth.

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk.

John Rodgers

3- 52-208 358



IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY---GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon J. M. Wintermyer, W. A. Herron, J. L. Long, J. E. Lowman, D. P. Shifflett, L. C. Keamey, B. F. Rodeffer, John Kollar, J. S. Weaver, Chas. J. Blatterbuck, J. W. Deputy, B. C. Kuesley, B. Frank, Rolston, W. J. Lineweaver, O. B. Cooley, Geo. W. Pehard, J. R. Long, D. J. L. Bowman, D. J. B. Amis, M. H. Keister, C. C. Simmons, G. R. Funk, Wm. C. Funk, James E. Roller, John VanBelt, James Lewis

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the November Court next, being the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1900, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against D. O. Lewis & others

who stands charged with and indicted for Misdemeanor

And this They shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1900, 1899, and in the 125<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

J. S. Messerley, Clerk.

Executed  
J. A. Switzer S. P. B.

Commonwealth.

of J. Pa.

1028

D. S. Lewis & others

J. W. Wintermyer, James E. Potter  
W. A. Herron ✓ John Long  
J. L. Long ✓ Vaucliff.  
J. E. Chapman ✓ James Cox ✓  
W. P. Hilllett ✓  
L. C. Keimig ✓  
B. J. Rodeffer +  
John Kollar  
J. S. Carver ✓  
Chas. L. Blatterhuck ✓  
J. W. Deputy ✓  
James R. Rhodes ✓  
Thos. Kinsley ✓  
B. Frank Rolston ✓  
W. J. Linnweaver + ✓  
O. P. Kinsley ✓  
Geo. W. Reherd ✓  
J. R. Long ✓  
Dr. G. L. Bonman ✓  
Dr. J. B. Angus +  
W. S. Kerster ✓  
Le. L. Kinnison. ✓  
J. P. R. Frank ✓  
Wm. L. Frank ✓  
The 2nd day of November 1897  
being November 20. 1897

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY---GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon *Jos W Rodger*

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the *2* day of the *November* Court next, being the *20* day of *November 1900*, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against *D. P. Lewis Jr. rother*

~~who stands charged with and indicted for~~ *M*

And this *he* shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the *12* day of *November 1900*, and in the *28*th year of the Commonwealth.

*J. S. Messerley*, Clerk.

The Sole Proprietor  
The Commonwealth

vs  
D. S. Lewis &c

Jos D Redger

Do the 2 day of November  
term being Nov. 20,  
1900

Executed Nov 13-1900, as to J. D. Redger  
by delivering a true copy of the within  
Open to him in presence  
of J. D. Dawson Deputy  
for notary &c

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY---GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon *H. S. Duke*

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the *fourth* day of the *Forfourth* Court next, being the *fourth* day of *1899*, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against

*D. S. Lewis & others*

who stands charged with ~~and indicted for~~ *Misdemeanors*.

And this *he* shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the *24* day of *November* *1900*, 189*9*, and in the *125*th year of the Commonwealth.

*J. S. Messerley*, Clerk.

Executed

Nov 24 - 1700

E. J. Brickhoff D  
for James Smith Esq

Commonwealth.

© J. Spa. 11

D. S. Lewis & Co

H. S. Hooke

Forthwith

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF <sup>Augusta</sup> ~~ROCKINGHAM~~ COUNTY--GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon

*Jos. D. Rodgers*

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the *2<sup>d</sup>* day of the *November* Court next, being the *20<sup>th</sup>* day of *November 1900* 189*9*, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against

*D. S. Lewis & others.*

~~who stands charged with and indicted for Misdemeanor~~

And this *he* shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the *13<sup>th</sup>* day of *November 1900*, 189*9*, and in the *1* th year of the Commonwealth.

*J. S. Messerley*, Clerk.

69  
Augusta County  
Commonwealth.

© J. Spa. 185  
D. S. Lewis & others

Jno D Rodgers

To the 2nd day of November let  
being November 20. 1900.

