Twitter Thread by Daniel N. Gullotta



Daniel N. Gullotta
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Hey @caroljsroth, I was just listening to your podcast with @JesseKellyDC and I wanted correct some errors concerning the Dickinson/Jackson duel of 1806. I am working on my PhD thesis related to Jackson and host the @AgeofJacksonPod. 1/

The origins of their feud begin not with Rachel Jackson's honor, but rather over horseracing. Jackson was a horseracing enthusiast, as were most southern gentlemen of the planter class. Cutting a long story short, it comes down to money. 2/

Basically, Dickinson was in on a bet against Jackson's horse but withdrew and paid the forfeit. The problem is rumors began to fly that Jackson wasn't thrilled about this, because they apparently wanted to use promissory notes as payment. 3/

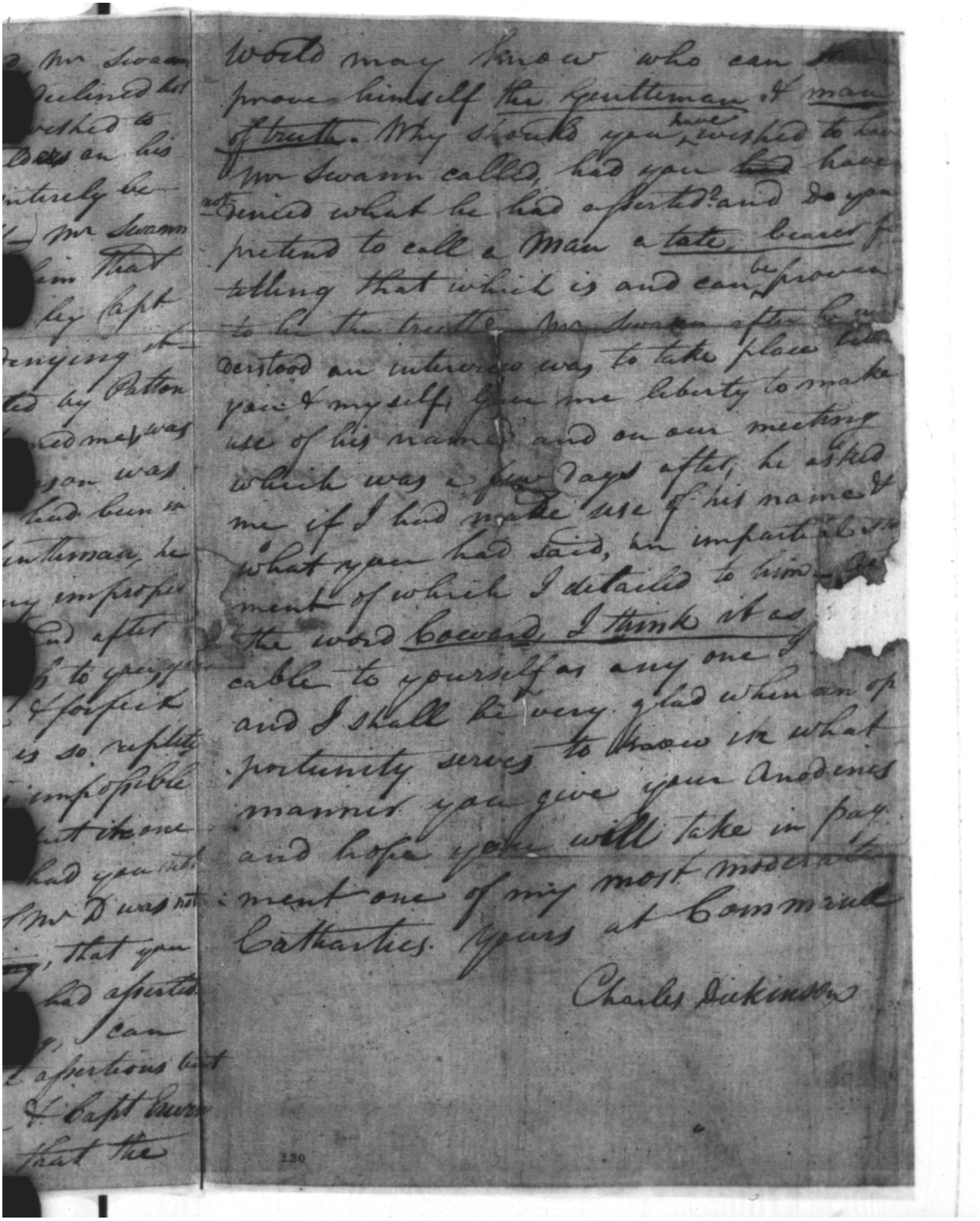
Things start to get very testy between the two men are insults are exchanged and circulate around Nashville. Eventfully things get even more public when all this gets published in the newspapers, with the two calling each other cowards more or less. 4/

So, what about Rachel? That's the funny thing, Rachel is not mentioned in any of the newspapers and in the letters between the men and their associates leading up to the duel. I'm not saying it was not a contributing factor, but it hard to find solid evidence for it. 5/

