

The Shooting of Alston Rich, Bloomington, Illinois, August 17, 1870.

From newspapers and court records.

Compiled and transcribed by John W. McCoy (RealMac@aol.com).¹

Bloomington Pantagraph, August 18, 1870.

Shooting Affray—A Woman the Cause.

The usual quiet of the city was considerably disturbed on Wednesday morning by the rumor that a man had been shot on Washington street.

Inquiry soon revealed the fact that Alston Rich, a carpenter, who has resided here for nearly a year, had been shot at his residence by one Solomon Victor, a Jew peddler from Cincinnati.

From the statement of Victor, who was quite communicative at first to the officers and others, we gather that something near a year ago his wife abandoned him in Ohio for Mr. Rich, and came to this State with the latter, and has since been living with him as his wife. Victor says he had no knowledge of the whereabouts of his wife, but had been constantly looking for her. On Tuesday he accidentally met her in Springfield, and they had a long interview. She told him that she had been living with Mr. Rich here, and told him where he might be found.

Victor immediately came here, and on finding Rich at home he immediately commenced shooting at him. He fired three chambers of his revolver, only one ball, however, taking effect. That ball struck Mr. Rich upon the breast bone, and then glanced, following a rib for three or four inches where it broke the rib and entered the body.

It is not thought to have entered the lung or any vital part.

Mr. Rich, being a strong, powerful man, caught Victor and held him. Mr. William Clark being in the vicinity heard the shooting and immediately came and took charge of Victor until officers Boyce and Cool were sent for.

On their arrival, Victor gave himself up to them, and requested to be taken in custody, stating that he had shot Rich for taking away his wife. He also asked the officers to take in charge certain trunks in the house as belonging to his wife, and stated that they would contain evidence that she was married to him (Victor). He was then taken, by his own request, to the telegraph office, where he telegraphed his wife at Springfield what he had done. He then selected Gen. McNulta as his counsel and was taken to see him, after which he was placed in jail. He evinced the most perfect coolness and freedom of talking about the affair, not being excited. While in jail, however, he refused to say anything in reference to the subject.

¹ Research by Karen Heinrich, History Detectives (www.historydetectives.com) is gratefully acknowledged.

Mr. Rich's story is somewhat different from his, he claiming that the woman had been divorced from Victor and then married to him legally. Victor was married to her in England, and came with her to this country. Mr. Rich has a daughter of about 15 years living at home, and she supposed her father to be married to this woman.

Mrs. Rich or Victor, (whichever it is), is in Springfield, following her former business, viz: selling laces, which, by the way, is Victor's business. She will probably return here as soon as she learns of this affair. Victor was here a week or two since, peddling laces, and was fined for selling without license. He then assumed the name of Charles Peppenheim. The case will probably undergo a legal investigation, and we defer comment. Dr. Hill, who was called to see Mr. Rich, states that his wound is not dangerous.

Bloomington Daily Leader, August 17, 1870.²

A Shooting Affair—Seduction and Bullets—Alston Rich Shot by Solomon Victor—An Exciting Scene.

Our usually quiet city was thrown into considerable excitement this morning by the report that a man had been shot on West Washington street. We hastened to the scene of battle. It occurred at the second house west of Allen street, on the north side [*this would be in the 800 block of W. Washington St. today*], a new house just finished by Mr. Alston Rich. This morning at about a quarter past seven o'clock a man went to Mr. Rich's house and went into the basement, where Mr. Rich was at the time, and immediately commenced shooting him with a pistol. Mr. Rich says he shot three times, when he got hold of his antagonist, and was hit several times on the head with the pistol before he secured him. The alarm was given that a shooting affair was on hand, and Mr. Wm. Clark, who resides near, hastened to the house, where he found Mr. Solomon Victor—for that proves to be his name—secured by the powerful grasp of Mr. Rich, who, by the way, was nearly exhausted by the loss of blood and the excitement. Mr. Clark took the pistol from the hand of Mr. V., and took him in charge, relieving Mr. Rich. Policemen Coole and Boyce were on hand very soon, and relieved Mr. Clark of his prisoner. Mr. Victor remonstrated with Mr. Clark for arresting him at first, but very soon said it was all right, and quietly submitted, and said that he was the man who did the shooting—and that he had done right, and had nothing to fear.

