

## **EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH**

### **A JEALOUS GHOST**

On the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 1874, Mr. Eli Surden, who had entered a Madison Avenue omnibus on Broadway, just above Fourteenth Street, was struck suddenly and forcibly on the left side of his head by what appeared to him to be a fist. He was sitting close to the door of the vehicle; there was only one other passenger in the stage, a middle-aged gentleman on the opposite side, and at least eight feet away from Mr. Surden when the blow was struck. So powerful was the impact that it knocked him partly over upon the cushioned seat, and for a moment caused him considerable pain. He sprang up suddenly. The glass sash behind him was closed. The stage was moving rapidly, and had been for some time, and the street was entirely clear of human beings and vehicles for some distance in all directions. It was impossible for his fellow-passenger to have inflicted the blow, for it was from the opposite side that it came.

Mr. Surden, smarting with pain, pulled the strap, jumped out and ran round so as to satisfy himself that there was nobody on the roof of the vehicle but the driver, who appeared to regard his movements with surprise.

He then went into the drug store adjoining Wallack's Theater and saw by the glass an inflamed and swollen mark extending across the maxillary to the neck. It was bathed with arnica by the attendant, who volunteered the remark that it was "a bad blow."

This occurred on June 21. In the latter part of July following Mr. Surden was in his small office in Wall Street one morning sampling some drugs. The office was in the front of the third floor of the building known as "The Tontine." It contained two windows looking out upon Wall Street, a door leading to the hall and a dark closet at the rear. The furniture consisted of a large desk, a number of shelves containing drugs covered with a sash, a large square table similarly loaded with samples of beeswax, ginseng and annatto, two or three ordinary office chairs and several files of the American and foreign Prices Current hanging upon the wall.

**Register of Deeds**  
**Judy Lambert**  
**(continued)**