James Patron, Jackson's first professional biographer points to it, but from what we have in the Papers of Andrew Jackson collections are more about the horse racing drama and the insults being exchanged. 6/

As for how many men Dickinson had fought in a duel, the claim that Dickinson fought 27 duels is completely false as far as I can tell. Much like Jackson's dueling numbers, my guess is they have been grossly exaggerated by the internet. 7/

It is true that he was a respected marksmen. Check out his letter, pretty cool I think. 8/

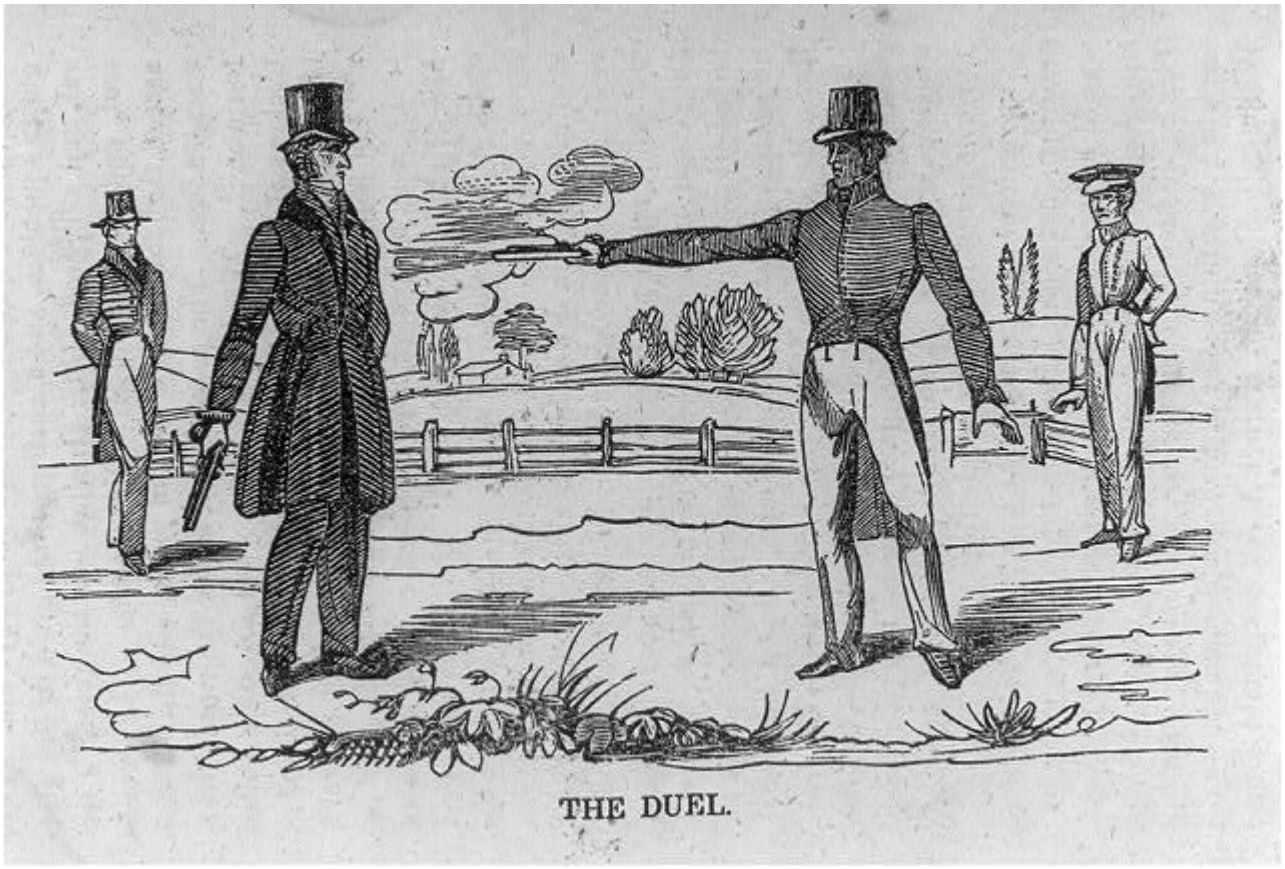


world may know who can prove himself the Gentleman & man of truth. Why should you have wished to have Mr Swann called, had you not been convinced what he had asserted? and do you pretend to call a Man a base liar for telling that which is and can be proved to be the truth. Mr Swann after he understood an interview was to take place between you & myself gave me liberty to make use of his name; and on our meeting which was a few days after, he asked me if I had made use of his name & what you had said, an imparted to him the purport of which I detailed to him — the word Coward I think it as applicable to yourself as any one & and I shall be very glad when an opportunity serves to know in what manner you give your Andoenes and hope you will take in payment one of my most moderate Cathartics. Yours at Command

Charles Dickinson

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And here is Jackson with his infamous large coat to hide his slim frame. The man was incredibly skinny, look how slender his uniform was. 9/



THE DUEL.

Anyway, sorry for being "that guy" on the internet but I gotta use this knowledge for something. Enjoy and I hope you found this helpful. 10/10.