



the **Prairie Tales** podcast

www.PrairieTales.US

Compiled by Darren McMannis

SOURCE ARTICLES

1878-18 – The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly – David Rasure’s Life

DAVID RASURE

MARCH 6, 1878 - CASE # 1878-HM01

10 years before moving to Newton, during the Civil War, David Rasure was captured at St. Louis, Missouri, by Union Forces and imprisoned in Gratiot Prison as a Confederate Prisoner of War along with his mother, for passing counterfeit currency. He later enlisted in the 2nd Indiana Light Artillery with the Union, later transferring to the 2nd Missouri Artillery, and gained the rank of Corporal. Upon arriving in Newton in 1872, he quickly became well known about town.

NEWTON - Another Policeman. In order to keep things aright in and around the depot this railroad company have engaged the services of David Razier as night policeman and he has been sworn in as such by the city council. It will be the duty of Mr. Razier, as he is hired by the railroad company, to protect their interests in that locality during these hours, which is also the interest of the travelling public and our citizens.

Mr. Bancroft has been particular in the selection, and has no doubt the right man is in the right place. *The Newton Kansan, Newton Kansas. Thursday, November 21, 1872.*

NEWTON – City Marshal. David Rasure has been appointed city marshal. *The Newton Kansan, Newton, Kansas. May 3, 1873. Page 4.*

NEWTON - U.S. Deputy Marshal. David Rasure, city marshal of this city, has been appointed U.S. Deputy Marshal for Kansas. His field of operation is confined particularly to Harvey county. *The Newton Kansan, Newton, Kansas. June 19, 1873. Page 3.*

ST. JOSEPH, MO. - Rasure Shot Twice. D. Rasure and B.C. Arnold at St. Joe. Arnold and Mrs. Rasure Together as Man and Wife. The residents of Jule street, between Second and Third, were thrown into a state of intense excitement yesterday afternoon, about half past four o'clock. Six pistol shots in close succession were heard, and directly afterward a man in his shirt-sleeves was

seen issuing from the side entrance to the Bacon House, closely pursued by another man, yelling to the large crowd which had by this time assembled, "Stop that man," "He has killed me," and like expressions. The first man proved to be B.C. Arnold, and he was making tracks down Jule street at a rapid rate of speed. The pursuing man, David Rasure, was so badly wounded that he gave up the chase at Second street. Police officers Oglesby and Stanley had by this time arrived and they started after Arnold. Mr. E.E. Bacon, who was also in the chase, discovered him in an outhouse back of Dumke & Gleitz's establishment on Main street. Oglesby attempted to arrest him, and he showed fight, getting ready to level his weapon on the officer. The latter was too quick for him and with his pistol pointed in his face, compelled Arnold to hand over his artillery. Arnold was taken to the Marshal's office where it was ascertained that he had received a slight flesh wound in his breast. The ball had gone through his vest and struck his pocketbook; glancing off without inflicting injuries of any consequence. The book, doubtless, is all that saved him from instant death. Arnold refused to make any statements in reference to the affair, merely saying, "it will all come out in proper time.

Dave Rasure, after seeing that the police were after Arnold, was assisted to the room lately occupied by Arnold, at the Bacon House. He was properly cared for by the proprietor and F.W. Butterfield, a guest in the house, who was untiring in his attentions. Drs. Geiger and Banes were summoned and dressed the wounds. It was ascertained that he was badly wounded in the arm and shoulder. After the excitement had about subsided, a Herald reporter obtained from him the following statement of the shooting, which is corroborated by his wife, who was present at the time.

Mr. Rasure's Statement. Mr. D. Rasure says that as he opened and stepped into the door of the room, his wife (Mr. Rasure's), and Mr. B.C. Arnold were in the room. Mr. Arnold, as soon as he saw Mr. Rasure, stepped to the bureau drawer, pulled it open, and snatched up a small revolver, whereupon Mr. Rasure said to him, "that he wanted no shooting, but that he intended to have him arrested, and that he should put his revolver down. Mr. Arnold then laid his revolver down on the bureau, and Mr. Rasure stepped up the bureau and took the revolver away. Whereupon Mr. Arnold took a large navy revolver from the same drawer, and just as Mr. Rasure stepped to the door of the room, he (Mr. Arnold) fired at him with the navy revolver, the ball striking him about three inches below the collar-bone, lodging just under the skin on the breast bone; Mr. Arnold shot twice in quick succession; then Mr. Rasure drew a small revolver from his pocket and returned. Mr. Rasure does not remember the exact number of shots he fired, but thinks three or four, and thinks Arnold fired at least four shots before running down stairs, when Rasure started in pursuit as stated above.

