

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

### **A TRANSACTION IN STOCKS**

“I will take them.”

The exchange was quickly made, the stranger took the stock certificates, and Silas placed six new, crisp bank notes in his wallet, and the two then separated. Elated and excited over his good fortune, Silas paid his hotel bill at once, and set out for the depot just in time for a homeward train.

When he reached home what a sensation his story produced! Everybody in the little village talked and wondered, and strangely enough, too, Silas was the only one of the “Great Union Petroleum Oil Company” who realized anything on the stock. People wondered about that, too, and Judge Fay explained it by denying the statement of Silas altogether. Indeed, in a moment of excitement, the Judge forgot his usual caution and gave his reasons. He said, firstly, the “Great Petroleum” had not struck oil; secondly, the company had not commenced to dig yet; and, thirdly, the “Great Petroleum” didn’t own any land in Pennsylvania, nor anywhere else; therefore Silas’s story must be false. Then Silas had the money, and how did he get it?

Between you and me, gently reader, I have my theory. I am inclined to think when the stranger placed his certificates on the table to compare with those of Silas, and then went away so suddenly, in his haste he accidentally made an exchange and took away with him the “Great Petroleum” certificates.

Silas, of course, was innocent in the transaction, and sold the genuine article to the speculator. Be the case as it may, Silas never heard anything more about the matter; neither, under Maria’s careful management, did he thereafter invest in any more oil-stock.

**Register of Deeds  
Judy Lambert**