

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH

AN EXTRAORDINARY TRAGEDY

He opened his vest and looked at his own wound. Seeing he could not possibly make his escape, he put another cartridge into his own pistol, and shot himself. He died instantly, without a struggle.

The father had an old dog, always with him, always faithful. He had been heard to say that the only friend he had at his house was his dog. When neighbors arrived at the scene, this dog was licking his wounds. His hand was reaching up and stroking the dog's back. In about fifteen minutes he became conscious and talked a little for half an hour. The last thing he remembered was that Albert shoots the pistol. But didn't know whether he shot him or not. He said that Albert had "tried to kill him and ought to be hanged." Except two short speeches, these were his last words. They are a strange commentary on the life of this good and kindhearted man. His public career was begun by neighborhood debates on the capital punishment question.

Reason, moral suasion, kind treatment was his hobbies, and he thought to educate the people in the belief that capital punishment was barbarous. There was no malice in his nature, and he was not able to realize that there was malice in others to be subdued. He was then told that Albert was dead. He responded that "it is a blessing to the community." He was then asked if he could swallow some medicine, and answered as his last words, "I will try."

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