

**Over the County**

**SOUTHWEST BREEZES**  
By Romaine Saunders

**KID WADE**

Wednesday night, February 6, 1884, the Kid was hung to a F. E. & M. V. whistling post one-half mile east of Bassett. A coroner's jury empaneled in Brown county, of which Rock was then a part, said he came to his death by hanging at the hands of unknown individuals. Those who knew considered it a time when silence was golden. After justice had laid an inexorable hand on Doc Middleton, the Kid was the recognized leader at the eastern end of a band of outlaws operating from the Black Hills to the Missouri. At the time of his apprehension young Wade—he was 22—was under indictment in Iowa, Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. Some distinction for a Holt county citizen. He had been schooled in the craft of a horse thief by the elder Wade, whose ranch on the Big Sandy nearly dug north from Atkinson was a rendezvous for the outlaws. There were always provisions in abundance in the Wade cabins. Hams, sides of bacon, antelope meat and beef hung from rafters. The last I knew, people by the name of Younkin were on the old Wade place.

The operations of the Middleton band caused the settlers of the Niobrara valley to organize what was known as regulators or vigilantes. They were officered with captains and lieutenants. It was often suspected but seldom proved that some of these "regulators" were using the organization as a blind to cover up their misdeeds.

On the strength of the various indictments, as well as general principles, four Holt county citizens, Capt. C. C. Dodge, Lt. Peter Hansen, Charles Messenger and Michael Coleman, undertook the task of apprehending the Kid. January 12, 1884, they swung into their saddles, reining their horses eastward. Information had been received that the Kid was in the vicinity of Lemars, Iowa. On the evening of the 16th they arrived in Lemars. Here they learned that the object of their quest was at Mansfield, sixteen miles out. The morning of the 17th Messenger, not known to the outlaw, rode out to Mansfield and located Wade, with whom he negotiated the purchase of a horse. A forfeit was posted and Messenger informed Wade if he would accompany him into Lemars they would get the money from the bank for full payment. The Kid consented to this, not without some misgivings. On the way into Lemars he cast frequent searching glances at Messenger, who rode sojournally on.

As they were leaving their horses to the care of the livery barn attendant in Lemars the companions of Messenger quietly closed in from three sides and drew their guns—and the Kid, the terror of the Niobrara, was a prisoner.

After twenty-four hours in the saddle, the Kid in irons, they arrived in Yankton, S. D., the evening of January 18. He had agreed to accompany them without a requisition on the promise of the four that he should have a fair trial in Holt county. They remained two days in Yankton. Here they saw commercial possibilities with their prisoner. A hall was engaged and it was advertised that Kid Wade would give an exhibition of his skill with the six shooter—at 50 cents admission. He had the reputation of being the best that ever flashed an ivory-handle .45 in this territory. That he went thru this performance in good faith without making a kill and his get-away clearly indicates his confidence in a square deal being given him, with no thought of the tragic end that awaited. And looking back over the intervening years the retrospective forces hte conclusion that the Kid, outlaw that he was, had high regard for his word of honor and a faith that was betrayed in those qualities in others.

At Yankton a second prisoner was taken, Joe Jordan, a brother-in-law of young Wade. It appears that Jordan was released upon the arrival in Holt county with the two prisoners. Thus far the activities of the regulators were clothed in the honored vestments of law and order.

On February 1 a kangaroo court was held at Back Berry's at Paddock. Delegations of Brown and Holt county vigilantes were present to "examine" the Kid. A tragedy was averted at this meeting by Mike Coleman relieving Henry Richardson of Brown county of his gun when he was in for shooting the Kid on the spot for telling him "you are as big a horse thief as I am."

Maybe desiring to shift further responsibility the majority of the Holt county bunch favored turning Wade over to the mercies of the men from Brown and the Kid saw the promise of a fair trial and his hopes vanish. S. J. Weekes of the O'Neill National bank was among the boys and men then living in the neighborhood to congregate at Paddock to "see the excitement."

Coleman and Hugh O'Neill protested the turning of the Kid over to the Brown county vigilantes. He had been promised a fair trial at home and should have it. They did more than protest. Hastening into O'Neill they swore out a warrant for the arrest of the Kid and sent Sheriff Ed Hershiser out to bring him in. Ed, like the Northwest Mounted, generally got his man. He trailed the group to the vicinity of Long Pine.

The Brown county delegation, under command of Capt. A. J. Burnham, probably by this time also inclined to shift responsibility, turned the Kid over to Hershiser. Capt. Burnham and another of the party by name of Matsor, offered to accompany the sheriff in with his prisoner.

