



the **Prairie Tales** podcast

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SOURCE ARTICLES

1871-06 – BALLOTS & BULLETS

J.H. LEE

AUGUST 9, 1871 - CASE # 1871-HM06

“About the 1st of August, a young man, named Lee (some 20 years of age) was shot and killed in one of the dance houses of Hyde Park, accidentally, it is claimed.” (1882 Harvey County Atlas Introduction by Judge R.W.P. Muse).

The same incident is recorded in this way: “About August 1st, there was considerable indignation when a youthful cowboy named Lee was killed in a dance hall in Hide Park... The young man was an engaging youth with many friends, but the citizens were helpless before the fierce, gun toting Texans and this incident was also allowed to go as an accident” (Santa Fe and the Chisholm Trail in Newton by William Moran (1971). Page 51.

NEWTON – A herdsman named J.H. Lee was killed by another herdsman on the 9th inst., at Slate Creek, Sedgwick county. *The Wichita Vindette, Wichita, Kansas. Saturday, August 12, 1871. Page 1.*

BILL BAILEY

AUGUST 11, 1871 - CASE # 1871-HM07

NEWTON – Two men were shot in Newton on Friday night. One was a policeman. *The Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, Kansas. Sunday, August 13, 1871. Page 4.*

NEWTON – On Saturday morning last William Wilson, alias William Bailey, was killed in a drunken row, by William McCluskie, a railroad man. Bailey had been serving on the previous day

as a special policeman during the election on the railroad bond proposition, and he was very abusive, insulting, and domineering. He was a Texan desperado and had murdered 3 men. The unanimous verdict is that he was served right. McCluskie escaped, but no effort was made to apprehend him, nor is apprehension desired by the people. McCluskie returned to Newton and was murdered by the deceased Bailey's friends on Sunday morning, 20th inst. *The Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, Kansas. Wednesday, August 23, 1871. Page 2.*

NEWTON – The new town of Newton is fast. We are informed that on Friday, the day of the voting on the railroad bond question in Newton, a Texan named Bailey was appointed a special policeman, and swore he would disarm every "short-horn" in town, meaning thereby citizens, not drovers or Texans. He became very offensive to a man named McCabe; following him about, and finally with a number of friends went into a saloon where McCabe was, and drawing a revolver threatened to shoot him. McCabe drew his pistol and shot Bailey, and the action then became general. A man was shot in the foot and he was the only one injured besides Bailey, the latter dying a short time after he was shot. *The Leavenworth Daily Times, Leavenworth, Kansas. Wednesday, August 16, 1871. Page 4.*

TOPEKA – A week ago in the election row at Newton, the terminus of the Atkinson, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad, a Texan was killed by one McClosky, the Texan being the aggressor. Since that time McClosky has been appointed policeman. There has been a feud between Texans which culminated in a general fight on Saturday, in which McClosky and a Texan were killed, and two others mortally and four seriously wounded. There is but little law in that region and more trouble is anticipated. Texan drovers congregate there in great numbers. *The Weekly Democratic Statesman, Austin, Texas. August 31, 1871. Page 1.*

NEWTON – There is neither Church nor school house in town, nor is there even a religious organization. It is said that on Saturday last, at the burial of a man who had been killed that morning, an effort was made to procure a man to offer a prayer at the grave, but the result was fruitless, as no one was accustomed to the business. Rev. R.M. Overstreet, of Emporia, was announced to preach in the "Gold Room," a gambling establishment, a few Sundays since, and a horse race and badger right were also announced to take place immediately upon the conclusion of the services in the Gold Room, but they were all prevented by a hard rain.

No religious service has as yet ever been held there. We can imagine of no place in the world where religious and Church influence is more needed. The citizens would welcome a pious and sensible preacher, and lots will be furnished gratuitously for Churches. *The Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, Kansas. Wednesday, August 23, 1871. Page 2.*