

He was carried to his boarding house, he being at the time an unmarried man, and medical aid summoned; after a few weeks he was at his post again. After the shooting, Bracken coolly rode out of town, nobody attempting to hold or arrest him. His brother John, who was then deputy marshal, soon after followed him to his home, arrested him and brought him to town, and he was placed under bond and released. The excitement soon subsided, as Welsh was declared out of danger. My best recollection is that, before court met, Welsh was completely restored and the matter was allowed to drop.

That same fall occurred the first public execution that I had ever witnessed in Wisconsin. A poor fellow, named William Caffee, had, while under the influence of liquor, about two years before stabbed and killed a man at a ball given at Berry's Grove.¹ He fled, but was finally caught at St. Louis, and brought back to Mineral Point, where he had his trial. He was convicted of murder, and Judge Charles Dunn sentenced him to be hanged. When the fatal day arrived, the crowd of morbid sight-seers that poured into the village was something wonderful. They began to arrive before daylight, and from as far as forty miles; they came by wagon loads, on horseback, and on foot, in a continuous stream. Old men and young women and children and babies were there; whole settlements were for a day abandoned; many brought their provisions with them, and camped upon the hill sides. Considering the sparsity of the population, the gathering was larger than any circus nowadays can bring together. The stores and shops of all kinds did that day a very large and profitable business. The day was long remembered and talked about as "hanging day." The eagerness and morbidity with which people will witness the suffering and agony of a poor wretch is not calculated to elevate public morals. We can be truly thankful that not only the barbarous custom of public exe-

¹ *Hist. Iowa Co.*, pp. 673, 674, gives the victim's name as Southwick, who was at the time managing a "house warming" for one Berry, a settler at White Oak Springs, La Fayette County.—ED.