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SOURCE ARTICLES

1872-14 – Badge of Dishonor

INTERVIEW WITH NEWTON

JUNE 1, 1872

NEWTON – As all had heard of the famous town of Newton, where as high as nine men have been shot in one evening (for the fun of it), it was decided to interview the town. Arriving there we all passed up the principal street, which is a quarter of a mile long, stopping now and then to examine the famous Gold Room or dance house, which gave evidence from the appearance of the inmates and loafers on the streets that the devil isn't dead in Newton yet. It really appears a little the hardest looking town that we, at least, have ever interviewed. *The Iola Register, Iola, Kansas. Saturday, June 1, 1872. Page 2.*

NEWTON - Rowdy Joe is moving his dance house from Newton to the island near Wichita. The Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, Kansas. Thursday, June 6, 1872. Page 4.

NEWTON – Newton is a town with a hard reputation, which it has merited. It is now getting to be somewhat dead, and buildings are being removed from it to Wichita. It has had its best days for the present, but may make a good point hereafter. *The Independent, Oskaloosa, Kansas. Saturday, June 22, 1872. Page 2.*

NEWTON – You can scarcely imagine the change here since your correspondent wrote it up a year ago, as the “wickedest town in Kansas;” but to-day all is as quiet as any New England Sabbath. I found in a little stroll up the street, to-day, a Sabbath school in full blast – a school that would do honor to many towns that make much higher pretensions to morality than Newton. I found at this school 30 scholars, all clean and neatly dressed, taking a deep interest in the school. I also counted as teachers in the Bible class 10 men and 9 women, a total of 49. They have procured a Union library, music books, etc. The singing to-day was a little weak, but the

school is in a prosperous condition, and speaks well for regenerated and reformed Newton. I felt so rejoiced to find this flourishing Sunday school here, this oasis in the desert, that I could not help writing the fact, knowing that it will also rejoice many of your readers. Newton now ought to organize a good day school, build a Church or two, and she can soon take rank as among the best towns in our State. – Civitas. *The Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, Kansas. Tuesday, June 25, 1872. Page 2.*

WILLIAM L. "BILLY" BROOKS

JUNE 9, 1872 - CASE # 1872-HM10

Billy Brooks "wore his hair long, in the fashion of Buffalo Bill Cody, and though he was only of medium height, he was a picturesque figure. He had the tenacity of a bulldog and in his Newton days was generally credited with being fearless. He had killed several men, justifiably, it was said, which added to his stature as Newton's first city marshal." *Wild, Woolly & Wicked by Harry Sinclair Drago (1960). Page 167.*

NEWTON – It is reported that Billy Brooks, city marshal of Newton, was shot a few days since by a party of roughs. The ball was intended to be lodged in his brain, but he knocked the pistol away and received a wound in the shoulder. *The Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, Kansas. Saturday, June 15, 1872. Page 4.*

NEWTON – A shooting affray occurred here on Monday night last, A party of Texans, fresh from the trail, had corralled the proprietor of a dance-house with their six-shooters, and were carrying things on a high hand, when Marshall Brooks, being sent for, endeavored to preserve the peace. While thus employed, one of the party by the name of Joe Miller, fired at him, the ball striking the collar bone, but inflicting merely a trifling wound. Miller and his gang, though hotly pursued subsequently escaped, and the affair has seemingly died out. *The Commonwealth, Topeka, Kansas. Saturday, June 15, 1872. Page 1.*

NEWTON (1872) - Bill Brooks, marshal of Newton, formerly a stage driver between that point and Wichita, was shot three times, on Sunday night last, in an attempt to arrest a couple of Texas men. As near as we can get at the facts, the Texas men were on a spree, and, as a consequence, making it hot for pedestrians. Brooks had run them out of the town, when they turned and fired three shots into him, with what effect may be judged from the fact that he continued his pursuit for ten miles before he returned to have his wounds dressed. One shot passed through his right breast, and the other two were in his limbs. Bill has sand enough to best the hour-glass that tries to run him out. *The Wichita City Eagle, Wichita Kansas. Friday, June 14, 1872. Page 1.*

DODGE CITY – On Saturday night last, while Matt Sullivan was standing in his saloon at Dodge City, some one, unknown, pointed a shot-gun through the window and fired, the ball striking Sullivan in the heart, killing him instantly. It is generally supposed that the assassin is a notorious rough known in these parts as Billy Brooks. *The Leavenworth Daily Commercial, Leavenworth, Kansas. Saturday, January 4, 1873. Page 3.*

WICHITA (1873) – The Wichita Beacon records the death of Billy Brooks in a style characteristic of the plains. Bill Brooks who used to swing the longest lash and make the best time on the old stage line between Newton and here, died with his boots on at Dodge City, Sunday night – he was shot dead. Billy of late lived at the revolver's mouth, and has finally died there. He was clever and brave, but merciless to a foe. He was the intrepid Marshal of Dodge City. "One by one the leaves are falling." *The Leavenworth Daily Commercial, Leavenworth, Kansas. Friday, February 21, 1873. Page 4.*

WICHITA – Billy Brooks, the whilom Wichita stage driver, is not dead, as was reported, but is on duty in Dodge City. *The Wichita Eagle, Wichita, Kansas. Thursday, March 20, 1873. Page 3.*

WICHITA (1874) – Word was brought up this afternoon that Billy Brooks, Charley Smith, and a man named Hasbrook were hung at Caldwell on Tuesday night. Some time ago the new company having a contract to carry the mail to Fort Sill, had their stock stolen at Caldwell. The stock was afterwards found at Fort Dodge, where it had been taken and sold.

