At the end of the day, both Daniel and Sykes were appointed to the counting committee. Eli marched over to John Patrick as he left. “I still don’ know how I feel ’bout this, sir. I don’ like t’ be b’holden.”

“Everyone in this town is beholden, son,” the old man replied. “It’s the way we all stay honest.”

**Chapter 23**

After the first round of calf**-**counting, the committee dwindled. Ultimately four members dropped out, saying they were too busy and they’d trust the information Daniel was gathering. Eli Sykes, however, maintained his position.