

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

### **A JEALOUS GHOST**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September he was out driving through the park and Harlem lane in a light wagon. The O'Grady accompanied him. They stopped at Murcot's to lunch. While there Surden met with a former acquaintance, one Armitage, a sporting character, and they drank together in the bar-room. The conversation was of the most friendly and commonplace character, but while in the act of lifting a wine glass to his mouth Mr. Surden was struck on the side of the head and knocked over upon the sanded floor, his head falling under a billiard table. He shouted "Murder!" twice, jumped up in a great state of excitement, and accused Armitage of having inflicted the blow. That person was both amazed and indignant, and protested that he was innocent of any such intention. The barkeeper, a young Irishman, although he had not seen the blow struck, was inclined to take the side of Surden. His summary of the occurrence was:

"You see, he must ha' done it. There wasn't anybody else. An' if I didn't see the punch, I heard it plain enough!"

There was one other person present, a lounge, who was knocking the balls about at the billiard table, and he corroborated the views of the barkeeper. Mr. Surden then made a complaint of assault and battery against Mr. Armitage; the suit was brought in a Justice's Court at Yorkville, and on the evidence of the two witnesses the defendant was promptly fined and reprimanded. With this official recognition of the nature of the occurrence Mr. Surden presented himself before Dr. Morse. The interview was an angry one. The Doctor assured his patient that Mr. Armitage had been unjustly accused, and that the action of a Police Justice could not be held to determine the nature of such a phenomena. Mr. Surden asserted his intention to promptly prosecute every fresh assault.

The peculiar nature of the case as now developed, induced the Doctor to enter upon an investigation of the recent circumstances. His inquiries at Murcot's were, however, unsatisfactory. The barkeeper saw no mystery about the affair.

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