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The Murder of Henry Whitlock

To J. H. Undersale, Esc., 1871, before whom the examination of the case was held. We are indebted for the particulars of the murder of Henry Whitlock in the precinct, on the 18th inst., by George and Moses Freer. It appears that Whitlock was returning from the field in which he had been at work with his hoe in his hand, and on reaching a point near a Black Smith Shop on the road he sat down to rest. A few minutes later the "Freer" brothers drove from the field nearby and let down Whitlock's fence. When the old man requested them to put it up saying they must stop going through the field unless they would attend to this matter. The Freers not only refused to comply with the request, but with an oath, said they would not, and he could not keep them from doing as they please. As Whitlock further remonstrated with them, Moses, who was in the wagon, shouted to George, who was still on the ground, telling him to kill the old scoundrel, or something to that effect. With this, George picked up a piece of board as Whitlock arose to his feet, and threw it at him, striking him in the stomach and knocking him down. Whitlock scrambled up and ran into the shop bolting the door behind him. In the meantime Moses got out of the wagon and the two forced their way into the house. When George seized the hoe and struck Whitlock several blows on the back, shoulders and neck. Before assistance could be rendered, though the skin was not broken, the old man died in a few moments from the effect of the blows. The deceased was in the 72nd year of his age. Mr. Whitlock, we are told, was a quiet and inoffensive man and honest and truthful in

all his dealings. He was born in Virginia and came to Illinois in 1819 and to this Greene County from 1820. He was truly a pioneer and assisted in cutting the logs for some of the first houses erected in Carrollton. He also worked on the old Tegard, now known as Rockbridge Mill Place, when first erected, and made the first improvements on the farms of Gilbert Fuller, Joshua Armstrong, Moses Freer Sr., and the place where he resided at the time of his death. He leaves a widow, seven sons, and four daughters to mourn his sad fate.

Ill feelings continued to exist between the Whitlock and Freer families as is proven by this news item printed in the Jacksonville Journal of September 17, 1875 more than four years after the murder of Henry Whitlock, at the circus in Carrollton. Tuesday, Isaac Whitlock knocked Jonathon Freer in the head with a brick, the blow is likely to prove fatal. It was the result of an old family feud.