Executed Nov 15-1900, as to J. D.  
Rodgers, by delivering a true copy  
of the within Spa to him in person  
J. H. Dawson Deputy  
for Recorder etc



IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY---GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to summon Bernard Beck

to appear before the Judge of the County Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of ~~the~~ November Court ~~next~~, being the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 1900 ~~189~~, to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against D. S. Lewis Jr. others

who stands charged with and indicted for Misdemeanor

And this he shall not omit under the penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, JOSEPH S. MESSERLEY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-House, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 1900, ~~189~~, and in the 12<sup>5</sup>th year of the Commonwealth.

J. S. Messerley, Clerk.

1 X  
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11 X  
12 X

Commonwealth

@ I Spas.

D. S. Lewis Jr. v. others

Bernard Beck.

To 2nd day November Et.  
Being November 20<sup>th</sup> 1900.

Executed  
J. P. Switzer J. A. B.

#####

Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause, after the Commonwealth, to maintain the issue upon its part, had introduced all of its evidence in chief, as set forth in Bill of Exceptions No. 1, which is here referred to and made a part of this Bill of Exceptions, including the testimony of W. H. Keister, in chief, as set out in said Bill of Exceptions No. 1, and had rested its case, and after the defendants, to maintain the issue upon their part, had introduced all of their evidence in chief, including the testimony of Winfield Liggett, Jr., <sup>and ~~Chas. G. Hervey~~</sup> as set out in the same Bill of Exceptions, the Commonwealth to further maintain the issue upon its part, in rebuttal, called said W. H. Keister, to whom it propounded the following question: "Winfield Liggett, Jr., has testified that it was either you or himself, and not Ed. Dechert, who stated before the convention was called to order, that the Lewisites proposed to have their rights if they had to have them by blood. State whether or not his statement is true" To the propounding of which question the defendants, by counsel, objected, upon the ground that this matter had been fully developed by this witness upon his examination in chief, and that the question now propounded did not seek to bring out any evidence properly admissible in rebuttal, but the Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer the same as follows: "It is not true; there is no doubt that it was Mr. Dechert who made the reference to blood." X To which action of the Court, in

S. Hervey's witness called all the talk of Chas. G. Hervey and 12 or 13 of teachers' friends called all the talk with Lewisites in chief

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*Handwritten notes at the top of the middle page.*

*Faint, mostly illegible text on the middle page.*

*Handwritten notes at the top of the left page.*

*Faint, mostly illegible text on the left side of the page.*

*Handwritten notes at the top of the bottom page.*

*Faint, mostly illegible text on the bottom page.*

2.

so permitting the asking of said question§ in so overruling  
said objection§ and in so permitting the question§ to be an-  
swered, as set forth above, the defendants, by counsel ex-  
cept and pray that this, their Bill of Exceptions No. 5  
may be sealed, signed and enrolled and made a part of this  
record, which is accordingly done.

Geo. Hutton (SEAL)

to permit the asking of said questions in so overruling  
said objection and in so permitting the questions to be an-  
-swered, as set forth above, the defendant, by counsel ex-  
-cept and pray that their Bill of Exceptions No. 10  
may be sealed, signed and enrolled and made a part of this  
record, which is accordingly done.

Per [Signature] (SEAL)

6 7. The jury are instructed that in considering the evidence in this cause they are only to pass upon the guilt or innocence of the defendants upon the charge of assault and battery upon John Acker, and the evidence touching the circumstances of any other affray in which any of the defendants were involved are to be considered only so far as the same may tend to prove an unjustifiable assault and battery upon John Acker, or tend to exculpate the defendants from the charge of assault and battery upon said Acker.

7 8. The jury are instructed that if, upon the evidence in this cause, either of two or more theories as to the affray under investigation may be true, and that upon any of such theories the defendants may be innocent, it is their duty to acquit the defendants, or any of them as to whom such theory may apply, and that however great may be the probability of guilt raised by the evidence, they must still acquit the defendants, unless they believe that the evidence establishes their guilt beyond every reasonable doubt.

8 9. The jury are instructed that a party assaulted may strike without first retreating, and is entitled to use such force to repel the attack as, from his point of view, may be reasonably necessary.

To the granting of the third, fifth, ~~sixth~~ and <sup>Eight</sup> ~~ninth~~ of which instructions the Commonwealth, by counsel, objected, and the Court sustained said objection and refused to give said third, fifth, ~~sixth~~ and <sup>Eight-</sup> ~~ninth~~ instruc-

7. The jury are instructed that in considering the evidence in this case they are only to pass upon the guilt or innocence of the defendants upon the charge of assault and battery upon John Acker, and the evidence touching the circumstances of any other party in which any of the defendants were involved are to be considered only so far as the same may tend to prove an unjustifiable assault and battery upon John Acker, or tend to exonerate the defendants from the charge of assault and battery upon said Acker.

