



the **Prairie Tales** podcast

www.PrairieTales.US

Compiled by Darren McMannis

TRAIL TO THE DEEPEST PIT OF HELL

Episode Number: 1871-08

Date: August – September 1871

Subject: An Examination of Social and Moral Conditions in Newton, Kansas, in 1871, as Revealed in Contemporary Newspaper Accounts.

Summary:

The provided newspaper excerpts from the Kansas Daily Commonwealth and The Emporia News in August and September 1871 offer a stark glimpse into the social and moral landscape of Newton, Kansas, during this period. The sources highlight a town characterized by significant lawlessness, widespread vice (particularly gambling and prostitution), and a reputation for being one of the "wickedest" cities in Kansas. While business and opportunity are present, the dominant narrative is one of frontier instability and a transient, rough population. There is a clear tension between the perception of Newton as a haven for "excitement" and prosperity in the West and the moral condemnation it receives from more "godless" communities. The sources detail specific incidents, including a lynching and a suicide linked to the town's vice industries, and provide an in-depth look at a central establishment, the "Gold Rooms," which served as a hub for gambling and other activities.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. Lawlessness and Frontier Justice:

The sources immediately establish a climate of lawlessness in Newton. The swift and brutal response to horse theft is a prime example.

Fact: A horse thief was summarily hung by a crowd at the stockyards on August 23, 1871.

Quote: "A wagon pole was put across the corner of a fence and upon this the guilty was hung until life was extinct." (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, August 24, 1871)

This incident, reported in multiple papers, underscores the reliance on vigilante justice rather than formal legal processes.

2. Prevalence of Vice:

Gambling and prostitution are depicted as pervasive and central to the town's identity.

Fact: The reporter "Allegro" estimates there are at least 80 professional gamblers in a population of 800, a ratio of 1 in 10.

Fact: "Hide Park" is identified as an area with numerous "baquis" (likely referring to brothels or dance halls where prostitution occurred) and "dance houses."

Quote: "There is a mania for gambling in Newton... In the heart of every man who has been here long enough to dig down a little to the sub-strata of life, nestles the germ of this passion." (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 17, 1871)

Quote: "'Hide Park' has received another baptism of blood. Suicide has supplemented murder and with features scarcely less horrible and appalling. The victim is a young woman – one of those whose feet have but lately become entangled in the mire of prostitution." (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 5, 1871, regarding Annie Glinn)

3. Newton's Reputation as the "Wickedest City in Kansas":

This moniker is explicitly stated and embraced by some in Newton.

Quote: "Its name of the 'wickedest city in Kansas'... sticks so fast to it, and has now come to be regarded as its pet alias." (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 17, 1871)

This reputation is presented as a source of both notoriety and potential prosperity, attracting a certain type of individual and fostering a sense of "excitement."

4. The "Gold Rooms" as a Central Hub of Vice:

The description of the "Gold Rooms" is highly detailed and provides a vivid picture of a major gambling establishment.

Fact: The Gold Rooms are located on Main Street and feature multiple gambling tables (monte, faro, chuck luck, etc.), a large bar, music, and side shows (including dog fighting, badger baiting, and coons).

Fact: The proprietors are identified as Doc Thayer and Bill Pierce, described with distinct personalities and reputations.

Quote: "The Gold Rooms! Here runs the black heart's blood of gaming excitement." (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 17, 1871)

The establishment is depicted as a significant point of contact for nearly every male inhabitant and influential in the town's social dynamics, even rivaling the railroad interest in local elections.

5. **Transient and Diverse Population:**

Newton attracts a mix of people, including seasoned frontiersmen, younger adventurers, and businesspeople.

Quote: "They flock to it from afar for that very reason, 'old times' men who went to California in '48... younger men whose rough experience has been shorter lived, and still more recent comers who have fixed upon Newton as the font of their novitiate." (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 17, 1871)

The population is characterized as "incongruous" and embracing a "rough and ready" motto. Despite this, the reporter notes the presence of individuals with "refined tastes and culture."

6. **Moral Condemnation and Social Commentary:**

Newspapers from other towns, like Topeka and Emporia, express concern and disdain for Newton's moral climate.

Quote: "From all such godless towns as Newton, 'the good Lord deliver us.'" (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 19, 1871)

Quote: "Read the Newton tragedy and the seventeen other horrible murders found in our Kansas state papers for a single week. Note the increasing number of sensual looking loungers on our streets..." (Emporia Weekly News, September 22, 1871)

These external perspectives highlight a contemporary debate about the social costs of rapid frontier growth and the presence of vice.

7. **Specific Tragedies as Indicators of Social Ills:**

The suicide of Annie Glinn in "Hide Park" is presented as a direct consequence of her involvement in prostitution and a failed relationship.

Quote: "Like nearly all young hands at the business she had a lover (a railroad man well known to Newtonians) to whom she was ardently attached, but who, au contraire, showed no reciprocity of feeling..." (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 5, 1871)

Her burial in "Boot Hill," alongside victims of previous violence, underscores the dangerous nature of life in Newton.

8. **The Bizarre and Incongruous Nature of Life in Newton:**

The anecdote about the clergyman attempting to preach in the Gold Rooms illustrates the stark contrast between the town's dominant culture and attempts at moral influence.

Quote: "Divine service amid all this!" (Kansas Daily Commonwealth, September 17, 1871)

The scene, with its mix of prayer, gambling, dog fighting, and general revelry, highlights the chaotic and unpredictable atmosphere.

9. **Important Facts:**

August 23, 1871: Lynching of a horse thief in Newton.

September 5, 1871: Suicide of Annie Glinn in "Hide Park."

September 17, 1871 (reporting on events around this date): Detailed description of the "Gold Rooms" and its operations, including estimated population (800) and number of professional gamblers (at least 80).

Newton's nickname: "the wickedest city in Kansas."

Newton is on the "Chisholm trail."

Gambling activities include monte, faro, chuck luck, three card monte, and the mustang.

The Gold Rooms proprietors: Doc Thayer and Bill Pierce.

Notable figures mentioned: "Corn-Hole Johnny" Gallagher (gambler), Dick Clark and Jim Moon (monte dealers), "Poney" Reid and "Trick" Brown (monte dealers), Bruton (runs the "Bull's Head").