Warrants were got out for the arrest of the parties, and on Monday the Sheriff of Sumner county went to Caldwell to make arrests. He was driven back by a body of armed men. The vigilance committee then went down on Tuesday night and hung the parties named. Warrants are out for other hard cases, and it is likely there will be a general cleaning out of horse thieves. *The Daily Kansas Tribune, Lawrence, Kansas. Saturday, August 1, 1874. Page 4.*

FRANK MASON

JUNE 17, 1872 - CASE # 1872-HM11

NEWTON – Several cattle herders were on a spree at a dance house in Newton last Tuesday, and raising a row were ordered out by the proprietor, when revolvers were quickly drawn and several shots fired, one of which took effect upon Frank Mason, the City Marshal. *The Weekly Champion, Atchison, Kansas. Saturday, June 22, 1872. Page 4.*

DANIEL WADDAM

JULY 10, 1872 - CASE # 1872-HM12

LA CYGNE – A rumor has been current about town for the past few days that Daniel Waddam, formerly a tie contractor on the M.R. Ft. S. & G.R.R., and a resident of La Cygne, and latterly of Newton, had been shot at Newton. The news was brought direct from that place by a person residing in Miami county, a few miles north of here, and is probably true. Dan. had quarreled with another tieman, and from words they came to blows, when the latter drew a pistol and shot him directly through the heart. We give the news as we heard it. *The Journal, La Cygne, Kansas. Saturday, July 20, 1872. Pg 3.*

MR. MCCLELLAND

AUGUST 1, 1872 - CASE # 1872-HM13

NEWTON - John Reynolds and ____ McClelland, two roughs in this place a year ago, have been shot and killed, the former at Raymond on Tuesday, the latter at Hays some time ago by a posse. *The Newton Kansan, Newton Kansas. Thursday, September 5, 1872. Page 3.*

HAYS CITY - It seems that Jack Wright was shot and killed by one McClelland, and he was taken before Justice Dalton for a hearing Tom Drum, in whose saloon the shooting took place, was the principal witness and was the first called to the stand. He looked about the room at the crowd assembled, and remarked to the "court" that things looked d____ dry, and suggested that a little whisky would 'liven things up.

His "honor" made no objection, and in a few minutes a decanter well filled with benzene was set upon the table just in front of the judge. The court, the witness, lawyers, and prisoners drank "all round."

As each witness was called to the stand, he would step to the table, pour out his whisky and nodding to the "court" the usual "bow," drink – then hold up his right hand and after being sworn take his seat and give in his testimony. *Fort Scott Daily Monitor, Fort Scott, Kansas. Sunday, September 15, 1872. Page 4.*

HAYS CITY - Two Desperadoes Butchered At Hays City. One Jack Wright, of Dodge City, met a resident of Ellsworth, named McClelland, at a low doggery in Hays City. Both were stimulated to jealousy by the presence of a frail one, in the person of Nettie O'Baldwin. Words ensued, when McClelland asserted that Wright's time had come.

They immediately began firing at each other with revolvers. Wright was shot in the stomach, and fell to the ground, but kept on firing till he wounded McClelland. Three balls struck

McClelland in the head, left arm, and abdomen. Wright was a corpse in less than half an hour afterwards, McClelland was a prisoner, and the woman, O'Baldwin, an exile, having gone to no one knew whither. McClelland and a horse thief named "Pony Donovan" were chained to a post supporting the building.

The second night after this had transpired, at about midnight a band of men met in the square; all were armed, all silent. The mob approached the criminals with torches. A curse of hatred came from Donovan's lips. A dozen guns were thrust through the window, a loud report, and two men were launched into eternity. *The Walnut Valley Times, El Dorado, Kansas. Friday, September 6, 1872. Page 2.*

REV. D.C. KENASTON

AUGUST 20, 1872 - CASE # 1872-HM14

LAWRENCE – That Brute. The brute who made such a fearful and shameful assault on Rev. D.C. Kenaston in Lawrence has been identified and is being followed up. He is one of those roughs who figured in the many outrages at Newton last year and well known to the police authorities at Topeka.

For the past two or three months he has been trying to behave like a man, and has recently been employed as a blacksmith by H. Leonard; but there is undoubtedly too much of the brute nature in him to permit him to act like any one else for any length of time. There was a relapse in his case on Tuesday. We hope he will be captured. *The Kansas Daily Tribune, Lawrence, Kansas. Thursday, August 29, 1872. Page 4.*

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