Mr. Rich was assisted up stairs and placed on a bed. Dr. Hill soon arrived and made an examination of the wounds. But one ball took effect. It struck between two and three inches below the top of the breast-bone and in the center. The ball did not penetrate the bone but glanced off to the left. We understand that a subsequent probing shows that probably a rib is broken and the internal organs may be injured. He complained of a severe pain through his left breast. There is no other wound, and this is not considered dangerous.

Mr. Rich is a brother of Dr. Rich, of Wenona.

² An almost identical article was published in the *Bloomington Weekly Leader* on August 25, 1870.

Solomon Victor is a Jew and a peddler. Says he married the woman who has been living with Mr. Rich about ten years ago. The marriage certificate found in her trunk confirms the fact. His wife is an English woman. They were peddlers and made their headquarters at Cincinnati.

He says about a year ago Mr. Rich met his wife at Springfield, Ohio, where an acquaintance was formed, and through persuasion and false representations, she was induced to decamp west with him. That while living together they had two children; that Mr. Rich has a wife in the Insane Asylum at Dayton, Ohio, &c. Every day since she left he has been in search of his wife. He canvassed this city 10 days ago, under the name of Poppenheimer. Yesterday, while in Springfield, Illinois, he met his wife for the first time. She told her story, of Mr. Rich's wonderful promises to her, and his subsequent bad treatment of her. They were reconciled to each other, and he came to Bloomington to avenge their mutual wrongs.

After he was arrested, he telegraphed to his wife what he had done, and that he was under arrest. He had a Colts' revolver, six shooter, five inch barrel, and three loads are missing.

Mr. Rich says that Solomon Victor and the woman in dispute between them, were married in England—that his brutal treatment of her compelled her to seek protection from the law which gave her a divorce, and that subsequently they were lawfully married. He has a daughter at home, say fourteen years old, who says she did not know but that they were lawfully married. He says the man came to his house this morning and asked him a few questions, when he invited him into the basement, where he was at work. So soon as they were inside he presented his revolver and commenced firing at him. He grasped him and held him firmly in his hands with a mallet and hammer lying in reach, with which he could have killed him, but was afraid to strike him for fear he would kill him, and so maintained his hold on him until Mr. Clark came to his relief.

Since Mr. R. came to this city he has been an industrious, and so far as we have heard, an honest man. Rumor has it that of late the relations between him and the woman whom he claims as his lawful wife have not been of the most pleasant character.

A legal investigation is pending and we forbear to express any opinion. But there are two things certain: Mr. Rich was shot this morning in the breast, and that Samuel³ Victor acknowledges this shooting. Mr. Rich is a carpenter by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Victor are peddlers of lace.

McLean County, Illinois. Criminal Court, *Record*, Book 16:

p. 342: Cause number 1960, People vs. Solomon Victor, Indictment for an assault with intent to commit murder.

Endorsed "A True Bill" Charles N. Rutledge foreman of the Grand Jury.

p. 350: Wednesday, September 28, 1870. Cause number 1960, People vs. Solomon Victor, Indictment for an assault with intent to commit murder.

³ Should read Solomon, not Samuel.

And now at this day comes said defendant by his attorneys and moves the court to continue this cause and the court having heard said motion and being fully advised in the premises doth consider that said motion be sustained.

p. 351: Thursday, September 29, 1870. Cause number 1960, People vs. Solomon Victor: Indictment for an assault with intent to commit Murder.

And now at this day come the People by their attorney and also comes said Defendant in custody of the Sheriff and by his attorneys and withdraws his motion to continue this cause. And now said Defendant is by the Clerk furnished with a copy of the Indictment in this cause and a list of jurors and witnesses. And said Defendant now waives all form of arraignment and hearing said Indictment for plea thereto says that he is not guilty in the manner and form as is in said Indictment against him charged and of this he puts himself upon the County for trial. And thereupon comes a jury of twelve good and lawful men to wit: Joseph Bartholomew, S.N. Dimmitt, Joseph Dalton, M. N. Grow, Dennis McBarnes, J. M. Youngman, R.G. Wallace, Andrew Forbes, A.S. Burroughs, Jeremiah Whitcomb, M.S. Sill, and Horace Summer who are elected tried and sworn to well and truly try the issue herein joined and a true verdict render according to the law and the evidence. And after hearing the evidence produced and the arguments of counsel the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths do say that said Defendant is not guilty in manner and form as is in said Indictment against him charged. It is therefore ordered by the Court that said Defendant be hereof discharged and go hence without delay.

p. 353: Thursday, September 29, 1870. Cause number 1960, People vs. Solomon Victor, Indictment for an assault with intent to commit Murder.