Conclusion:

These sources paint a vivid and often disturbing picture of Newton, Kansas, in 1871. The town is a raw and unpolished frontier settlement where lawlessness and vice are deeply entrenched. While offering opportunities for those seeking excitement and fortune, Newton also appears to be a dangerous and morally questionable place, particularly for those vulnerable to the pressures of its dominant industries. The contrast between the embrace of the "wicked" reputation and the condemnation from more established communities highlights the complex social dynamics of the American West during this period of rapid expansion. The detailed description of the Gold Rooms and the tragic story of Annie Glinn provide specific examples of the human cost and character of life in this notorious Kansas town.

Thought-Starters

What was the general reputation of Newton, Kansas, in 1871 according to these sources?

Newton had a widespread and well-established reputation as the "wickedest city in Kansas," a label it seemingly embraced as a "pet alias." This reputation was based on its perceived lawlessness, prevalence of gambling and vice, and violent incidents, contrasting sharply with the image of more orderly, church-going towns. While outsiders criticized Newton for its perceived immorality, some locals seemed to find humor in its notoriety, seeing it as a characteristic of a thriving frontier town.

What forms of violence are mentioned in the sources regarding Newton?

The sources explicitly mention several forms of violence. The lynching of a suspected horse thief is recounted as a public execution. There are also mentions of murder, with one source referencing "seventeen other horrible murders" in Kansas state papers for a single week, implicitly connecting Newton to this trend. The report on Annie Glinn details a suicide by gunshot, framing it as another "baptism of blood" in the area known as "Hide Park," which had recently experienced murder. The general atmosphere of the "Gold Rooms" with its "friendly calaboose" and potential for "spirits" becoming "too strong for his flesh" also suggests a potential for disturbances, though not necessarily lethal violence in that specific instance.

How was gambling portrayed in Newton, particularly at the "Gold Rooms"?

Gambling was described as a dominant "mania" in Newton, deeply ingrained in the "sub-strata of life" for those who had been there for a while. The "Gold Rooms" was presented as the epicenter of this activity, the "pivot of the town" and the source of "gaming excitement." It housed multiple gambling tables, including monte, faro, chuck luck, three-card monte, and the mustang, staffed by professional gamblers with known reputations. The Gold Rooms also featured a large bar, music, and side shows, creating a lively and potentially chaotic atmosphere. Texans were noted as significant patrons of the gaming tables.

Who were some of the notable figures associated with the "Gold Rooms"?

Doc Thayer and Bill Pierce were identified as the proprietors of the "Gold Rooms." Doc Thayer was described as the "swell of the town," running the gambling tables and other related businesses. Bill Pierce, a former rancher, managed the bar and was known for his large stature and ability to attract customers. Notable dealers included "Corn-Hole Johnny" (John Gallagher), known for his skill and strategy in gambling, particularly chuck luck and three-card monte. Other monte dealers mentioned were Dick Clark, Jim Moon, "Poney" Reid, and "Trick" Brown, each with their own distinct characteristics and reputations in the gambling world. A unnamed "capper" or "roper" was also highlighted as a prominent figure in the local gambling fraternity.

What does the account of the attempted divine service in the "Gold Rooms" reveal about the town's culture?

The anecdote about the attempted divine service highlights the clash between traditional morality (represented by the "preacher") and the prevalent frontier culture of gambling, drinking, and entertainment in Newton. The proprietor's initial confusion and eventual agreement, seeing it as a business opportunity, and the subsequent chaotic scene with gambling continuing, dogs fighting, and disrespectful remarks towards the preacher, all illustrate the deeply ingrained nature of the "sporting" element in Newton and the difficulty of imposing conventional religious practices within that environment. The final revelation that the "preacher" was a "hard up sharper" seeking money further underscores the prevalence of deceptive practices and the unconventional nature of life in Newton.

How did the arrival of the railroad impact Newton according to one source?

According to the report on the "Gold Rooms," the railroad significantly impacted Newton by increasing the accessibility of the town. This easy access led to a rapid increase in the number of professional gamblers, whose ranks swelled until they represented a significant portion of the population (approximately one gambler for every ten people). This suggests that the railroad facilitated the growth of the town's "sporting" element and contributed to its notorious reputation.

What does the story of Annie Glinn reveal about the social conditions in Newton?

The tragic story of Annie Glinn sheds light on the social conditions in areas like "Hide Park," which served as havens for prostitution and fast life. Annie's story as a newcomer who transitioned from a "waiter girl" to a "professional courtesan" illustrates the vulnerability of some individuals who came to frontier towns like Newton. Her suicide, driven by unrequited love for a railroad man, highlights the emotional hardships and desperate circumstances that could arise within these communities. The presence of "dance houses" and "ba quis" as places of entertainment and vice is also revealed through this account.

How did outsiders perceive Newton compared to how the reporter of the "Gold Room" piece viewed it?

Outsiders, particularly from more established towns like Topeka and Emporia, viewed Newton with disdain and concern. They saw it as "godless," associated with murder and vice, and a place to be delivered from. The reporter of the "Gold Room" piece, while acknowledging Newton's reputation as the "wickedest city in Kansas" and its roughness, viewed it with a mixture of detached observation and a sense of understanding of the frontier spirit. The reporter seemed to find a certain fascination in the town's "incongruous population" and the "curious and thrilling vicissitudes" of frontier life, suggesting that the town's notoriety was almost a source of its identity and even prosperity.

Study Guide

Quiz

1. What crime led to the first death described in the sources, occurring on August 23, 1871?
2. How was the individual accused of this crime apprehended and dealt with?
3. According to one source, what kind of settlers do churches attract, and how do they contribute to a city?
4. Based on the W.B. excerpt from Emporia, what societal problems are highlighted as being present in Kansas towns, potentially linked to "Whiskey and Brains"?
5. What nickname has Newton acquired, and according to the reporter from "Allegro," how do the people of Newton feel about this name?
6. What makes Newton a "frontier town" according to "Allegro"?
7. How many professional gamblers were estimated to be in Newton out of a population of 800, according to the "Allegro" report?
8. What is described as the "pivot of the town" and the location of the highest concentration of gambling activity?
9. Describe the layout and key features of the establishment known as the "Gold Rooms."
10. What tragic event is described as occurring on September 5, 1871, in "Hide Park," and what was the apparent cause?

