

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY AUGUST 7



On August 7, 1882, Ellison Hatfield was mortally wounded at an election day gathering in Kentucky. His death and the subsequent murder of his assailants were among the most noted events of the Hatfield-McCoy Feud.

CSO:SS.8.23

Investigate the Document: (*Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*, January 9, 1888)

1. Where did the Hatfields live? Where did the McCoys live?
2. What river divided the two families?

Think Critically: How would this "feud" be portrayed by today's media? Why did it gain national attention in the late 1800s?

A TERRIBLE STORY

OF A FAMILY FEUD AND MURDER.

The Enmity Between West Virginians and Kentuckians—The Hatfield-McCoy Vendetta—The Murder of the McCoy Family—A Desperate Gang.

CINCINNATI, O., Jan. 8.—The *Enquirer* prints the following special from Catlettsburg, Ky.:

Intelligence has just reached this place of one of the most wanton and diabolical cases of arson and murder ever committed in the State of Kentucky. The scene is on the Blackberry Fork of Pond Creek, in Pike county. The crime is the outgrowth of an old feud, and is laid at the door of the notorious Hatfields and their gang. About five years ago there was an election held on that creek and one of the Hatfields came across the river from West Virginia and during the day engaged in an altercation with one of the McCoy's. Two of the McCoy brothers came to his rescue and fatally stabbed Hatfield. Hatfield was taken home, and his relatives swooped down on the McCoy boys, took them captives and held them prisoners until Ellison Hatfield, whom they had stabbed, died, when the Hatfield's conveyed the three McCoy boys to the scene of the altercation, stripped them, tied them to a pawpaw bush,

SHOT THEM TO DEATH, and left their dead bodies in that position. Since that time a regular war has been waged between the Hatfields and their gang, who reside in Logan county, West Virginia, and the McCoy's and their gang, who reside in Pike county, Kentucky—all in the same neighborhood—the east fork of Sandy River dividing them.

So much for the beginning of the trouble, and now for the last and most horrible scene.

A few nights since the Hatfield party visited the residence of Randall McCoy and set fire to the house. Alafara, his eldest daughter, was the first to open the door and make her appearance, and in the glaring light she was shot dead by the fiends outside, who were concealed. His son Calvin next appeared, and he was shot dead. His wife made her appearance in escaping from the burning building and was shot through the head, and although she was still alive at last accounts she will die.

RANDALL M'COY ESCAPED from the burning house with his shotgun, and although a volley was discharged at him he escaped unhurt, and opened fire upon the attacking party. He is known to have killed one of the gang by the name of Chambers, and, it is said, shot Cap Hatfield in the shoulder, and putting the rest to flight. No ends this chapter.

There are rewards aggregating \$2,700 offered by the State of Kentucky for the arrest of Hatfield and their delivery to the jailer of Pike county, for the murder of the three McCoy boys, but no one seems anxious to make the attempt to take them, as they are strongly

BARRICADED IN THE WILDS OF WEST VIRGINIA.

One of their number constantly stands guard, and they defy the authorities, but retributive justice is now likely to follow, as their last acts have stirred up that whole section. This gang of outlaws have killed Mr. McCoy's wife, three of his sons and one daughter, besides burning his house, leaving him only three daughters; but, if the Hatfields are ever taken, dead or alive, the men who undertake the job will experience some fun, as this set of West Virginia toughs is a determined and desperate band.

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