8. The jury are instructed that if, upon the evidence in this case, either of two or more theories as to the party under investigation may be true, and that upon any of such theories the defendants may be innocent, it is their duty to acquit the defendants, or any of them as to whom such theory may apply, and that however great may be the probability of guilt raised by the evidence, they must still acquit the defendants, unless they believe that the evidence established their guilt beyond every reasonable doubt.

9. The jury are instructed that a party assaulted may strike without first retreating, and is entitled to use such such force to repel the attack as, from his point of view, may be reasonably necessary.

To the granting of the third, fifth, sixth and eighth of which instructions the Commonwealth, by counsel, objected, and the Court sustained said objection and refused to give said third, fifth, sixth and eighth instructions.



tions, or any of them, but gave the first, second, fourth, ~~seventh~~ <sup>seventh</sup> and ~~eighth~~ <sup>seventh</sup> of said instructions, and in lieu of said ~~third, fifth, sixth and seventh~~ <sup>third, fifth and eighth</sup> instructions prayed for by the defendants, gave the following instructions, to-wit:

Instruction given by Court in lieu of the third instruction prayed for by the defendants.

The jury are instructed that any admission, or declaration made by one of the defendants cannot be considered as evidence against any of the other defendants, unless the jury believe from the evidence that all of the defendants had conspired to commit some unlawful act, and that in the commission thereof, and in ~~the~~ pursuance of ~~such~~ such conspiracy an assault and battery was made upon John Acker, and such admission, or declaration, was made ~~while~~ <sup>when</sup> they were in the act of committing such unlawful act, or when in its way of commission.

Instruction given by the Court in lieu of the fifth instruction prayed for by the defendants.

The jury are instructed that if they believe from the evidence that under the circumstances of the difficulty between John Acker and John F. Lewis (the uncle of D. S. Lewis, Jr.), viewed from the standpoint of said D. S. Lewis Jr., said D. S. Lewis, Jr. reasonably believed that said John F. Lewis was in imminent danger of receiving serious bodily harm at the hands of said Acker, then said D. S. Lewis, Jr. had a right to, and was justifiable in, inter-

... or any of them, but gave the first, second, fourth, ... and in lieu of ...

by the defendants, gave the following instructions, to-wit:

Instruction given by Court in lieu of the third in-  
struction given for by the defendants.

The jury are instructed that any admission, or  
declaration made by one of the defendants cannot be con-  
sidered as evidence against any of the other defendants,  
unless the jury believe from the evidence that all of the  
defendants had conspired to commit some unlawful act, and

that in the commission thereof, and in the pursuance of ~~one~~  
such conspiracy an assault and battery was made upon John  
Acker, and such admission, or declaration, was made ~~by~~  
they were in the act of committing such unlawful act, or  
when in the way of commission.

Instruction given by the Court in lieu of the fifth  
instruction given for by the defendants.

The jury are instructed that if they believe from  
the evidence that under the circumstances of the difficulty  
between John Acker and John F. Lewis (the uncle of D. S.  
Lewis, Jr.), viewed from the standpoint of said D. S. Lewis  
Jr., said D. S. Lewis, Jr. reasonably believed that said  
John F. Lewis was in imminent danger of receiving serious  
bodily harm at the hands of said Acker, then said D. S.  
Lewis, Jr. had a right to, and was justified in, inter-

fering in said difficulty for the protection of said John F. Lewis, and in ~~the~~ use of such force to prevent such injury as was reasonably necessary from his point of view, if they further believe from the evidence that said John F. Lewis was without fault in bringing on said difficulty between himself and said John Acker.

Instruction given by Court in lieu of the ~~ninth~~<sup>eight</sup> instruction prayed for by the defendants.

The jury are instructed that a party assaulted may strike without first retreating, and is entitled to use such force to repel the attack as, from his point of view, may be reasonably necessary, if he is without fault in bringing that necessity upon himself.

