

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

### **A JEALOUS GHOST**

This search revealed nothing. He looked out of the window. There was the Chinese "candy-man" with his portable store on the sidewalk at the entrance. Immediately behind him was Joseph Wendt, the cartman, lying upon his back upon the tail of his cart. He could even see the steps leading into the building, and they were occupied by a bootblack that he had often patronized, and another cartman reading a newspaper.

Inquiries failed to elicit any information. Nobody of a suspicious character had issued from the building. Indeed, the boot-black, an intelligent lad who had been there for two hours, and had seen everybody that had come in or gone out, named the people over. Endeavors to fix upon the person among his acquaintances, with a sufficient motive for this assault, Mr. Surden found equally vain. He, however, took one or two precautions. He hired an office-boy and armed himself with a revolver. He also had his door fitted with a spring-lock which prevented it from being opened from the hallway without a key.

He was boarding at the Merchants' Hotel at this time, and occupied a small room on the fourth floor.

On Saturday afternoon, July 29, about 3 o'clock, while washing his hands in his office, preparatory to leaving the place, he was struck again and knocked over; the blow, as before, falling upon the left side of the head. He sprang to his feet and, quickly obtaining his revolver, made a rapid search. But the room was empty and the door locked.

The effects of the third blow were more serious than had been those of the two previous, although, as before there had been no abrasion. The shock was sufficient to temporarily stun him, and the subsequent nervous prostration was such that he rode to his hotel in a coach, and did not leave his room all the next day.

There is no doubt that the mystery attending the assaults was already disturbing his mind.

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