

## THOMAS STOUT -- bovine trouble :(

[Source: Crawfordsville Weekly Journal 9 October 1875](#)

Thomas Stout, who lives about 4 miles south of this city, Friday of last week, bought of James W. Carver, a Mr. Darnell and another gentleman, whose name we failed to learn, living in Putnam County, cattle to the amount of about \$10,000 and gave a check for all, or a large portion of the money on the First National Bank of this city. On Monday last, inquiry was made at the bank and the fact ascertained that Mr. Stout had no money in the bank. Further inquiry revealed that Stout had sold the cattle in Cleveland and Pittsburg and the railroad company had advanced him \$10,000 on the bills of lading. Every effort is being made to learn Stout's whereabouts but up to the time of going to press he has not been heard from. After reaching Indianapolis last Saturday, Stout telegraphed to Mr. Carver that the money had not been sent to the bank here as he supposed but would be sent on Monday.

[Source: Crawfordsville Star 9 October 1875](#)

Thomas Stout, cattle-dealer, living near New Market, this county, bought \$16,000 worth of cattle of Darnell & Carver of Putnam County, 10 days ago, giving a check for \$5,000 on the First National of this city for part payment. He then shipped the cattle from Indianapolis to Pittsburg and Buffalo, receiving advances of \$10,000 from the railroads and has not been heard from since. He had no money in the bank, and, therefore, the check was worthless. He is supposed to have "skipped." Stout enjoyed a good reputation.

[Source: Indianapolis Sentinel 13 October 1875](#)

Thomas Stout, cattle dealer, living near New Market in Montgomery County bought \$16,000 worth of cattle of Darnell & Carver of Putnam County 10 days ago giving a check for \$5,000 on the First National Bank of Indianapolis, as part payment. He then shipped the cattle from Indianapolis to Pittsburg and Buffalo, receiving advances of \$10,000 from the railroads and has not been heard from since. He had no money in the bank, therefore the check was worthless.

[Source: Indianapolis Sentinel 20 November 1875](#)

The St. Louis Times telegram from Jerseyville, Ill says: About a month ago a well-appearing man giving the name of Thomas Smith Turner, accompanied by a woman whom he represented as his wife and two children came to reside in Jerseyville. Turner had money and engaged in the

business of buying hogs. Today James Stone, sheriff of Putnam County, Indiana put in his appearance and after consultation with City Attorney Jackson, procured a warrant for the arrest of Turner on charges of obtaining some \$10,000 by false pretenses in Indiana, Turner was arrested and committed in default of \$5,000 bail, by Justice Cockrell to await the arrival of a requisition (?). Sheriff Stone gives the following statement: Turner, whose proper name is Thomas Stout, was a prominent farmer and stock dealer of Montgomery County, Ind, a married man, and the father of 9 children. Becoming enamored of the wife of a man who worked on his place, his present paramour - Stout concocted a Scheme - to run off with her and swindle his neighbors and church brethren, he being a class leader in the Methodist Church. Accordingly he purchased \$20,000 worth of cattle from Darnall & Bros, of Greencastle, representing that he had contracted for their sale in Buffalo. Instead of shipping to Buffalo he took the cattle to Indianapolis, shipped from there by two railroads, receiving \$5,000 on each bill of lading. He then telegraphed his paramour to take the first train to St. Louis and he himself took the train for that city. After a time the pair with the children came here together and had taken up quarters as man and wife, residing here until now. Col. Matson, of Greencastle, attorney for Darnell is expected here Friday night with a requisition for Stout who offers to refund all he has to settle the matter. As his funds amount to about \$1,000 his offered restitution will have to effect and he will return to his home in Indiana dishonored forever. Stout is about 50 years of age and appears to be very sanctimonious.

**Source:** [Indianapolis Sentinel 25 November 1875](#)

Private advices from Putnam County indicated that Thomas Stout, the old farmer who swindled the Darnalls out of a lot of cattle and ran off with his hired man's wife, compromised with the owners of the bovines, and will soon be out to enjoy the scorn of his family and friends.

**Source:** [Indianapolis Sentinel 26 November 1875](#)

The Jerseyville special to the St. Louis Republican of Sunday says that he has learned the following additional particulars relative to the arrest of Stout, alias Turner, charged with defrauding Indiana cattle dealers out of \$19,000 mentioned in these dispatches last night: The party under arrest is the veritable Thos. Stout of Montgomery county, Indiana. He is a stout, hearty, quiet looking granger, apparently 55 years of age, 5'8" high, weighing nearly 200 #. His brother was here recently to see him and the prisoner purchased a draft for \$3,400 from Cross, Carlin & Co on New York, which he gave him. Stout avers that he only realized between \$5,000 and \$6,000 out of all the cattle. On his arrival here he deposited \$5,000 in currency in Cross, Carlin & Co's bank, all of which has been drawn out except about \$600. The woman he brought here and calimed as his wife is rather .. prepossessing in appearance, small figure, 23 years old and in an interview with her this afternoon it was learned that she is a native of Lincoln County,