Answer Key

1. The crime was horse theft.
2. The individual was caught at the stockyards and was then hung from a wagon pole across a fence corner until dead.
3. Churches attract settlers who furnish the best guarantee of maintaining law and order, as well as increasing material prosperity.
4. Societal problems highlighted include horrible murders, increasing numbers of sensual looking loungers, boisterous laughs from invalids waiting for medicine, and a general concern about encouraging this "brain-element."

5. Newton has acquired the nickname "the wickedest city in Kansas." According to "Allegro," people in Newton smile when they see this in print, as they know it is not far from the truth.
6. Newton is described as a frontier town because it burns no coal, builds with wood, and is located on the Chisholm Trail, a "hot meridian."
7. There were estimated to be at least 80 professional gamblers out of a population of 800.
8. The "Gold Rooms" are described as the "pivot of the town" and the location with the highest concentration of gambling, radiating like spokes from a hub.
9. The Gold Rooms are a frame building about sixty feet by thirty, roughly constructed with visible timbers and spider webs. It contains a long bar, numerous gaming tables (monte, faro, chuck luck), small round tables for private games, a raised platform for a song and dance man, a corner for musicians, and a "calaboose" or jail.
10. The tragic event was the suicide of Annie Glinn, a young woman who had recently become a professional courtesan. The apparent cause was her unrequited love for a railroad man who showed indifference towards her.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the different perspectives presented in the sources regarding the reputation and characteristics of Newton, Kansas, in 1871. How do these perspectives differ, and what factors might explain these differences?
2. Discuss the role of gambling and entertainment, particularly the "Gold Rooms," in the economic and social life of Newton as described in the sources. What does the report suggest about the types of people drawn to these establishments?
3. Examine the incidents of violence and death described in the sources (the horse thief hanging and Annie Glinn's suicide). What do these events reveal about the nature of law, order, and social conditions in Newton at this time?
4. Compare and contrast the "Eastern" perspective on frontier towns (specifically Newton) with the experiences and attitudes of the people living there, as depicted in the "Allegro" report.
5. Based on the provided excerpts, what can be inferred about the challenges and complexities faced by individuals, particularly women like Annie Glinn, living on the American frontier in the late 19th century?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Horse Thief:** An individual who steals horses. In the historical context of the American West, this was often considered a serious crime with severe consequences.
- **Outrage:** A term used in the sources to describe a shocking or offensive event.
- **Stock Yards:** An enclosure where livestock, such as cattle or horses, are kept before being transported or sold.
- **Hung (Hanged):** Refers to execution by suspension from a rope around the neck.
- **United Presbyterians:** A denomination of Presbyterianism, referencing a religious group establishing a Church.

- **Law and Order:** The state of being governed by and obeying the laws of society, contrasting with crime and disorder.
- **Material Prosperity:** Economic well-being and the accumulation of wealth and resources.
- **Sensual Looking Loungers:** Individuals perceived as idle, possibly dissolute, and focused on physical pleasures.
- **Boisterous Laugh:** Loud, energetic, and unrestrained laughter.
- **Invalids:** People suffering from illness or disability.
- **Brain-element:** A term used in the sources to refer to the types of people or attitudes prevalent in a community.
- **Phosphorus:** A chemical element; its mention in the context of whiskey is unclear in the source but possibly implies a stimulating or detrimental property attributed to the drink.
- **Tragedy:** An event causing great suffering, destruction, and distress, such as a serious accident, crime, or natural catastrophe.
- **Wickedest City:** A popular nickname given to Newton, implying a high level of immorality and lawlessness.
- **Pet Alias:** A familiar and often favored nickname.
- **Victorious Prize Fighter:** A boxer who has won a fight, used as an analogy to describe Newton's acceptance of its reputation.
- **Enthusiastic Pal:** A close friend showing great excitement or interest.
- **Quaintly Told:** Described in an attractively unusual or old-fashioned manner.
- **Provocative of a Smile:** Likely to cause a smile.
- **Unnatural Outlets:** Violent or unlawful expressions of behavior.
- **Late Lamented:** Referring to someone who has recently died.
- **Hyper Morality:** An excessive or extreme adherence to moral principles, suggesting a potentially stifling or impractical approach for a frontier town.
- **Frontier Towns:** Settlements located on the edge of developed areas, often characterized by rapid growth, diverse populations, and a less established social structure.
- **Excitement Whether Healthy or Otherwise:** The need for stimulation and activity in a new town, regardless of whether it is positive or negative.
- **Pregnant with Curious and Thrilling Vicissitudes:** Full of strange and exciting changes or challenges.
- **Frontiersman:** A person who lives on the frontier, often associated with a rugged and independent lifestyle.
- **Coughs at the Smell of Coal:** Implies a preference for open air and natural surroundings over industrialized areas.
- **Draws His Six-Shooter:** Pulls out a revolver, indicating a readiness for conflict.
- **Pile of Bricks:** Represents established, perhaps more "civilized" construction, contrasted with the wooden buildings of the frontier.
- **Par Excellence:** The best of its kind.
- **Chisholm Trail:** A major cattle trail used to move cattle from ranches in Texas to railheads in Kansas.