To which action of the Court in sustaining the objection of the Commonwealth, by counsel, to the said third, fifth, ~~sixth~~<sup>eight</sup> and ~~ninth~~ instructions prayed for by the defendants, and refusing to give the same, or any of them, and in modifying the ~~same~~ third, fifth and ~~ninth~~<sup>eight</sup> of said instructions so prayed for by the defendants, and in giving in lieu of the said third, fifth and ~~ninth~~<sup>eight</sup> of said instructions prayed for by them the instructions aforesaid so given in lieu thereof by the Court, the defendants, by counsel, except and pray that this, their 9<sup>th</sup> Bill of Exceptions, may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made a part of the record in this cause, which is accordingly done.

Geornatan (SEAL)

...for the protection of said John  
...and in the use of such force to prevent such  
...from his point of view  
...if they further believe from the evidence that said John  
...without fault in bringing on said difficulty be-  
...and said John Aker.

Instruction given by Court in lieu of the main in-  
struction prayed for by the defendants.  
The jury are instructed that a party assaulted  
may strike without first retreating, and is entitled to  
use such force to repel the attack as, from his point of  
view, may be reasonably necessary, if he is without fault  
in bringing that necessity upon himself.

To which section of the Court in sustaining the  
objection of the Commonwealth, by counsel, to the said  
third, fifth, sixth and seventh instructions prayed for by  
the defendants, and refusing to give the same, or any of  
them, and in modifying the same third, fifth and sixth of  
said instructions as prayed for by the defendants, and in  
giving in lieu of the said third, fifth and sixth of said  
instructions prayed for by them the instructions afore-  
said so given in lieu thereof by the Court, the defendants,  
by counsel, except and pray that this, their Bill of  
Exceptions, may be signed, sealed and enrolled and made  
a part of the record in this cause, which is accordingly

done.

*Richardson*  
(SEAL)

x And that counsel for the Commonwealth also propounded ~~to~~ the following question, to-wit: "State whether or not any one was with Acker when he came on the stage"? to the propounding of which question the defendants, by counsel, objected, on the ground that the testimony sought to be elicited was not proper to be introduced in rebuttal, but the Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer, which he did, as follows: "I did not see any one with Acker when he came on the stage."

And that the Commonwealth, by counsel, also propounded to the witness the following question, to-wit: "State whether or not there was any fact which impressed upon you that none of Acker's friends was with him", to which question the defendants, by counsel, objected, but the Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to answer, which he did as follows: "I was impressed with the fact that none of Mr. Acker's friends was there for the reason that every one was attacking him."

And that counsel for the Commonwealth also pro-  
pounded the following question, to-wit: "State whether  
or not any one was with Acker when he came on the stage?"  
to the propounding of which question the defendants, by  
counsel, objected, on the ground that the testimony sought  
to be elicited was not proper to be introduced in rebuttal,  
but the Court overruled said objection and permitted the  
witness to answer, which he did, as follows: "I did not see  
any one with Acker when he came on the stage."

And that the Commonwealth, by counsel, also pro-  
pounded to the witness the following question, to-wit:  
"State whether or not there was any fact which impressed  
upon you that none of Acker's friends was with him," to  
which question the defendants, by counsel, objected, but the  
Court overruled said objection and permitted the witness to  
answer, which he did as follows: "I was impressed with the  
fact that none of Mr. Acker's friends was there for the  
reason that every one was attacking him."

✓ The jury are instructed that, in considering the  
 evidence in this cause, they are only to pass upon the  
 guilt or innocence of the Defendants upon the charge of  
 assault and battery upon John Acker, and the evidence  
 touching the circumstances of any other affray in which any  
 of the Defendants were involved, are to be considered only  
 so far as the same may tend to prove any unjustifiable ~~act~~<sup>assault or battery</sup>  
~~act~~ upon John Acker, or tend to exculpate the defendants  
 from the charge of assault and battery upon said Acker.

*Given*

*assault or battery*

The jury are instructed that, in considering the

evidence in this case, they are only to pass upon the

guilt or innocence of the defendant upon the charge of

assault and battery upon John Aker, and the evidence

showing the circumstances of any other attack in which any

of the defendant was involved, are to be considered only

so far as the same may tend to prove any unjustifiable

act upon the part of the defendant, or tend to exculpate the defendant

from the charge of assault and battery upon said Aker.



