

## 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 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/

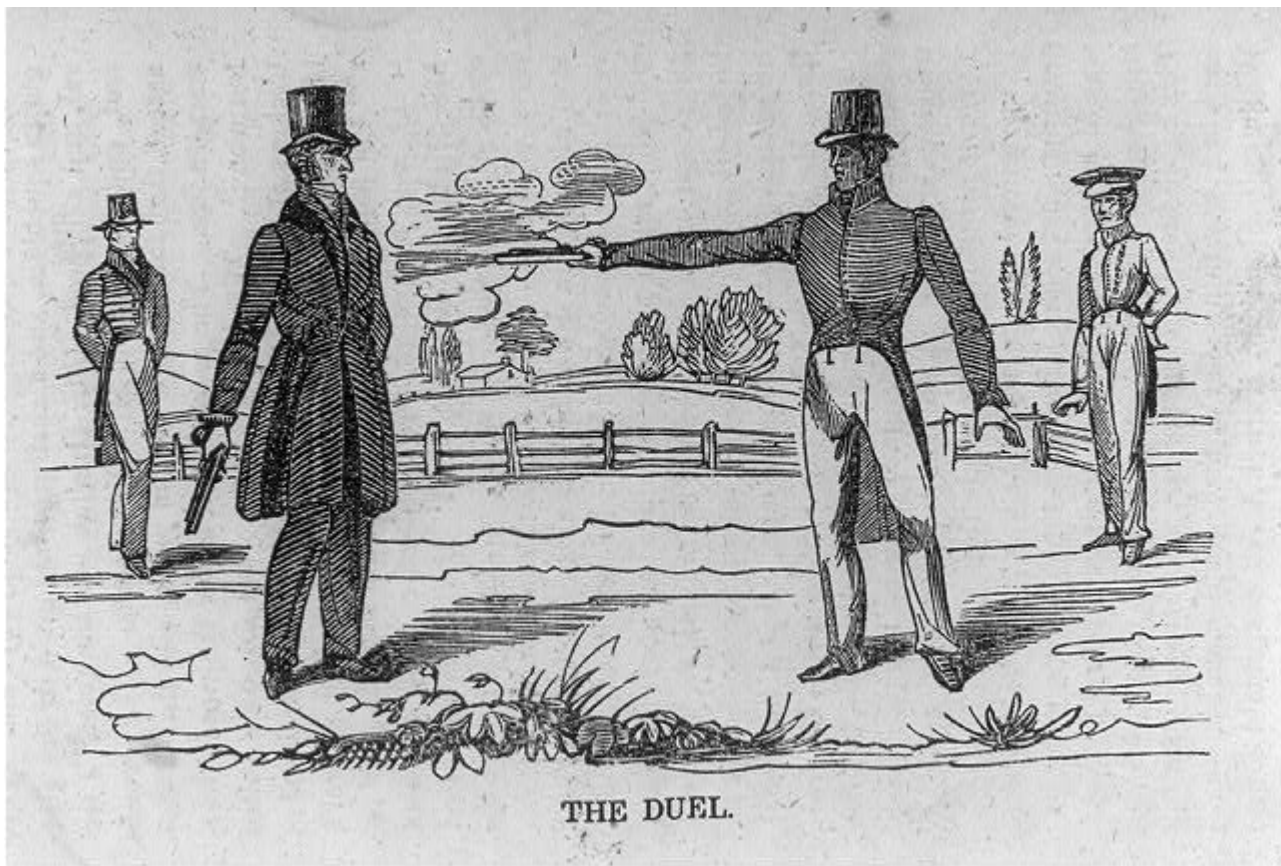
It is true that he was a respected marksman. Check out his letter, pretty cool I think. 8/

Mr. Swann  
declined to  
wished to  
on his  
entirely be-  
Mr. Swann  
him that  
by Capt  
relying on  
ed by Patton  
ed me, was  
son was  
had been in  
gentleman, he  
my improper  
and after  
to you, 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 & man  
of truth. Why should you <sup>have</sup> 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 an impartial  
manner 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 Command

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.