- **Hot a Meridian:** A term likely used figuratively to describe the Chisholm Trail as a lively and perhaps dangerous route.
- **Mushroom Place:** A settlement that springs up quickly, often in response to economic opportunities, and may decline just as rapidly.
- **Novitiate:** The period of being a novice or beginner, suggesting Newton is where newcomers gain experience in frontier life.
- **Eastern Shop Keeper:** A merchant from the more established Eastern United States, used to contrast with the "Rough and Ready" business people of Newton.
- **Clear Coffee and Polished Boots:** Represents a standard of refinement and order associated with more established areas.
- **"Rough and Ready":** A motto adopted by Newtonians, emphasizing practicality, resilience, and a lack of formality.
- **Incongruous Population:** A mix of people who seem out of place together.
- **Clings to It By Instinct:** Stays in Newton because of a natural inclination or feeling.
- **Illustrates It:** Embodies or demonstrates the motto.
- **Easiest Motto to Adopt:** Suggests that the informal and unrefined nature of Newton makes the "Rough and Ready" motto a simple way to fit in.
- **Men of Refined Tastes and Culture:** Individuals with sophisticated preferences and education, indicating that not everyone in Newton fits the "Rough and Ready" stereotype.
- **Magistrate:** A civil officer who administers the law, especially one who conducts a court dealing with minor offenses and holds preliminary hearings for more serious ones.
- **Running Up Fines and Costs:** Imposing high monetary penalties and fees.
- **Hotel Keeper Who Measures His Guests By the Complaints:** A humorous way of saying the hotel has bed bugs and the proprietor judges guests based on whether they complain.
- **Policeman Who Tries to Keep the Peace By Offers to Fight:** Suggests the policeman's method of maintaining order is aggressive and confrontational.
- **Weak Year-Old Novice:** An inexperienced reporter who has only been in the business for a year.
- **Formed Its Central Figure:** The reporter was the main subject of his own article, implying a lack of objectivity or a focus on personal experience.
- **Lump the Animal Ingredients:** Combine the various types of people in Newton.
- **Queer Compound:** A strange and unusual mix.
- **"Sporting" Element:** Refers to people involved in gambling, drinking, and other leisure or entertainment activities, often associated with a less reputable lifestyle.
- **Reasonable Space:** Within acceptable limits or length for the report.
- **Defer for Another Letter:** Postpone discussing certain topics until a later report.
- **Remaining Subjects That, In This Connection, It May Be Fit to Touch Upon:** Other relevant topics that can be discussed in relation to Newton's characteristics.
- **Mania for Gambling:** An excessive or obsessive enthusiasm for gambling.
- **Sub-Strata of Life:** The underlying or fundamental layers of a person's existence or the community's social structure.

- **Nestles the Germ of This Passion:** The potential or beginning of the intense desire for gambling is present.
- **Matured Into a Full Blown Flower:** The passion for gambling has developed fully and openly.
- **Professionals:** Individuals who gamble for a living.
- **Per Cent Side of the Table:** The side of the gambling table occupied by the dealer, who has a statistical advantage (the house edge or "per cent").
- **Widely Known All Over the Extreme West:** Famous throughout the far western United States.
- **Recounting By-Gone Experiences:** Sharing stories about past events.
- **Earnest Men:** Serious and sincere individuals.
- **Thinkers In a Rough Sort of Way:** People who contemplate and analyze, but perhaps in an unconventional or unrefined manner.
- **Invariably Readers of Human Nature:** Always able to understand and interpret people's characters and motivations.
- **Temperate to an Unexpected Degree:** Exercising self-restraint and moderation, particularly regarding alcohol, more than one might expect.
- **Sufficiently Numerous to Well Season the Human Pot-Pie:** Enough in number to add flavor and character to the mix of people in Newton.
- **Borne With the Cry of "In the Door" and "Alcie" Ringing In Their Ears:** Refers to terms or phrases commonly used by monte dealers, implying that Texans are accustomed to this gambling environment.
- **Take to a Monte Game as Voraciously and Naturally as a Hungry Child to Its Mother's Breast:** Describes the Texans' eagerness and instinctual embrace of the monte game.
- **Any Stake, However Small, Will Do For a "Snap":** Any amount of money, even a small one, is sufficient for a quick gamble or opportunity.
- **Other Side Has to Do the Guessing:** Refers to a rule or characteristic of the monte game where the player, not the dealer, makes the decision about the winning cards.
- **Texas "Opens" and Is Happy:** Texans are eager to initiate bets or play in the game.
- **Games of Greater or Less Magnitude:** Gambling games of varying sizes or stakes.
- **Radiate From It, As It Were, Like Spokes From a Hub:** Games in other locations branch out from the Gold Rooms, which are the central point of activity.
- **Pivot of the Town:** The central and most important element or point around which other things revolve.
- **Influence Is Greater Than That of Any Other One House:** The Gold Rooms have the most significant impact on the town compared to any other single establishment.
- **Comes In Contact With Almost Every Male Inhabitant:** Nearly all the men in Newton interact with or visit the Gold Rooms at some point.
- **Railroad Interest:** Refers to the economic and social influence of the railroad company and its employees.
- **Most Formidable Rival:** The strongest competitor.
- **Beat It, In the Late Election for City Officers:** The railroad interests were victorious over the Gold Rooms' interests in the recent local election.
- **"Spivey" Ticket:** A political slate of candidates likely supported by the railroad interests.

- **Carried By a Strong Majority:** Won the election with a significant number of votes.
- **Respective Termini:** The beginning and end points.
- **Frame Building:** A building constructed with a wooden frame.
- **Roughly Put Together:** Constructed without much attention to detail or finish.
- **Roof Freely Ribbed With Timbers, Which Slant Downwards and Outwards In the Shape of the Latter A:** Describes the visible wooden beams of the roof structure, forming an A-frame shape.
- **Daylight Glimmers Through Cracks:** Light enters the building through gaps in the walls or roof, indicating poor construction.
- **Spider Webs Hang In Corners and From the Rafters:** Further evidence of the building's rough and unfinished state.
- **New, Fresh, Rough Look:** Suggests the building is recently constructed but lacks refinement.
- **Well Accords With the General Appearance of the Town:** Fits in with the overall look and feel of Newton.
- **Bar Extending Back Some Twenty Feet:** A long counter where drinks are served.
- **Behind Which Is Shoved a Long Row of Barrels Stored With All Kinds of Liquors and Wines:** Describes the storage of alcoholic beverages.
- **Mantle or Show Part of the Bar:** The display area above the counter.
- **Lined With Clusters of Decanters and Glasses Daintily Arranged and Polished Until Their Shimmer Is Like That of Diamonds:** Describes the careful and attractive arrangement of glass containers and drinking vessels, highlighting a contrast with the rough building.
- **Gaming Tables:** Tables used for playing card games or other forms of gambling.
- **Range Close to the Wall:** Positioned near the perimeter of the room.
- **Primitive Rather Than an Elegant Nature:** Simple and basic in construction, lacking sophistication.
- **Covered With Green Baize:** A type of coarse wool cloth used on gaming tables.
- **Square, With Little Semi Circles Cut Out In One of the Long Sides:** Describes the shape of the tables, designed to allow the dealer closer access.
- **Dealer Can Have the Board Closer and Have a Better Control of His "Lay Out":** The table design facilitates the dealer's handling of the cards or game setup.
- **Elsewhere In the Room, Scattered About Promiscuously:** Located in other parts of the room without a specific order.
- **Little Round Tables for the Use of Private Card Parties:** Smaller tables for individuals to play card games independently.
- **Raised Platform:** A raised area, in this case, for performances.
- **Made Expressly for the "Negro Song and Dance Man":** Specifically built for a performer of African descent who sings and dances.
- **Eastern Varieties Artist:** A performer who previously worked in variety shows in the Eastern United States.
- **By Some Curious Freak of Fortune:** Due to an unusual and unexpected turn of events.
- **Out of His Element:** Not in a situation that is natural or comfortable for him.

