

Dr. Perry H. Talbott, who was shot and killed September 18, 1880, by his sons, who paid the death penalty by hanging, lived about seven miles south of Maryville. He was once a very successful physician of Nodaway county, and his death caused great excitement and was the cause of one of the most prolonged and hotly contested criminal cases ever marking a page in the history of the county. The Doctor was born in Fairfield (now Hocking) county, Ohio, February 5, 1827. He received a good education, as he grew to manhood, and was graduated with high honors at the Starling Medical College of Columbus, Ohio. He started out at once for the seeking out of his fortune in the West. In 1852 he joined a company of gold seekers, then crowding West for California. After one year in the far-away Pacific coast country he came back as far as Missouri and in April, 1854, married, in Page county, Iowa, Belle McFarland. He was a typical type of Western manhood—a genuine, but intelligent frontiersman. He was fond of cards and knew all the tricks of the game in his day. As a physician his name went far and wide for his ability and wonderful skill. His practice extended far and near. Doctor Talbott and his gray mule were historic figures in the early and later days in Nodaway county. He accumulated much property and became prominent in local political circles. He represented his district in the Missouri Legislature in 1856-57. During Civil war days he espoused the Union cause and was surgeon in the Twenty-fifth Missouri Regiment of Volunteers. After the war he espoused politics and had a hankering for a seat in the halls of Congress. He was a candidate before several conventions, but failed of nomination. In 1876 he became prominent among the leaders of the Greenback movement. He possessed an iron will and more than ordinary mental ability. In person, he was tall and rather commanding in his appearance; his hair and beard were black as the wing of a raven. As a friend and neighbor, the Doctor stood high among all who came in close touch with him. As a husband and father, he seemed to lack affection, and his home was one of discord. His children grew up neglected as to moral training. His house was an arsenal for small firearms and the children were familiar with their use. The crime of his own flesh and blood is written of elsewhere in this work.