8

✓  
Given  
The jury are instructed that if, upon the evidence in this cause, either of two or more theories as to the affray under investigation, may be true, and that upon any of such theories the defendants may be innocent, it is their duty to acquit the defendants, or any of them as to whom such theory may apply; and that however great may be the probability of guilt raised by the evidence they must still acquit the defendants, unless they believe that the evidence establishes their guilt beyond every reasonable doubt.

8

The jury are instructed that if, upon the evidence  
 in this cause, either of two or more theories as to the  
 guilt under investigation, may be true, and that upon any  
 of such theories the defendant may be innocent, it is their  
 duty to acquit, or say not true as to guilt.  
 and they may apply, and that however great may be the  
 probability of guilt raised by the evidence they must still  
 acquit the defendant, unless they believe that the evi-  
 dence establish their guilt beyond every reasonable doubt.

#:#:#:#:#:#:#:#:#

Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause the defendants prayed the Court to give the jury <sup>eight</sup> nine several instructions, as follows:-

1. The jury are instructed that the defendants are presumed to be innocent until their guilt is proven beyond every reasonable doubt.

2. The jury are instructed that the question as to which of the factions of the Republican party had a majority of the delegates in the convention of the 17th of March, 1900, or who was rightfully chairman of said convention, Webb or Acker, or which of said factions was entitled to the possession of the stage is not for the jury to determine and any evidence upon this point is to be disregarded by them in coming to a conclusion as to the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

3. The jury are instructed that any admission or declaration made by one of the defendants cannot be considered as evidence against any of the other defendants.

4. The jury are instructed that in this cause the burden of proving every material fact necessary to establish the guilt of the defendants rests upon the Commonwealth and that each and every such material fact must be proven beyond every reasonable doubt; and if the jury shall have any reasonable doubt as to any material fact necessary to establish the guilt of the defendants, or any of them, they

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Be it remembered that upon the trial of this cause the defendant prayed the Court to give the jury nine sev-

eral instructions, as follows: -  
1. The jury are instructed that the defendants are presumed to be innocent until their guilt is proven beyond every reasonable doubt.

2. The jury are instructed that the question as to which of the factions of the Republican party had a majority of the delegates in the convention of the 17th of March, 1860, or who was rightfully chairman of said convention, Webb or Aker, or which of said factions was entitled to the possession of the stage is not for the jury to determine and any evidence upon this point is to be disregarded by them in coming to a conclusion as to the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

3. The jury are instructed that any admission or declaration made by one of the defendants cannot be considered as evidence against any of the other defendants.

4. The jury are instructed that in this cause the burden of proving every material fact necessary to establish the guilt of the defendants rests upon the Commonwealth and that each and every such material fact must be proven beyond every reasonable doubt; and if the jury shall have any reasonable doubt as to any material fact necessary to establish the guilt of the defendants, or any of them, they

2.  
*give the defendants the benefit of such doubt and*

are to acquit ~~the~~ defendants, or any of them as to whom such doubt applies.

5. The jury are instructed that if they believe from the evidence that under the circumstances of the difficulty between John Acker and John F. Lewis (the uncle of D. S. Lewis, Jr.,) viewed from the standpoint of said D. S. Lewis Jr., said D. S. Lewis, Jr., reasonably believed that said John F. Lewis was in danger of receiving bodily harm, then said D. S. Lewis, Jr. had a right to, and was justifiable in, interfering in said difficulty for the protection of said John F. Lewis, and in the use of such force to prevent such injury as was reasonably necessary from his point of view.

6.

5  
Give the defendant the benefit of every doubt and

are to acquit the defendant, or any of them as to whom  
such doubt applies.

5. The jury are instructed that if they believe from the  
evidence that under the circumstances of the difficulty  
between John Asher and John F. Lewis (the uncle of D. S.  
Lewis, Jr.) viewed from the standpoint of said D. S. Lewis  
Jr., said D. S. Lewis, Jr., reasonably believed that said  
John F. Lewis was in danger of receiving bodily harm, then  
said D. S. Lewis, Jr. had a right to, and was justified  
in, interfering in said difficulty for the protection of  
said John F. Lewis, and in the use of such force as pre-  
vented such injury as was reasonably necessary from his point  
of view.