

Dick Turpin's Pistol Is Found at Banbury

After Planning Infamous Deed
Is Forced to Flee—Hid
Weapon to Avoid Discovery
But Without Avail.

London, July 18.—That the Dick Turpin double-barreled pistol which was found behind the paneling of the old Globe Room, in the Reindeer Inn, at Banbury, is a real genuine relic of the notorious highwayman, there now seems no reason to doubt.

The pistol bears the inscription, "Presented to Dick Turpin at the White Bear Inn, Drury Lane, 7 Feb. 1735."

In Turpin's Life, and Newgate Calendar, 1739, there appears the following:

"On 7 Feb. 1735, Richard Turpin and his gang met together at the White Bear at the upper end of Drury Lane, when they agreed to make an attempt to rob Mr. Francis, a farmer, near Marylebone."

Further, Messrs. Wentley, Richards and Co., the noted gun makers, state that the pistol was undoubtedly made in 1735, and the words, "Baker, London," on the pistol identify the maker as a predecessor of that Ezekiel Baker, who was a gunsmith in the Whitechapel road in the 18th century.

As regards Turpin himself, he was the son of a publican and butcher at Hemstead, near Saffron Walden, and according to the records in the British Museum, after serving his apprenticeship as a butcher in Whitechapel, set up a business for himself.

When business was bad he started stealing sheep, and even oxen, to supply his shop. This could not last long, and Turpin was in turn smuggler, and the Essex marauder, deer stealer in Epping Forest, burglar and then highwayman.

He and his band used to rob lonely farm houses around London, and sometimes got as much as \$3,500 at one haul. It was after one of these robberies at Rippleside, near Barking, that Turpin and his gang met on February 7, 1735, at the White Bear Inn to plan another robbery.

The life of Turpin, published immediately after his execution in 1739, gives the date, but calls the inn the White Hart in Drury Lane. The "Newgate Calendar" says it was the White Bear in Drury Lane, and gives the month as February, 1735, without the exact date. Taken together they give the exact date and place of the meeting and agree with the inscription found on the pistol in the Globe Room at Banbury.

The band met at 5 p. m., and decided to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer of Marylebone, which was then a rural neighborhood before Regent Park was laid out. They lured the farmer's household and procured about \$250 and some jewelry.

Turpin's band did not long survive this enterprise. They were carousing in an ale house in Westminster when the doors were broken open by officers of the law. Four of the men were captured and hanged at Newgate.

In 1738 Turpin had to fly to Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. There is no record of any robberies of Turpin at Banbury, but it is quite conceivable that he stopped at the Reindeer on his way to the north, and that he purposefully concealed the pistol behind the paneling in order that he might not be identified. At this time he was calling himself John Palmer and posing as a horse dealer, and it would not be very awkward for him if he had been seen with a pistol with Richard Turpin's name upon it. In York, however, John Palmer was identified as Dick Turpin the desperate highwayman. He was convicted and hanged at York on April 7, 1739.

Turpin's ride to York is now rejected as a myth. The man who really rode from London to York in 15 hours, was a highwayman named Newton, alias Swift Nick, who, after robbing a traveler at Gadshill, crossed the ferry at Gravesend and rode to York; but this was in 1674, years before Turpin was on the road.

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The society of Harmonites had its origin in Wurtemberg, Germany, from a schism in the Lutheran Church, about the year 1785. In 1804 150 families, under the guidance of George Rapp, their pastor, emigrated to America and located in the autumn of the same year on the waters of Bear Creek, Pa., giving the name of their society to their new abode.

It does not appear that this association was formed from a rational conviction of the many advantages arising from cooperative industry, but some religious sanction, derived from Acts, iv. 32, "and the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul, neither said any of them that ought of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common."

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After traversing the six Western States for some months and exploring the points he thought most desirable, he returned with the report that the wishes of the society he fixed on the present site of New Harmony, in the spring of 1814 the society, having sold their possessions in Pennsylvania for \$100,000, migrated to their new home, then in a wilderness untraveled by man.

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It is a fact worthy of record, and one that should be considered by the political economists of a free and enlightened republic, that in 1826 the whole property of these people did not exceed \$25 a head; in 1825 a fair estimate given them \$2,500 each person—man, woman and child—on the basis of accumulation in the laborious professions, to which history does not afford a parallel.

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Here, in a new country, surrounded by strangers, of whose language they were ignorant—unaccustomed to the modes of clearing the forest, possessing no more wealth than just sufficient to purchase the soil and remove to their new possessions, they commenced the doubtful task