After The Truant Couple. Mr. Rasure, hearing that Arnold and his wife were together, left Shot Creek, where he has been extensively engaged in mining, and started for Kansas City. Here he

learned that they had registered at the Leland Hotel as "B Cole and Mrs. Cole;" Canton, Illinois, but had left for St. Joseph that (Saturday) morning. He came on to St. Joseph, and arrived here on the afternoon train yesterday. From one of the hackmen at the depot he learned that the latter had taken Arnold and a lady to the Bacon House Saturday afternoon. He got in the hack, and, at request, was put out one block from the Bacon House. He walked up to the house, and on examining the register, found written "B.C. Arnold and wife, Newton, Ks." On inquiry, he found them to be still at the house, and was shown up to the room by Charles Bacon.

What prompted Mrs. Rasure to take up with Arnold is told in the following statement, which she made last night to a Herald representative in the presence of Judge Fleming, Marshal Bennet, and a few others. She says that if called upon, she will swear to the truth of her remarks.

Her Statement. She says that Mr. Rasure arrived at Newton on the 4th of March 1872, and that in April, 1872, he married her in Kansas City and returned to Newton immediately. They lived happily together until about one year ago, when parties suspicioned all was not right between Mr. Arnold and herself, and spoke to Mr. Rasure in regard to it. The whole matter was satisfactorily arranged, and they lived happily together again. In July last Mr. Rasure left her at Newton and went to Shot Creek, Kansas, for the purpose of mining. Soon after Mr. Rasure went to Shot Creek, she went down to visit him, and returned to Newton in about one week. She next went to Shot Creek to meet her husband, about the first of February last, to make arrangements, if possible, to move there. While there she received a letter, from C.S. Bowman an attorney of Newton, saying that, he had an opportunity to sell her property in Newton, consisting of a house and two lots, and that he could get \$1,800 cash for it, whereupon she returned to Newton, but Mr. Bowman then told her the parties could not raise the money for her until some time in March next. She went to stay in the rooms she left when she went to Shot Creek, and there Mr. Arnold used her roughly in threats. He beat her, kicked her down and choked her. The marks are on her face and neck yet. After staying in her rooms at Newton, both Mr. Arnold and Mr. Bowman advised her to leave, and suggested that she should go to Kansas City. She, acting upon their suggestion, left and went to the Leland House at Kansas City. On the next Wednesday Mr. Arnold telegraphed that he was coming that evening. They remained at the Leland until the following Saturday.

Mr. Arnold used every endeavor to induce her to sell her property to Mr. Bowman, she to take as payment thereof, his promissory notes. She refusing to do this, he asked her if she wanted to die.

After he found that she wouldn't deed her property to Bowman, he then tried to persuade her to sell the property to him (Arnold), and that if she would go up to St. Joseph with him, he would get the money there for her. She consented to sell the property to him on these terms, and sent to Mr. Bowman to make out the deeds and mail them to Kansas City. She says, "I

wouldn't have come, but I was afraid of him. He wanted me to marry him upon getting my divorce; I consented upon the condition that he was not to abuse me. I don't really think he would have killed me. I think he would rather see me dead than go back to my husband. I came with him as his wife because I feared him. Arnold, in Kansas City, made me agree not to write any letters nor receive any only through him. He never threatened Mr. R's life. He often said he wished it was another man than Dave [i.e. my husband], as he liked him and was afraid there would be difficulty if they met."

Rasure's Condition. Rasure's wound is a very severe one, and although he suffered but little pain last night, it is more than probable that the arm will have to be amputated. If careful attention and good medical aid will help hi then he is all right. Arnold gave bond, first in the sum of \$500, but it was increased to \$1,000, it being found that Rasure's case was viewed as quite critical.

Arnold and Mrs. Rasure came to the house and registered as man and wife, engaged board for one month. The proprietor had no reason to suspect otherwise, and certainly no blame can be attached to him. This is the first unfortunate occurrence which has taken place at the Bacon House since its establishment in 1860.