And now at this day it is ordered by the Court that George W. Hardacre Official Reporter of this Court be allowed a fee of Ten Dollars for taking the testimony in this cause.

Bloomington Pantagraph, September 30, 1870.

The Victor-Rich Shooting Case.

The trial of Solomon Victor for the shooting of Alston Rich, some weeks ago, was commenced yesterday in the Circuit Court. J. H. Rowell appeared as prosecuting attorney, and McNulta and Weldon for defense.

William Clark sworn for prosecution—Have lived in Bloomington since 1860; know Alston Rich, but not intimately; I live one block from him; I have seen defendant. On the 17th of August last, in the morning, between 7 and 8 o'clock, I heard a report as of a pistol-shot; I went into Rich's house and found Rich holding Victor by both arms; Victor had a pistol in his hand; I took it from him; Victor said I had no right to arrest him; I gave the pistol to Policeman Cool; Rich's head was bleeding and his clothes were bloody; I remained there until policemen came and took charge of Victor; Rich sat down upon a chair; Victor said he had shot Rich for seducing and taking away his wife; he talked considerably about it; Rich said let the law settle that; I saw no arms or weapons upon Rich.

Cross-examination—Rich is a large, muscular man, and had strength to hold Victor still; Rich's daughter, a girl of 15, was standing in the yard, calling for help, when I got there; it was ten or fifteen minutes when officers Cool and Boyce got there; Victor did not resist much when I took the pistol from him; it occurred in the basement of the house; the basement was used as a workshop from its appearance; I was the first person who reached there after the shooting, except Rich's daughter.

Peter Cool sworn for prosecution—I am a policeman; know Alston Rich, and have met the defendant, Victor; I was at Rich's house after the shooting, with Officer Boyce; Mr. Clark was holding Victor; Rich stood just inside the door; he had been shot in the breast, and had been cut or bruised on the head; Victor inquired if I was an officer, and on my informing him, he said he wished to give himself up, as he had shot that man; he said there were two trunks in that house belonging to his wife which he wanted us to take possession of; we brought him up to McNulta's office, and then to jail; he said Rich had run off with his wife and he hadn't seen her for nine months or more, until a day or two previous in Springfield, by accident, and she told him where Rich lived; if I remember right, he said he wished the shot would kill Rich; he said his wife gave him information, and he came to get her trunks; he said he shot Rich twice, and then struck him over the forehead; (revolver shown); this is the revolver I took from Victor; it is in the same condition as when I got it; three chambers appeared to have been freshly discharged.

Cross-examined—He said he came after his wife's trunks; that she had told him Rich had treated her badly; that she had no divorce; he told me he found Rich on a ladder against the house when he first got there; he spoke of his marriage certificate being in the trunks, and requested us to get the trunks.

Wm. Boyce sworn for prosecution—Know Alston Rich; met defendant, Victor, on the morning of this occurrence; I am an officer; Officer Cool and myself found defendant standing outside the house, being held by Clark; he inquired if I was a city marshal or policemen, and gave himself up, saying he had shot that man; he said it was necessary that his wife's things (in two trunks in the house) should be taken, and requested us to take them in charge, as they contained important papers and his marriage certificate; he said Rich had seduced his wife; I took charge of the trunks, after consulting with others, and brought them to the police office and gave them to the City Marshal; don't know where they are now; Rich was bleeding from his head and a shot in the body; he was assisted up stairs; it is a new house built by Rich; defendant was somewhat excited, but not very much so.

Cross-examined—Defendant was anxious about the trunks; the trunks contained goods of female apparel neatly and closely packed in; he said the trunks and contents belonged to his wife, and contained valuable papers, as his wife had told him; Rich is a strong, muscular man, much more so than defendant; in the basement was a workbench, some tools, and I think a carpenter's mallet; Rich was standing just inside the doorway when we got there, the mallet lay on the floor, say three or four feet from the door.

Dr. W. Hill sworn for prosecution—Know Alston Rich; I was called to his house on the 17th of August last; I found a bullet wound upon the breast bone; the bullet passed around upon a rib and entered the thoracic cavity; it was not extracted; I don't think the ball struck the lungs, but

remained between the lungs and the ribs; the wound itself, the ball passing as it did around the bone, was not dangerous; had it gone directly into the body it would have been dangerous and fatal; he had some pain a few days, but got well and went off; don't know where he went, or is now.

