

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

### **AN EXTRAORDINARY TRAGEDY**

Albert remained at the store. At about 9 o'clock in the forenoon he left it with a substitute and walked out to his father's, approaching the house through the woods. In the kitchen he learned from the servant girl that his father was in his room and his mother in hers. He tried his father's door and found it locked. His mother was sleeping. He went out and sat for nearly an hour on a hand-cart, ten paces southwest of the house.

He then went to the south door and again tried his father's door. Finding it still locked, he kicked it several times with all his force, and succeeded in breaking in. The lock pressed off the door-check held by seven nails. The father retreated through the east door, and turned as if to escape at the south gate. Albert saw him through the east window, turned, and, going out at the south door, headed his father southeast of the corner of the house about five paces. He threw up his hands and cried, "Oh, Albert, don't, don't." Albert fired at him with his "five-shooter" as fast as he could empty its contents. The father screamed: "Murder, murder: help, help! Oh, Albert, Albert," with a painfully agonizing voice. He also had a revolver and fired one shot, which ran under the skin around Albert's abdomen. The father fell, and was prostrated full length on his back. The son put the muzzle of the pistol to his father's head and discharged its fifth cartridge into it-the father still crying agonizing.

He then picked up a hatchet and pounded the head with it, breaking the skull at every stroke, until the poor man's last "Oh! Oh! Ceased. Neighbors, at work in the fields, were approaching, some having heard the cries a mile distant. Albert ran and climbed over the west fence, and ran about thirty paces into the woods. He stopped.

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