Mr. and Mrs. Rasure have been in charge of the Rasure House at Newton, Kansas, for the past three or four years. Both have borne a very good reputation, and Mr. R. was looked upon as one of the leading citizens and substantial men of Newton. Ben C. Arnold is well known in St. Joseph, having worked at his trade as a harness maker in this city in 1864-5 and 6. He afterwards started a harness shop at Albany, and soon after located at Newton, among the first who settled there. He made money fast and is now considered one of the solid men of the town. He was elected county commissioner, and has held several positions of honor and trust. *The Newton Kansan Newton, Kansas. Thursday, March 7, 1878. Page 2.*

WICHITA - David Rasure. David Rasure, who formerly kept the hotel of that name at Newton, and a Mr. Arnold of the same place, had a shooting affray last week at St. Joe, over Rasure's wife. The wife had gone off with Arnold to St. Joe and was followed by Rasure. The husband is expected to die, but the man who captured the affections first and the honor afterwards of the wife is all right, the ball striking his pocket book instead of his vitals. *The Wichita Eagle, Wichita, Kansas. Thursday, March 14, 1878. Page 3.*

KANSAS CITY – Shooting. The details of the recent shooting of Dave Rasure by the paramour of his wife, in the Bacon House, in St. Joseph, has already been given by telegraph. A few points in the life of the two principals in the tragedy will not be uninteresting. David Rasure is the son of Mrs. Julia Sweet, the proprietress of the house on the corner of Main street and Commercial alley, and formerly proprietress of the Through Ticket saloon, which was torn down on the levee some years ago. He takes his name from Mrs. Sweet's first husband, and came to this city from

Louisville with his mother many years ago. While Mrs. Sweet kept the Through Ticket her son Rasure started a house of odorous repute called the Globe House, and married one of the women. The closing up of the Through Ticket house consolidated the two establishments. Rasure is well known here, but does not bear a first-class reputation. *The Kansas City Times, Saturday, March 9, 1878. Page 4.*

David Rasure and his wife were divorced immediately after this incident. Later he married Jennie Halliburton, his wife until they died. What is known of his life after this follows:

WELLINGTON - An altercation took place at Wellington Friday last, in which Dave Rasure and William Sherrill were severely cut. The affair grew out of an attempt by one of the parties to perpetrate a joke on the other concerning the taking of a watermelon. Rasure became angry and struck Sherrill, when the latter picked up a grass knife and struck Rasure in the side, inflicting a dangerous wound, the point of the knife penetrating the cavity.

At this juncture Frank Rasure, a brother of the wounded man, interfered, and taking the knife from Sherrill struck him on the hip, cutting a gash about two inches in length and an inch deep. Rasure's injuries are dangerous, but not necessarily fatal. *The Coffeyville Weekly Journal, Coffeyville, Kansas. Saturday, September 13, 1884. Page 1.*

NEWTON - David Rasure, former owner of the old Howard House, stopped a few hours here yesterday. He is now in the drug business at Garden City, Kansas, and Guthrie, Oklahoma. *The Newton Daily Republican, Newton, Kansas. Tuesday, July 1, 1890. Page 4.*

GUTHRIE, OK - A Guthrie Killing. About 9 o'clock tonight (Dec. 24), Street Commissioner David Rasure opened fire on Policeman Frank Rinehart, who returned the fire, hitting Rasure in the abdomen, and inflicting probably, a fatal wound. It is stated that Rasure was drunk this afternoon and was placed under arrest by Rinehart.

By the intercession of friends he was turned loose; whereupon he went home, got a gun, and searched out Rinehart, with the above result. *The Wichita Eagle, Wichita, Kansas. Friday, December 30, 1892. Page 2.*

GUTHRIE, OK – Death. David Rasure died this morning at 2 o'clock, at his home, 520 West Mansur avenue. He had been ill for about six weeks with pneumonia fever. His condition became quite serious a week ago, when heart trouble appeared producing a complication of diseases. He leaves a wife.

David Rasure was an early day settler of this city and served on the police force. He was also street commissioner for two years. He moved from the city to some point in Arkansas, but about one year ago he returned to Guthrie and purchased property. He was 59 years of age, and one of the most respected and well known men living here.

The funeral service will take place tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock from the family residence, with burial in the Summit View Cemetery of Guthrie. *The Guthrie Daily Leader, Guthrie, Oklahoma. Monday, March 26, 1900. Page 8.*

.

WWW. PRAIRIETALES .US