

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH

A TRANSACTION IN STOCKS

"I can't stop," he said, gathering up his papers again hastily and placing them in his pocket; "there is a carriage in waiting for me outside. However, my friend," he added, "you just keep cool. That is my advice."

The stranger then walked quickly out of the room, and Silas sat still for a moment with his certificates yet on the table before him. Someone placed a hand on his shoulder. He turned and saw a small, neatly-dressed, keen-eyed man behind him.

"Pardon me, sir," said the new-comer, "but I heard part of your conversation with the gentleman who has just gone. I understood you to say that you owned several shares in the well that is so talked about this morning?"

"Yes, I've got four shares," replied Silas with complacent promptness. "What will you take for them?"

"Don't know as I keer about sellin'," answered Silas.

The stranger picked up the certificates and looked at them carefully, and then, apparently satisfied, he said;

"I will give you three thousand dollars cash for them."

Silas shook his head.

"Four!"

Another shake of the head.

"Five!"

Silas began to waver a little, and he stopped to think.

"Give me six thousand and you may have'em, " he said, finally.

It was the stranger's turn now to hesitate. He scrutinized the certificates very closely, meditated a moment, and then said:

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