Albert Monroe sworn for prosecution—Know Alston Rich; he was a resident of this city some six months; have seen him working on his house; saw him the morning just after this occurrence; he was in the basement, and defendant outside held by Mr. Clark, helped Rich upstairs.

The prosecution here rested their case.

Jacob Krohn sworn for defense—I live at Freeport; knew defendant at Pyritz, in Prussia; saw him last in New York, 14 years ago; I was intimate with him in childhood, and was raised in the same neighborhood; I knew the defendant's family in Prussia; his father's brother, Michael Victor, about 1850 attempted suicide, but was rescued; he lived several years under a watch or guard, and when I left Europe he was insane. (Defense here offered to prove that witness had lived in the neighborhood of defendant and defendant's family for 15 to 20 years, and knew, from general reputation or information, that his mother's brother, David Myer, was an inmate of an insane asylum for 20 years, and is still such an inmate. Prosecution objected. Objection sustained and evidence excluded.) Prosecution afterwards withdrew the objection, and witness continued:

I was back in Pyritz 4 years ago, and visited defendant's family, and was there informed that his mother's brother was still in the insane asylum, where he was when I left that country many years ago.

Cross-examination—I did not see Michael Victor try to hang himself; don't know it, only by general hearsay; I only know of David Myer being insane by hearsay.

Dr. Worrell sworn for defense.—Have been a physician since 1845; there is no medical man who disputes that a tendency to insanity is hereditary, or may exist in consequence in different branches of a family; I have from my experience, had some knowledge of cases of insanity; the most exciting cause which may develop insanity where it is hereditary in a family, is probably domestic infelicity, or trouble in family relations; that is the most prolific cause of insanity. A latent hereditary insanity may be developed by sudden excitement or emotion; a person may be temporarily insane and not permanently so; and professionally speaking, I don't know a more exciting cause, or one which is more liable to develop such temporary insanity in a man than the knowledge that another man had run away with his wife. I never saw the defendant before now; his temperament would be billious, and is of that kind which is most disposed to insanity.

Many questions were here asked and over-ruled.

Examination continued—Insanity is not necessarily hereditary; I think perhaps more cases are superinduced by other causes; I think that if a man, whose family has hereditary insanity, suspected another of seducing and taking away his wife, and came suddenly upon such seducer, he would be liable to surrender his reason and become temporarily insane.

Dr. J. L. White sworn for defense—Have practiced medicine for sixteen years; have paid no very special attention to the subject of insanity; insanity is frequently hereditary; domestic trouble is stated in the books to be the most exciting cause of insanity; in my judgment, the effect on a man situated as this defendant is, coming into contact with the man he believed had seduced his wife, would be to greatly excite him—were he predisposed to insanity, it would be probable that his feelings under the circumstances would be ungovernable; statistics show that one fourth of the patients of asylums are hereditarily insane; a man predisposed to insanity who had become a monomaniac upon an exciting subject—that is, thinks a great deal about it and exhibits it upon contact with the exciting cause—may afterwards be perfectly sane.

Dr. S. W. Noble sworn for defense—have been a physician 24 years; have paid ordinary attention to insanity; insanity is hereditary in many cases; a majority admitted to asylums may trace their insanity back to ancestry or kindred; a person predisposed to insanity who believed he had been subjected to a great wrong, would be liable, when thrown suddenly in contact with the author of his calamity, to be unbalanced or biased in his actions.

Cross-examination—The fact that a man's uncle was insane, caused by some acquired or original cause, would not predispose that man to insanity. The fact that a man immediately after the commission of a crime, appears perfectly rational and sane, would furnish no evidence one way or another as to insanity. If a man becomes insane after drinking to excess for years, it might be attributed to that acquired cause, and so of any physical cause which undermined his mental constitution. This would not be hereditary.

Dr. S. P. Tenney sworn for defense—Am a physician, have practiced at Lyons, Iowa, and at Jacksonville, Illinois; have been connected two years with the Boston Lunatic Hospital, and Jacksonville (Ill.) Insane Hospital five years. If a man's uncles, one on his father's and the other on his mother's side, had been insane, it would hardly be considered certain to establish a hereditary taint in the person. We always look for hereditary taint in cases of insanity, and insanity is very commonly hereditary. When a person predisposed to insanity believes a person has committed a great wrong towards him, and when he has brooded over it some time, and then suddenly comes in contact, face to face, with the person causing the calamity, I should expect his mind to be considerably unsettled. Domestic trouble is a prolific exciting cause of insanity. (Witness shown a book called "Medical Jurisprudence.") This book is good authority, and is one of the standard works on the subject.

