

Twitter Thread by Daniel N. Gullotta



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@DanielGullotta



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 as insults are exchanged and circulate around Nashville. Eventually 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/

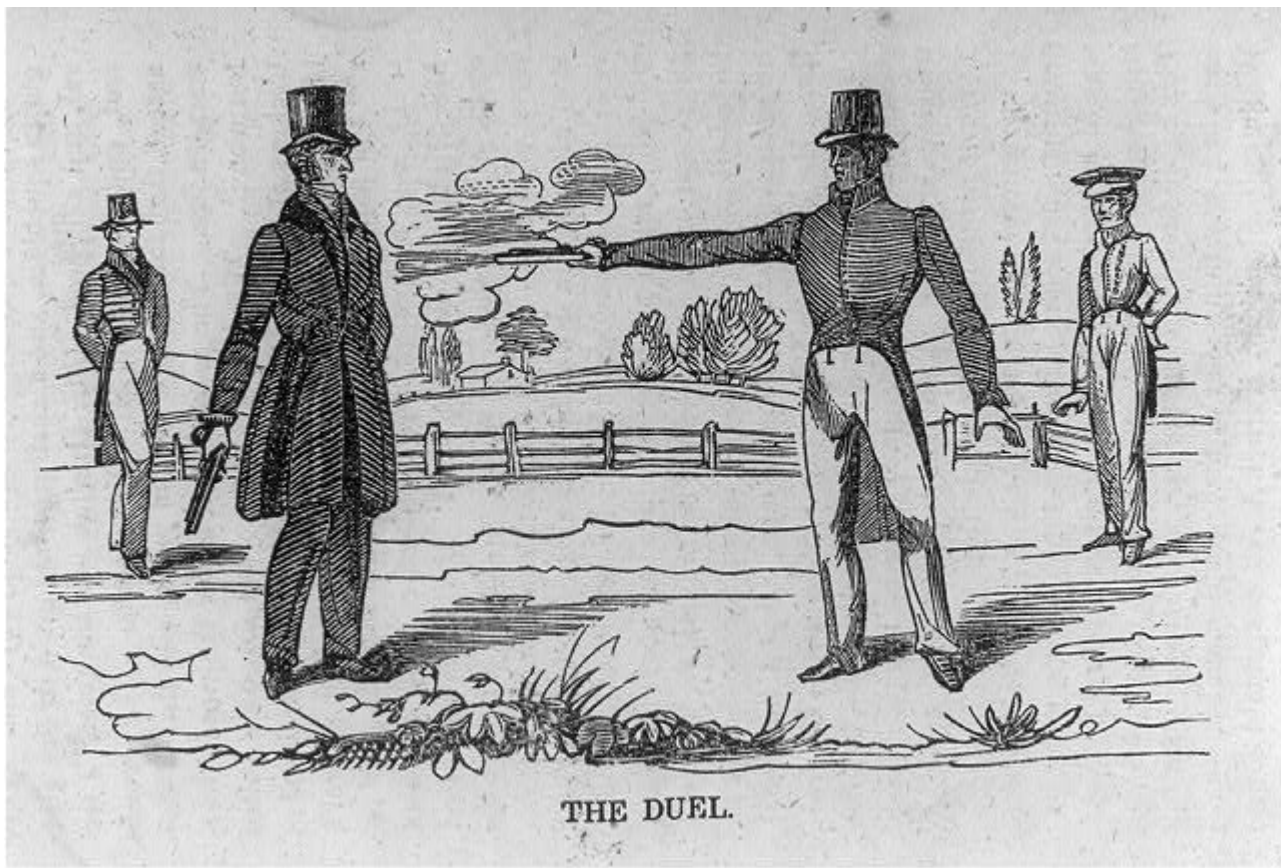
It is true that he was a respected marksman. Check out his letter, pretty cool I think. 8/

Mr Swann
declined to
wished to
on his
entirely be-
Mr Swann
him that
by Capt
relying in
ed by Patton
ed me was
son was
had been in
entleman, he
my improper
and after
to you
I for fear
is so, replied
impossible
but it is one
had you not
Mr D was not
that you
had asserted
I can
assertions but
Capt Swann
that the

world may know who can
prove himself the gentleman of man
of truth. Why should you ^{have} wished to have
Mr Swann called, had you ~~had~~ have
admitted what he had asserted? and do you
pretend to call a man a tate, beast for
telling that which is and can be proved
to be the truth. Mr Swann after he un-
derstood an interview way 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, in impartial
ment of which I detailed to him - ~~and~~
the word boasted. I think it as
cable to yourself as any one I
and I shall be very glad when an op-
portunity serves to know in what
manner you give your Anodines
and hope you will take in pay-
ment one of my most moderate
Cathartics. Yours at Commend

Charles Dickinson

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/



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.