

GEORGE ELROD

Source: Crawfordsville Star, Nov 21, 1895 p 1

George Elrod, a Crawfordsville boy, aged 18, came home from Rockville horribly beaten up on Monday morning. The Indianapolis People, a very vile paper circulated broadcast over the country was the cause of the beating. Young Elrod was said to be the correspondent who contributed slanderous items with reference to Rockville people from time to time. Young Elrod recently located in Rockville and was stopping at the Eureka Hotel, conducted by his brother-in-law.

Several of the outraged citizens went to him last Saturday about the matter when he denied having made the reports concerning them but acknowledged having sent some other items. He was warned by an anonymous note to leave town or take the consequences. He preferred to do the latter and he got it quite bad. Four men met him on the sidewalk near the opera house about 8 o'clock in the evening and without as much to say "by your leave, sir," they proceeded to cowhide and beat him. He drew a revolver and fired two shots without effect, except one bullet which skinned the left forefinger of Frank Overman, who grabbed the pistol and took it from him. Overman was not in the fight but was acting the part of a peacemaker.

After punishing Elrod to their heart's content his assailants left him lying on the sidewalk bleeding like a stuck pig. He left town on next morning's train "a sadder but wiser man." There is strong talk of the same thing being done for several other parties who are believed to have been implicated in the matter with Elrod, who, considering the intense wrath of many citizens, was fortunate to escape with his life, for lynching never was as freely talked of at Rockville.

The paper has had difficulty in securing a correspondent in Crawfordsville and though several hundred copies were at one time sold here each week the sale of the sheet has about played out. It is a strange thing that the Mayor and police have not followed suit with other cities and long since suppressed the paper by arresting the boy who sells the same and confiscating his papers.

This is their plain duty and why they don't do it no one knows. Perhaps the grand jury next week will ask them.