- **Like All Good Talent That Comes to This Country:** Suggests that skilled performers are not well-suited to the rough conditions of the frontier.
- **Contiguous to the Stage:** Adjacent or next to the stage.
- **Corner for the Piano and Musicians:** An area designated for musical instruments and performers.
- **Friendly Calaboose:** A small, informal jail or lock-up, described ironically as "friendly."
- **Unfortunate Patron of the House Whose "Spirits" Become Too Strong for His Flesh:** A customer who gets too drunk or unruly and needs to be confined.
- **Behind the Main Building, At an Interval of About 30 Feet:** Located separately from the main structure with a 30-foot gap.
- **Dormitory:** A building or room containing a number of beds, especially in a school or institution.
- **Waiter Girls and Other Employees of the House:** Female staff who serve drinks or perform other duties, and other workers at the establishment.
- **Comfortable Place Is This In Hot Weather, With Nothing But a Thin Sheeting of Boards to Separate It From the Heavily Stocked Ice House:** An ironic description, as the dormitory is likely only comfortable because it's near the ice house, implying poor construction and heat in other conditions.
- **Delicious Neighbor When the Thermometer Is 100 Above:** An ironic statement highlighting the benefit of being near the ice house in extreme heat.
- **Human Adjuncts:** People associated with the establishment, complementing the physical structure.
- **Principle Feature:** The most important aspect.
- **Red Pepper of the Compound:** The lively or exciting element of the mix of people.
- **Doc Thayer and Bill Pierce:** The proprietors or owners of the Gold Rooms.
- **Doesn't Look a Bit Like a Saloon Keeper:** Doesn't fit the typical appearance associated with someone who runs a bar.
- **Wears Faultless Linen:** Wears perfectly clean and pressed clothing made of linen.
- **Pants On the Outside of His Boots:** A style of dress common at the time, suggesting a more rugged or frontier look.
- **Decidedly the Swell of the Town:** Considered the most stylish or fashionable person in Newton.
- **Quick, Sly Sort of Humor:** A clever and subtle sense of humor.
- **Made the More Pungent By an Appearance Which Inclines Somewhat to the Clerical:** His humor is made sharper or more insightful because his appearance suggests he might be a clergyman.
- **Runs the Gambling Tables and Such Other Business As Does Not Come Within the Legitimate Province of the Bar:** Manages the gambling operations and related activities, separate from the main bar business.
- **Pierce, to Many of Your Topeka Readers, Is a Familiar Photograph:** Bill Pierce is well-known to people in Topeka, likely from published images.
- **Old Mountaineers Recognize Him As a Former Chum:** Experienced individuals who live or travel in the mountains know him as an old friend.

- **At One Time Possessed of One of the Largest Ranches In the Indian Country:** Previously owned a very large farm or property in the territory inhabited by Native American tribes.
- **Free and Easy, Jovial Sort of a Man:** Relaxed, informal, and cheerful.
- **Large Stature:** Tall or big in size.
- **Reputation of Having More Friends and Attracting a Large Custom to His Bar Than Any Man In the Country:** Known for being popular and drawing many customers to his bar.
- **Six or More Tables That Are Constantly Running:** Several gambling tables that are always in operation.
- **Monte:** A card game commonly played in the American West.
- **Faro:** Another popular card game played in the American West.
- **Chuck Luck:** A dice game.
- **Three Card Monte:** A card game involving a dealer manipulating three cards to trick players.
- **Mustang:** Another possible name for a gambling game or a type of horse.
- **Proprietor of the Latter Table:** The person who runs the table with the last mentioned games (chuck luck, three card monte, or mustang).
- **Character That, Once Seen, Will Not Easily Be Forgotten:** A person with a very distinctive and memorable personality or appearance.
- **Christened Him:** Gave him his baptismal or given name.
- **Soubriquet:** A nickname or assumed name.
- **"Corn-Hole Johnny," or "Three-Card Johnny," or "Chuck-Luck Johnny":** Nicknames associated with the games he deals.
- **Old Timer:** A person with long experience, especially in a particular place or activity.
- **Taken to Cards As Soon As He Could Discriminate Between the Spots:** Started playing cards at a very young age as soon as he could distinguish the card values.
- **Bantam of the Newton Sports:** The smallest but feistiest or most energetic person among the gamblers or sporting types in Newton.
- **Short and Chunky:** Small in height and stout in build.
- **Bright, Sparkling Eyes and a Quick, Nervous Movement of the Body:** Physical characteristics that suggest energy and mental agility.
- **Illustrates the Character of the Mental Man:** His physical movements reflect his mental state or personality.
- **Skill In Shaking Dice and Throwing Cards Is Marvelous:** Exceptionally good at handling dice and dealing cards.
- **Excelled Only By the Bland, Adroit Manner In Which He Approaches and Captivates the Game He Has Spotted:** His skill is only surpassed by his smooth, clever, and charming way of identifying potential players and drawing them into a game.
- **Small Dealers Who Go On the Principle That a "Sucker Should Be Taken In From the Jump":** Gamblers who believe inexperienced players should be tricked or cheated immediately.
- **Forces Him to Win a First Stake:** Deliberately allows the player to win a small initial bet to build their confidence.

