

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH

IN BUSINESS HOURS

“I am more surprised than I can express,” was the young man’s remark. “My father hurt by wine! It seems impossible. Are you very sure about this thing, Mr. Clarkson?” “I cannot be mistaken. The receptions of disaster are cut very deep”. “Will you tell me the whole story?” “It is still fresh in my memory. It seems an event of yesterday. I had an engagement to meet your father after the reception. The Lake Superior copper mining fever was then at its height. Your father was a cool, clear-headed man, and generally kept aloof from schemes of money making not connected with legitimate trade. It so happened that one of your restless, over sanguine men, who are always on the lookout for some scheme by which money can be made more rapidly than in competitive mercantile or manufacturing operations, had made a visit to the Ontonagon region, and, in company with a county surveyor prospected for a mine.

According to his representation they had discovered one of the richest deposits in the whole Lake Superior region, and held the secret of its location. He had come out East to organize a company, and had yet only talked to a few capitalists, who had arranged to meet him at 1 o’clock on the day I have referred to, in order to get a full development of his plans.

“Neither your father nor I felt much interest in the matter. We had little faith in mining speculations, having seen more money lost in them than gained, by a thousand per cent. But we had been so strongly pressed to attend this meeting that we were constrained to be present.

“From the wedding reception, flushed with wine-we had each taken three or four glasses, and our heads were not very strong-we went to this meeting to hear about the marvelously rich deposit of almost virgin copper discovered somewhere on the range of the great Minnesota conglomerate belt. Maps and plans were spread before us; specimens of copper were exhibited; cost of land, and the particulars of working mines, money needed for development set forth in eloquent detail.

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