Kentucky and her maiden name was Laura Jones. About 8 years since she married Harrison Jones, then living within one mile of Crab Orchard. Shortly after their nuptials the young couple removed to Montgomery County, Ind whither also went the mother and two brothers of the bride. Their married life was unhappy as the husband used intoxicating liquors to excess and squandered all her earnings to satisfy his appetite. Last spring they mutually agreed to separate, he taking two of the oldest children and returning to Kentucky and she keeping the other two, a boy now four years old and a girl 18 months. Shortly after their separation she became acquainted with Stout, at her home within two miles of Stout's own home and farm but she insists that Stout never came to see her but the once; that they never had any clandestine meetings and made all their plans for elopement by correspondence. She says that she knew Stout had a family but was not acquainted with a member of it and that no person in Crawfordsville or in Montgomery County stood higher for honesty or probity than Thomas Stout and that he is possessed of one of the best farms and most comfortable dwellings in that region. They are both very penitent and express deep remorse at their conduct. She had made preparations to leave for St. Paul, Ind today and as he had repeatedly expressed a desire to return to his family, she advised him to do so. She says she will not leave here till next week, being entirely penniless, and will have to wait remittances from friends but does not know where she will locate. Since Stout's sojourn here he has conducted himself in a manner to win the good opinion of all with whom he came in contact. He proposed to go to Indiana with Sheriff Stone but the latter declined to go until he obtained the requisition, which will be here tonight. Stout says that he will make full restoration as far as is in his power, and indignantly denies that he ever intended to defraud the parties. He evidently is more depressed than the woman, doubtless dreading to meet his lawful wife and 9 children and confronting ? friends and neighbors.

**Source:** [Crawfordsville Star 30 November 1875](#)

Mr. Thomas Stout - a man highly respected in this county in the past - who has recently got his foot into it, by andling cattle, and a woman not properly belonging to him, has again returned amongst relatives, if not to his family, in this vicinity. "Tom" certainly took great pains to get himself into trouble; one, too, we fear, he will find hard to overcome or shake off.

**Source:** [Crawfordsville Weekly Journal 27 November 1875 p 7 \("Chicago Times"\)](#)

Thomas Stout was a well-to-do citizen of Montgomery County, Indiana where he was largely engaged in farming and dealing in livestock and was the husband of one wife and father of 9 living children. ON the 2d of last October he represented to Allen Darnall of Putnam County that he had contracted with parties in Buffalo, NY to deliver them 100 head of fat cattle of a certain grade for \$11,000 and on this representation Darnall furnished Stout the number of cattle

required and Stout started for Buffalo with his cargo of live stock since which time neither Darnall, Stout's wife and 9 children or anyone else from Putnam County, had heard of Stout, although detectives were busy throughout the country endeavoring to find the missing man, until on yesterday, when James Stone, sheriff of Putnam County who was in St. Louis got an inkling that Stout was somewhere in this neighborhood; so he boarded a train and stopping at Carrollton and Kane, made diligent inquiry for this man, but failed to obtain any clue, and came to this city on last evening. Almost the first person he saw after getting on State Street was a man whom he took to be Stout, standing by a lamp post. The Sheriff kept his own counsel and employed trusty detectives to shadow Stout, which they did until 4 o'clock on this afternoon when he was arrested by Sheriff AH Barrett on affidavit prepared by the Indiana sheriff's attorney, William M. Jackson of this city and taken before Judge George C. Cockerell who held the prisoner to bail in the sum of \$5,000 to answer to the charge of defrauding Allen Darnell on next Saturday afternoon. The prisoner arrived in this city about six weeks since, accompanied by a woman and two children, whom he represented as his wife and children and said his name was Thomas Smith Turner. He rented a house in the northwest part of this city and commenced housekeeping. Of late he has been engaged in purchasing hogs and shipping them to St. Louis and when arrested had just purchased 25 swine. He had a deposit to his credit in the name of Turner in Cross, Carlin & Co's bank here, which is all the money that has yet been discovered. He was greatly agitated when arrested. A dispatch was received here on tonight stating that a requisition from the governor of Indiana was on the way to the governor of Illinois and would be here on Saturday morning. It is reported that the prison captured \$8,000 worth of cattle from other parties in the manner related above and the woman found with him eloped from a man in Indiana. Darnall is expected on tomorrow night to identify the prisoner. Stout arrived at the Greencastle jail last Saturday night and ex-sheriff Kelsey being in Greencastle on Sunday called at the jail and had a conversation with him. Tom said he had no idea of doing what he did when he bought the cattle, but after he made the purchase he saw ruin staring him in the face and feared to meet his creditors. He had only \$1200 in bank at Jerseyville, the balance \$4,600 we believe, he gave to his brother, Joel who came to see him at Jerseyville, previous to his arrest. His whereabouts was learned by the woman who went away with him, writing to a sister in Ladoga. The writing was recognized by the Ladoga postmaster and officers sent after him. The woman was left at Jerseyville and Stout gave her \$30 previous to his departure for Greencastle. He told Kelsey that he had read the Beecher-Tiltan business all the way through and had an abiding confidence in Beecher's innocence until he (Stout) got into this trouble and now he has no doubt of his guilt. Ike says he is not a lawyer, but he is confident that Tom Stout will never go to the penitentiary for that cattle transaction. He is also of the opinion that Tom will never be tried for the offense; that he is in jail for the purpose of getting all the money he (Tom) and his friends have got and when they fail or succeed in this, the matter will end.

*Thanks so very much to Scott F. getting me going on this very interesting event :) kz*