

## **EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY**

### **BY H.E. SMITH**

#### **A JEALOUS GHOST**

The man said the woman had struck him, but he was unable to show any reasonable motive for the act, and did not hesitate to say that he believed she regarded him with affection. The woman said confidently that he had fallen over in a fit and struck his head, though she could not see how he did it. The case was then dismissed.

Dr. Morse, hearing of this, induced Mr. Surden to come to his house and undergo a course of treatment. His object was to keep him under close scrutiny. He went to live with Dr. Morse as a patient on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nothing further occurred of special interest until the 28<sup>th</sup>. The patient was visited by a number of scientific men, who all concurred that it was a case of convulsive hysteria with monomaniacal symptoms. On the 28<sup>th</sup> the O'Grady came to the house, and in the presence of Dr. Morse and the well-known psychologist, Dr. Eberhard Forsythe, made a statement which furnished her antecedents as already hinted at.

The same evening, while in Dr. Morse's study, Mr. Surden was knocked off the office chair, his head severely punched and both his eyes blackened. Dr. Morse was present. As usual the victim cried "Murder!" several times during the operation. He then got up, very much disarranged, and appealed to the witness if that was "a fit." Dr. Morse, after much hesitation, pronounced it "a most remarkable paroxysm." At this Mr. Surden lost his temper, and accused the Doctor of striking him. A singular altercation followed, which terminated by Surden's leaving the house in a passion, threatening to get a warrant out for Dr. Morse.

The next day Mr. Surden was visited by Dr. Eberhard Forsythe at the Union Place Hotel. He succeeded in gaining the sympathy of the patient at once by telling him that he had no faith in Dr. Morse's theory whatever. He made a patient examination of the man's face and neck, questioned him closely and searchingly concerning the previous attacks, and told him that he thought he could solve the whole mystery, and that he, Mr. Surden, could, if he chose, make the matter of immense pecuniary benefit to himself and of incalculable advantage to his fellow creatures. "I will undertake," said he, "to demonstrate the exact facts of the case to you. I believe you to be persecuted by malign power that is super-mundane, but which we can use, if we wish, to our mutual advantage.

**Register of Deeds**

**Judy Lambert**

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