

A TERRIBLE MURDER.

Calvin Young Kills Levi Allen.

June 20 1888

By Cutting Open His Head
with a Spade.

The four corners in Bloomfield township, one mile west of Bloomfield Center, was the scene of a tragedy, last Thursday evening, which for cold blooded cruelty, rivals any similar event in the annals of crime.

On one of the corners is the house of Levi Allen, who at the time of his death was living there with his wife and two daughters. The place had been Mr. Allen's home for a good many years, where he had lived the life of a quiet, orderly farmer, and on good terms with all his neighbors.

The next house below was occupied by Calvin Young, also a farmer, a young man of about 30 years, who had lived there with his wife a matter of five years. Young was apparently an industrious, peaceable farmer, who attended church regularly as the Sabbath day came around, at Pontiac. By those who knew him best, however, Young is said to have a fiery disposition, and to be utterly unreasonable when angered.

About a year since Young and Allen had some difficulty regarding an exchange of work during haying, and since that time Young has apparently felt considerable enmity toward Allen, refusing to speak to or recognize him, and Mr. Allen therefore kept out of Young's way as much as possible.

Mr. Allen's house was at the foot of a small hill, and in wet weather he was troubled by the water running into his cellar. This hill is outside of Allen's road district, but he had been given permission to obviate the difficulty as best he might.

On Tuesday of last week Young, who had been doing some road work in his district, hauled a load of earth to the hill, which was outside his district, and dumped it near the bottom of the hill. The effect of this was to run the greater portion of the drainage from the hill over Mr. Allen's property. He accordingly dug a little water way to carry the water off the opposite side of the road, where no one lived to be annoyed or injured thereby.

Thursday morning, Calvin Young, on his way to Pontiac, went over the road, and noticed the alteration that had been made. On his return home, changed his clothes, shouldered a spade, and retraced his steps to the home of Jeff. Hall, road commissioner. Young said: "You'd better have that dirt at the corners shoveled back." "Who put it there?" asked Hall. "That man in the corner, and if he doesn't remove it there will be trouble," replied Young. "It isn't in your district, and you'd better let the matter alone," said Hall. Young then returned to the corner, where, seemingly actuated by sheer malevolence, he commenced digging a sluice-way on the opposite side of the road, where all the drainage would be conducted directly over Allen's property.

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