- **"He Is Sure to Come Back At Me Again":** Believes the player will return to gamble more after an initial win.
- **"And Then I Not Only Get His Money, But His Watch and Revolver Besides, If He Has Any":** Boasts about winning all of a player's possessions, implying a predatory approach.
- **Traveled for a Long Time On the Line of the U.P. Railroad:** Worked or gambled along the route of the Union Pacific Railroad.
- **Talks About How "We Got Away" With So and So, As If He Were the Gulliver, and the Rest of the World the Lilliputes:** Refers to his exploits in a boastful way, comparing himself to the giant in *Gulliver's Travels* and others to the miniature inhabitants.
- **Dealers:** Individuals who operate gambling games.
- **Thrown Him Principally In the Southern Country:** His travels and experiences have been mainly in the southern United States.
- **Widely Known:** Recognized by many people.
- **Reputation of Being One of the Best-Hearted Men and Cleverest Poker Players In the Country:** Known for being kind and an exceptionally skilled poker player.
- **Face, While Engaged In Play, Is One of the Most Impassive and Stone I Ever Saw:** His expression is completely emotionless and unreadable while gambling.
- **Moon, His Partner:** Dick Clark's associate in dealing monte.
- **More the Style of the New York Gambler Than Any One In Town, Save a Next Door Neighbor:** Resembles a gambler from New York more than most people in Newton, except for someone living nearby.
- **Well Proportioned, Athletic Man:** Having a good physique and being physically fit.
- **Brown Hair and Moustache:** Describes his appearance.
- **Tout Ensemble:** The general effect or impression of a person or thing.
- **Decidedly Pre-Possessing:** Definitely attractive or appealing.
- **Confreres:** Colleagues or associates, especially in a profession or organization.
- **Dark Har and Beard:** Describes his appearance.
- **White Hat, Which Distinguishes Him At Once In Any Crowd, However Numerous:** A distinctive piece of clothing that makes him easily identifiable.
- **Never Feels More At Home Than When Sitting At the Poker Table:** Is most comfortable and in his element while playing poker.
- **"Truch" Brown Is a Texas Man:** Describes his origin.
- **Slow, Precise Manner In Which He Utters His Words:** Speaks carefully and deliberately.
- **Never Has to Repeat Anything, For His Voice Cuts Like a Knife:** Speaks with clarity and authority.
- **Wins and Loses With Equal Indifference:** Does not show much emotion whether he wins or loses, suggesting composure or detachment.
- **Attractive Quality:** A appealing characteristic.
- **Sort of Magnetism About Him That Invariably Draws Patrons to His Table When the Other Games Have All Closed:** Possesses a quality that naturally attracts customers, especially when other gambling opportunities are unavailable.
- **Worthy of Mention:** Deserves to be discussed or noted.

- **Name, For Obvious Reasons, I Suppress:** The reporter is choosing not to reveal the person's name, likely because they are involved in potentially illegal or disreputable activities.
- **Face Has Never Been Known to Wear Anything Else Than a Smile:** Always appears happy or cheerful.
- **Were He Not a Handsome Man, One Might Attach to Him the Title of Dumas' Great Creation – "L'homme Qui Rit":** Compares him to the character in Victor Hugo's (not Dumas') novel *The Man Who Laughs*, implying he is notable for his smile, but the comparison might only fully apply if he were not also physically attractive.
- **Can Deal Monte With the Endurance of a Machine:** Can deal the monte game for extended periods without getting tired.
- **Fully Inaugurated to-Morrow:** Will officially open the next day.
- **Dance Houses:** Establishments where people can dance, often also serving alcohol and sometimes associated with prostitution or other illicit activities.
- **Texas Billiard Hall:** An establishment with billiard tables, catering possibly to people from Texas or with a Texas theme.
- **Bull's Head:** The name of an establishment, possibly a saloon or gambling house.
- **Run By Bruton, a "Long Horn":** Operated by a person named Bruton, who is identified as a "long horn," likely referring to someone from Texas or involved in the cattle industry.
- **Hat Wide Enough to Deal His Game Upon:** Exaggerates the size of Bruton's hat, implying it is very large.
- **Face That Seems to Scintillate Sparks of Good Nature:** A face that appears to radiate friendliness and cheerfulness.
- **Loses With Extreme Good Grace:** Accepts losing without showing frustration or anger.
- **"Cappers" and "Ropers":** Individuals who work for gambling establishments, enticing or persuading potential customers ("suckers") to gamble.
- **King of the Local Fraternity:** The most important or successful person among the local "cappers" and "ropers."
- **Not Far From Being King of the West:** Suggests he is one of the most influential "cappers" and "ropers" in the entire Western region.
- **Best Credentials:** The strongest evidence of his skill or reputation.
- **"When That Man Is Capping For a Game I Wouldn't Give Five Cents On the Dollar For All the Money the "Sucker" Has In His Pocket":** A quote indicating that when this "capper" is working, the unsuspecting player ("sucker") is almost guaranteed to lose all their money.
- **Brief Mention:** A short discussion.
- **Scene That Took Place In These Very Gold Rooms:** An event that occurred specifically in the Gold Rooms.
- **Among the Very Men of Whom I Have Been Writing:** Involved the people the reporter has been describing.
- **Approached the Bar:** Went to the counter where drinks are served.
- **Asking for the Proprietor:** Requesting to speak with the owner.