A man may be quite insane at the time of the commission of a crime, and *appears* perfectly sane before and after.

J. Spence for defense sworn—know Alston Rich and Mrs. Victor; saw them at Rich's house; think I saw her there three or four days previous to this occurrence; they commenced keeping house there in May; she was introduced to me as Mrs. Rich by Mr. Rich.

The defense here closed their case, and the argument was commenced by the prosecution. The case will be concluded this morning and given to the jury.

Bloomington Pantagraph, October 1, 1870.

The Victor-Rich Trial.

The morning session of court yesterday was occupied in hearing the arguments of council before the jury.

Gen. McNulta made a powerful speech in favor of the prisoner, in which, while he claimed that the law—and the law only in its strictest sense should be administered, and while he disclaimed all consideration of sympathy, yet his speech was, as a whole, an appeal to the sympathies of the jury.

He was followed by Mr. Weldon, who, in a speech which, for power and pathos we have rarely heard equaled, addressed the jury at great length. He claimed the application of a higher law, one which will express itself in our hearts, our sympathies and our manhood, despite the arbitrary limits of the statutes, a higher law which overrides the enactments of human legislators. At the close of the extended remarks of Mr. Weldon, he quoted the final sentence of Bryant's *Thanatopsis*.⁴

Capt. Rowell closed the argument by a concise logical argument under the law as applicable to the case. The defense had attempted to show a predisposition on the part of the prisoner to insanity, and directed their argument principally to establishing the theory that at the time of the shooting the defendant, maddened by the sight of the seducer of his wife, was temporarily insane.

The prosecuting attorney inveighed strongly against the practice which has obtained of pleading insanity in such cases, and also against the precedents of juries in similar cases who have given verdicts against the law and the evidence.

⁴ “So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.”
(William Cullen Bryant, *Thanatopsis*, version of 1821.)

The jury returned a verdict late last night, acquitting the prisoner.

While there is little doubt that the strict rules of law would have required a conviction, we believe public sentiment will fully justify the verdict of acquittal.

The fact that Rich had got well and had fled the place, going no one knows whither, and taking with him Mrs. Victor, was a strong reason for sympathy with the defendant.

Bloomington Daily Leader, September 30, 1870.⁵

Circuit Court – The case of the People vs. Solomon Victor, is being tried before Judge Tipton. Two of the jury panels were exhausted, and some of the by-standers were called before a satisfactory jury were found, many had formed opinions while others were over 60. The Prosecuting Attorney and the Counsel for the defence, Messrs. Weldon and McNulta, selecting them with a great deal of care. Eleven witnesses were sworn, and testified to the following:

Rich, the party who was shot, is a strong muscular man. After he was shot he seized Victor by both arms and held him until other parties came and arrested him (Victor) when the policeman came, and gave him into custody; two trunks, belonging to his wife, agreeable to his request, were taken to jail. He said Rich had seduced his wife, and that his marriage certificate and other important papers were in the trunks.

Jacob Krohn had known the family of Victor for 15 or 20 years.

Counsel objected to their introducing testimony in regard to the insanity of Victor's uncles, on the ground that they must show first that the defendant had been insane.

Court allowed this kind of evidence, reserving the right to exclude it if they failed to show the insanity of defendant.

Dr. Worrell testified that latent hereditary insanity may be developed by sudden excitement or emotion; a person may be temporarily insane, and not permanently so; does not know a more exciting cause, of one which is more liable to develop such temporary insanity in a man than the knowledge that another man had run away with his wife.

Victor said Rich had run off with his wife, and he had not seen her for nine months or more, until a day or two previous in Springfield, by accident; and she told him where Rich lived. Witnesses thought he said he wished the shot had killed him.

The revolver was here shown; three of the chambers appeared to have been freshly discharged. Victor appeared somewhat excited, but not very much so.

⁵ The same account appeared in the *Bloomington Weekly Leader* on October 6, 1870.

Dr. Hill testified that the ball was not extracted; thinks the ball did not strike the lungs, but remained between the lungs and ribs.

