

nation meeting was called at the court house. Resolutions were adopted, regretting the action of the president, eulogizing the conduct of Major Sheldon, and assuring him of the entire confidence of the people in his integrity and honor. This incident intensified the bitterness of feeling, and the press of both parties took up the quarrel. The *Miners' Free Press*, published by Messrs. Welsh & Plowman at Mineral Point, was a strong Democratic paper, and zealously defended the course of Major Sheldon. Gen. Charles Bracken, who lived about five or six miles south of Mineral Point, and who had been in the Black Hawk War, was an extremely bitter Whig partisan, and the reported correspondent of a Whig paper issued at Madison; he strongly denounced the Major. Henry B. Welsh, the senior editor of the *Miners' Free Press*, was a devoted personal friend of the ex-register, and one evening while coming home from a visit to his friend he accidentally met General Bracken about a mile from town, going out to his farm. They were both on horseback, and on passing each other, the road being narrow, an altercation took place between them. Blows were exchanged, and Welsh was reported to have pulled his antagonist from his horse.

Next morning, Bracken rode into town, armed with one of the large horse-pistols that the dragoons used to carry during the Black Hawk War. Seeing Welsh in the part of town called "Shake Rag," he advanced immediately upon him, with his pistol aimed. Welsh was unarmed, but he cried out, "Somebody hand me a pistol!" Col. Abner Nichols, the landlord of a tavern on the next corner, happened to be on the street, and hearing the appeal, quickly went into his barroom and brought out a pistol; but before he had time to deliver it to Welsh, Bracken had shot his enemy. The ball struck his collar, and glancing around it, entered the back of his neck, below the left ear. It made an ugly but not fatal wound. Welsh wore, as was at that time the custom in the mines, a collar or cravat, known as a "stock," being a wire frame covered with silk or satin, and fastened behind by a buckle. This collar saved his life.