- **Stated That He Was a Clergyman and Would Like to Have Permission to Conduct Divine Services On the Premises:** Said he was a religious leader and asked if he could hold a church service there.
- **Games Were In Full Blast:** Gambling was in active operation.
- **Crowds Stood Around the Tables:** People were gathered watching the gambling.
- **Voices of the Players Rose On the Night Air In Discordant and Babel-Like Harshness:** The sounds of the gamblers were loud, clashing, and chaotic, like the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel.
- **Fiddlers Were Squeaking Their Loudest:** Musicians playing violins were playing very loudly.
- **Melodeon Was Growling Out Its Deepest Bass:** A type of organ was playing its lowest notes loudly.
- **Song and Dance Man Was Executing One of His Most Brilliant Pirouettes:** The performer was performing one of his most skillful spins.
- **Waiter Girls With Huge Trays Loaded With Glasses Were Dodging Here and There Among the Crowd:** Female staff carrying large trays of drinks were moving quickly through the people.
- **Two Rival Dongs of the Town Were Being Rubbed and Pulled for Their Third and Great Fight of the Day:** Refers to dog fighting; "dongs" likely a typo or slang for dogs. "Rubbed and pulled" refers to preparing the dogs for the fight.
- **Badger and Coons Were Washing Their Faces Preparatory to Starting In When Time Was Called For Them:** Refers to animal fighting, specifically involving badgers and raccoons. "Washing their faces" likely refers to cleaning or preparing the animals.
- **Divine Service Amid All This!:** Expresses surprise and perhaps incredulity at the idea of holding a religious service in such a chaotic and disreputable environment.
- **Proprietor Coughed and Expectorated:** The owner cleared his throat and spat.
- **Did Not Exactly Understand; Would the Gentleman Repeat His Question?:** Pretended not to understand the request.
- **Answer This Time Came Quick, For In the Moment Given Him for Thought, He Saw An Opening for Business:** The owner quickly realized that allowing the service could attract a crowd and potentially increase business.
- **"By All Means, Sir, We Should Be Most Happy to Have You Preach. When Would You Like to Open Up?":** The owner enthusiastically agreed to allow the preaching.
- **"At Eight O'Clock, If You Please":** The clergyman's response stating the time for the service.
- **Saying Which the Gentleman Withdrew:** After speaking, the clergyman left.
- **Here Was a Breeze, Make No Mistake:** A significant event or stir occurred.
- **Whispered First Among the Employees of the House:** The news spread initially among the staff.
- **Gathered Strength and Blew Indiscriminately Over the Whole Establishment:** The news spread widely and quickly throughout the Gold Rooms.
- **Culminated and Roared and Raged Around the Street Corners and Into People's Houses:** The news became a major topic of conversation throughout the town.

- **Great Was the Crowd In Consequence Thereof:** A large number of people attended the service because of the news.
- **Had to Pass By the Bar:** The preacher had to walk past the bar area to reach the platform.
- **"Say, Old Chap, Let's Have a Drink":** Offers of alcohol from people at the bar.
- **Preacher Had a Red Nose:** A physical characteristic that might suggest he drinks alcohol.
- **Disregarded the Invitations:** Ignored the offers for a drink.
- **His Nose Blushed Deeper:** His red nose became even redder, possibly from embarrassment or the temptation.
- **Sniffed Spasmodically:** Breathed in sharply and involuntarily, perhaps due to emotion or physical reaction.
- **Someone Saw It and Was Cruel Enough to Call Out, "Don't Go Back On Your Spiritual Friends, Old Fellow":** Someone made a sarcastic remark suggesting the preacher shouldn't abandon drinking buddies, given his red nose.
- **Services Began With Prayer:** The religious ceremony started with a prayer.
- **Somebody Was Playing Faro In Hard Luck:** Someone was playing the faro game and experiencing a losing streak.
- **Queen Had Beaten Him Three Times:** The queen card had caused him to lose three times in the faro game.
- **Lost Again Just As the Prayer Was On Its Last Legs:** Lost another bet just as the prayer was finishing.
- **"Dn the Luck!":*** An exclamation of frustration or anger about losing, using profanity.
- **Broke From the Gambler's Lips Just As "Amen" Followed From the Platform:** The gambler's curse coincided with the end of the prayer, creating a jarring contrast.
- **Effect Was Indescribable:** The impact of this contrast was difficult to put into words, suggesting it was shocking or humorous.
- **Whole House Roared:** Everyone in the Gold Rooms laughed loudly.
- **Someone Let the Dogs Loose:** Someone released the fighting dogs.
- **Dog Fight, Aided By the Barking of the Coons, Was Added to the Scene:** The animal fights contributed to the chaos and noise.
- **Notwithstanding:** In spite of that; nevertheless.
- **Services Went On and Hymns and a Sermon Followed:** The religious ceremony continued with singing of hymns and a speech.
- **Needless to Dwell Further On the Pictures:** It is unnecessary to describe the scene in more detail.
- **Preacher Took Up a Collection and a Drink, and Left:** The preacher collected money from the attendees, accepted a drink, and then departed.
- **Has Since Transpired:** It has become known since then.
- **He Was No Preacher At All, But Simply a Hard Up Sharper Who Was In Want of a Week's Board Money:** It was discovered that the "clergyman" was not a real preacher but a struggling con artist looking for money to pay for his lodging.
- **Other Witness Accounts Deny This:** Indicates that there are conflicting reports about whether the "preacher" was genuine or not.

- **Very Quiet and Orderly:** Describes the town as peaceful and well-behaved (in contrast to the earlier descriptions).
- **But Few Disturbances of the Peace Have Arisen:** Only a small number of incidents causing disruptions have occurred.
- **Saloons Are On the Eve of Closing In Consequence of Want of Patronage:** Drinking establishments are about to close because they do not have enough customers.
- **Induced Mainly By the Inferior Liquors Sold:** Caused primarily by the poor quality of alcoholic drinks being sold.
- **Buffalo Hunting Is Now Becoming Fashionable:** Hunting buffalo is becoming a popular activity.
- **Buffalo Are Now Ranging Within 30 Miles of Newton:** Buffalo herds are currently found within 30 miles of the town.
- **Allegro:** The pseudonym of the reporter who wrote the detailed description of Newton.
- **Baptism Of Blood:** A metaphorical term suggesting a place has been marked by violence and death.
- **"Hide Park":** A specific area in Newton, likely known for saloons, dance houses, and possibly illicit activities.
- **Suicide Has Supplemented Murder:** Suicide has followed and added to the previous incidents of murder.
- **Features Scarcely Less Horrible and Appalling:** Aspects that are almost as terrible and frightening as murder.
- **Victim:** A person harmed or killed as a result of a crime or event.
- **Mire of Prostitution:** A difficult or unpleasant situation involving prostitution.
- **Newcomer:** Someone who has recently arrived in a place.
- **Well Known Saloon:** A famous or notorious bar.
- **Waiter Girl, or In More Familiar Parlance a "Beer Jerker":** A female employee in a saloon who serves drinks, using slang ("beer jerker") for this role.
- **Real Name:** Her actual name.
- **Somewhere In the Vicinity of St. Louis:** Her home is located in the area around St. Louis.
- **Parents Reside, Supporting Themselves By Keeping a Boarding House:** Her parents live there and earn a living by running a house where people pay for lodging and meals.
- **Leaving Her Family and Friends Voluntarily About 2 Years Since:** Left her home and acquaintances on her own free will approximately two years ago.
- **Kansas City:** Sister cities in Northeastern Kansas and Western Missouri.
- **Made Her Entrée Into Fast Life As a "Pretty Waiter Girl":** Began a life associated with excitement, risk, and perhaps immorality by working as an attractive server.
- **Occupation She Has Ostensibly Followed Up to Wednesday of Last Week:** The job she publicly claimed to do until the previous Wednesday.
- **Removed to One of the Numerous Ba Quis In "Hide Park":** Moved to one of the many establishments in Hide Park; "ba quis" is likely a misspelling or phonetic rendering of a term like "bawdy house" or "bar," implying a place associated with prostitution or entertainment.
- **Became a Professional Courtesan:** Became a woman who engages in sexual activity for money.