Bloomington Daily Leader, February 10, 1871.

Circuit Court—

...

The case of Solomon Victor vs. Alston Rich was called this morning. This was action brought against Rich. These parties were concerned in the shooting affray, last summer, on West Washington street, with which our readers are familiar. This suit is brought to recover damages for the seduction of Victor's wife by Rich. Suit continued by agreement.⁶

Bloomington Daily Leader, July 10, 1873.

LEGAL.

TRUSTEE'S SALE.

WHEREAS, Alston Rich did, by his deed of trust, dated November twelfth, A. A. 1870, and recorded in book 33 of mortgages, at page 553, or the records of McLean county, Illinois, convey to the undersigned the following described real estate, situated in said county of McLean and State of Illinois, to-wit: Lot No. three (3), in block No. two (2), in Price's addition to the city of Bloomington. Also the following described piece of land, to-wit: Commencing on the north side of Washington street, in said city of Bloomington, one hundred and thirty-two (132) feet west of the section line between sections four (4) and five (5), town 23, range 2 (2) east 3d P. M.; thence west fifty (50) feet, thence north one hundred and fifteen (115) feet, more or less, to the center of the alley if extended; thence east fifty (50) feet, thence south one hundred and fifteen feet, more or less, to the place of beginning, in trust to secure the payment of seven hundred and forty-seven dollars and fifty cents, evidences by one certain promissory note of even date said trust deed, executed by the said Alston Rich, and payable to the order of Flavius J. Briggs, one year after date, to bear interest from maturity at the rate of twenty per cent. per annum as liquidated, agreed and assessed damages, if not paid at maturity, for such detention and non-payment.

And whereas, default has been made in the payment of said note, or any part thereof. Now, therefore, at the request of the said Flavius J. Briggs, the payee and legal holder of said note, I will, as trustee as aforesaid, on Thursday, the 24th day of July, A. D. 1873, between the hours of ten o'clock a.m. and five o'clock p.m. of that day, at the south door of the court house in the city of Bloomington, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the above described property, or so much thereof as shall be necessary to satisfy said note and interest, together with the cost of sale.

⁶ This story was also reported in the *Bloomington Weekly Leader* on February 15, 1870.

MAJOR W. PACKARD, Trustee.

Bloomington, Ill., July 9th, 1873.

Coverage of the shooting and the subsequent trial in other newspapers.

Public Ledger (Memphis, Tennessee), **August 18, 1870**. In a short column of news from Illinois, we find the following item: "**A Seducer Shot**. Bloomington, August 18. – Alston Rich, a carpenter residing in this city, was shot this morning by a man named Solomon Victor, a Jew from Cincinnati. Victor claims Rich seduced the affections of his wife and ran away with her from Ohio about a year ago, since which time he has been looking for her without success, until yesterday, when he met her in Springfield."

Daily Illinois State Journal, [Monday] **August 22, 1870**: A man residing in Bloomington named Rich, was shot three times on Wednesday, by one Solomon Victor, and very dangerously wounded. Victor, who is a Jew and a lace peddler, has been tracing up Rich for about a year. Rich has been living with a woman whom Victor claims as his wife, while Rich states that she had procured a divorce and was legally married to him. It is thought that Rich will recover. Victor was arrested on the spot.

State Journal, Madison, Wisconsin, Monday, **August 22, 1870**: At Bloomington, Ill., on Wednesday, Solomon Victor shot and dangerously wounded one Rich, whom he had been looking after during a year. Victor asserts that Rich has been living with his (Victor's) runaway wife, while on the other hand it is alleged that the woman has a divorce, and she is the lawful wife of Rich.

Daily Illinois State Journal, October 9, 1937: in a column headed "**October 9, 1870**", we find the statement, "Solomon Victor, on trial at Bloomington, successfully invoked the 'unwritten law', and was acquitted by a jury." This was apparently lifted from an old issue of the same newspaper. While we have not yet found that issue, the same newspaper reported on Tuesday, **October 11, 1870** that "Solomon Victor, arrested at Bloomington for shooting one Rich, was acquitted on Friday of last week". That would place the date of the verdict on October 8, 1870.

Quincy Whig (Quincy, Illinois) on **October 5, 1870**: "A Frenchman named Victor has been acquitted of the charge of assault with intent to kill one Rich, the seducer of his wife at Bloomington. Rich and the woman have disappeared."