

Bypaths of Kansas History

AN EARLY COURT SCENE IN BROWN COUNTY

From the *White Cloud Kansas Chief*, October 11, 1860.

A rich scene transpired in court, in our neighboring county of Brown, a short time since, the like of which cannot be found in the Reports.

One Clark was undergoing a trial upon the charge of resisting the officers of the law in the performance of their duty. The lawyer for the prosecution was in the midst of his speech, and was very severe upon the prisoner. He at length made some assertion, when the prisoner exclaimed: "You're a d—d liar." The prosecutor immediately stopped speaking, and made a lunge at the prisoner. The latter sprang out at the door, and streaked it around the court house, the prosecutor in pursuit. So they had it round and round, the distance between them remaining about ten feet, and neither one appearing to gain. The spectators stood watching the result with breathless interest, no one saying a word, with the exception of a Methodist preacher, who could hold in no longer, but yelled to the pursuer: "Hit him in the ribs! Hit him in the ribs!" But the prosecutor, not having the requisite length of arm for that business, did not hit him in the ribs, and was finally forced to give up the fruitless chase. We believe that was the last of the trial!

WHEN THE RELIGIOUS STORY REACHED CALDWELL

From the *Caldwell Commercial*, August 24, 1882.

Civilization is advancing in the west, particularly in that portion of it covered by the town of Caldwell. And for why? Because the Winchester and self-cocker have given place to nature's arms, good "bunches of fives," and perhaps a stick. Two ructions of that kind occurred last week, one on Thursday and the other on Saturday. Uncle Bill Corzine says the first row arose from the circumstance of one of our well known citizens having attended church or prayer meeting (we have such things in Caldwell) the night previous, where he learned for the first time that the Jews had killed the Gentile Savior something over eighteen hundred years ago. It incensed him to such an extent that the next morning he pitched on the first Jew he met. Bat. Carr and Henry Brown [city marshals], both of whom appear always to be in the way when any fun is going on, stepped up just in time to stop the citizen in his mad endeavor to avenge the wrongs of eighteen centuries standing, and quietly conducted him before his honor Judge Kelly. Uncle Bill says that his honor, putting on all his magisterial dignity, asked the prisoner in his most impressive tones: "What have you to do with Christ, anyhow?" Being unable to answer the conundrum his honor told him to contribute to the depleted city treasury the amount of five dollars, with an extra "In God we trust," to maintain the dignity of the court. The next imitation of a Democratic ward meeting, was brought about by a difference arising from a financial settlement. Both parties got the worst of the row, physically and financially. But while they may feel sore and somewhat distressed, we must congratulate them upon being pioneers in the new order of things that makes the six shooter in this community of no more account than a toy pistol.