- **Like Nearly All Young Hands At the Business:** Similar to most young people starting in this line of work.
- **Had a Lover (a Railroad Man Well Known to Newtonians):** Was in a romantic relationship with a man who worked for the railroad and was familiar to people in Newton.
- **To Whom She Was Ardently Attached:** Deeply and passionately in love with him.
- **Au Contraire:** On the contrary; however.
- **Showed No Reciprocity of Feeling:** Did not feel the same way about her.
- **Notwithstanding the Most Endearing Caresses On Her Part:** Despite her most affectionate and loving gestures.
- **Did Not Hesitate to Tell Her of His Indifference:** Did not hold back from telling her that he did not care about her.
- **Went So Far Even As to Forbid Her "Troubling" Him:** Told her not to bother him.
- **Saying That There Were "Others for Whom He Cared More":** Stated that he was more interested in other people.
- **Hearing the Bitter Reproaches and Stern Injunction of Him Whom She Worshipped:** Listening to the harsh criticisms and strict command from the man she adored.
- **Turned Away With a Face Ghastly Pale:** Faced away with an extremely pale expression, indicating shock or distress.
- **Without Saying a Word Left the Dance House for Her Own Room Where She Remained Some Little Time:** Silently left the establishment and went to her private space, staying there for a while.
- **Next Approached the Cook With a Request to Go to Town and Get Her Something Which She Would Write Down On Paper, At the Drug Store:** Then asked the cook to go into town and purchase something she would specify in a written note from the pharmacy.
- **The Cook Being Busy At the Time Refused:** The cook was occupied and declined the request.
- **The Poisoning Project, for Such She Had Evidently Conceived, Had to Be Abandoned:** Her plan to obtain poison, which was clear from her actions, had to be given up.
- **To Divert Suspicion From Her Next Step:** To make sure no one suspected what she was planning to do next.
- **Mingled Freely for About An Hour In the Crowd That Always Assembles On Sundays At the Dance Houses:** Moved and interacted casually with the people gathered at the dance houses on a Sunday.
- **Quietly Slipping Away:** Secretly leaving the crowd unnoticed.
- **Returned to Her Own Room, Having First Secretly Secured a Large Size Revolver Belonging to the Proprietor of the House:** Went back to her room after obtaining a large gun from the establishment's owner without anyone knowing.
- **The Rest of the Story Is Soon Told:** The remaining events happened quickly and are easy to relate.
- **Deafening Report:** An extremely loud noise, in this case, from a gunshot.
- **The Fall of a Heavy Body:** The sound of someone falling down.
- **Piercing Shriek:** A loud, high-pitched scream.

- **Soon Brought a Crowd to the Bedside:** Quickly attracted many people to where the girl was lying.
- **Across Which the Unfortunate Girl Lay:** The girl was positioned across the bed.
- **Her Cloths Blackened and Smoking With the Fire Which the Fatal Powder Had Ignited:** Her clothes were burned and smoldering from the gunpowder ignited by the gunshot.
- **Pistol Had Been Held Firmly Against the Pit of the Stomach:** The gun was held tightly against the area of her stomach.
- **Ball Had Passed Through the Body to the Skin of the Back:** The bullet traveled completely through her body, stopping just under the skin on her back.
- **Thence It Was Afterwards Extracted By Dr. Gaston Boyd:** The bullet was removed from that spot by a doctor.
- **A Bed Was At Once Made On the Floor and the Dying Girl Placed Upon It:** A temporary bed was quickly prepared on the floor, and the girl who was dying was moved to it.
- **At the Latter's Request:** As requested by the dying girl.
- **The Unwilling and Unfortunate Cause of the Tragedy Was Sent For:** The man who was the reluctant and unintended reason for her despair was summoned.
- **Her Eyes Never Left Him From the Moment He Entered the Room Until the Film of Death Shut Out All Sight of the Outer World:** She continuously looked at him from the time he arrived until her eyes became glazed and she died.
- **At Half Past Five This Afternoon, Just Six Hours After the Occurrence:** At 5:30 PM, six hours after the suicide.
- **The Doctor Rose From Her Bed Side:** The doctor got up from beside her bed.
- **The Spirit of Annie Glinn Went to Meet Its Maker:** Annie Glinn died (a euphemism for death).
- **Coroner Bowman Held An Inquest Over the Remains This Evening:** An official, Coroner Bowman, conducted an investigation into the cause of her death that evening.
- **They Will Be Buried to-Morrow By the Side of Those of the Victims of the Previous Tragedy In Boot Hill:** Her body will be buried the next day in the cemetery known as Boot Hill, next to the people who died in the previous violent incident (likely the shoot-out referenced elsewhere, though not included in this excerpt).
- **So Mows the Scythe of Time:** A metaphorical phrase suggesting that time inevitably brings death, like a scythe cutting down grain.
- **Allegro:** The pseudonym of the reporter.