These three with the Kid pulled into Bassett to spend the night. Hotel rooms were all occupied but they were told they could stay in the bar room. The Kid rolled into a blanket and went to sleep on the floor. The sheriff with his two companions settled at ease in their chairs. The cold February night wore on. Suddenly a crash of glass as gun barrels were thrust thru the windows startled the watchers. At the same time the door was flung open and a body of grim and disguised men appeared. The regulators had come.

The Kid was awakened and led to his doom.

One story was that he trembled with fear and asked to be spared that he might have a chance to mend his ways. Another was that he implored his guards to give him a pair of six shooters and he would get away from the mob and come into O'Neill and surrender. In telling of the affair when he got back to O'Neill Sheriff Hershiser said the last words he heard the kid say were: "I have been feeding you fellows and now you are going to hang me."

Did the Kid recognize his abductors as his own band of outlaws who resorted to a hanging to protect themselves?

**INMAN NEWS**

Vere Butler who has spent the past two months in Kansas City, Mo., has returned home.

Considerable sickness is reported in and about Inman, however nothing of a serious nature.

C. D. Keyes, who has been in an Omaha hospital recovering from a major operation, returned home Wednesday night. He has been in bed with a serious case of the flu since his arrival home. Late reports are to the effect that he is a little better.

Mrs. R. L. Sharp of Los Angeles, Calif., who has been visiting among friends here the past ten days, left Sunday night for Battle Creek for a visit with her sister, Mrs. Phil Lund, before returning to her home in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Minnie Crosser and son, Elmer, left this week for San Diego, Calif., for an extended visit with relatives.

C. A. Rasmussen and Mr. Ringette of Norfolk, looked after business here for the C. & N. W. railway Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Maxcy went to Winner, S. D., Sunday to look after business there this week.

The cook car belonging to the C. & N. W. railway which was on the tracks near the station here, caught fire Sunday afternoon. The flames were extinguished before any great damage was done.

Miss Donna Rae Jacox, who works in O'Neill, was at home several days last week with the flu.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Haddin Geary Sunday, Jan. 10, a baby boy. Mother and son are doing nicely.

Word was received here this week by relatives of the death of Ed. Green at Missouri Valley, Iowa. Mr. Green was born and grew to manhood in Inman. For a number of years he had made his home with his daughter in Missouri Valley. He was about 60 years of age.

Vaiden Eugene, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Conard, is ill with pneumonia here at the home of his parents.

**EMMET ITEMS**

Mose Gaughenbaugh, Clarence Earl Farr were in Emmet Monday on business.

Miss Viola Haines will teach the Willam Mullen school during the absence of Mrs. Ralph Fritton, who is ill in an Omaha hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Clausen of O'Neill, were in Emmet Monday calling on friends.

Mildred O'Connell was calling on friends in Emmet Monday.

Helen Hoehne left Tuesday for Omaha. She will go from there to Denver, Colo.

Several members of the Frank Sesler family have been ill the past week. Mr. Sesler, who had a bad attack of the flu, is much improved, as are the others.

Mrs. John Bonenberger was a caller in O'Neill Tuesday.

Miss Anna Vequist was in Emmet on business Thursday morning. Jim O'Connor has been ill with flu but is able to be up now.

Bob Pease was in Emmet Tuesday on business. He reports that the snow out his way has been so deep that he has been unable to get thru for a week.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dallegge and family left Friday morning for their home in Kimball, Nebr., after a weeks visit with his sister, Mrs. John Bonenberger and family.

Margaret Cuddy has given up her position at the Conard Store, and returned to her home in O'Neill. Mrs. Guy Cole and Mrs. John Conard entertained Rev. and Mrs.

D. S. Jay of Dixon, Nebr., and Rev. and Mrs. A. J. May of O'Neill, at dinner Sunday. While here, Mr. Jay baptized Mary Lou, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Conard.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Swick and children of Clinton, returned home Sunday after spending several days visiting at the home of her father, W. R. Tenborg, and sister, Mrs. Anne Cadman.

Mrs. Frank Sesler, Mrs. Jessie Higgins and Raymond Thompson were in Atkinson Monday on business.

J. B. Ryan was a business caller in Emmet Monday. Evelyn Ressel of Chambers, is working at the Guy Cole home.

Eugenia Luben returned to O'Neill New Year's day after spending the Christmas vacation with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Luben, Sr.

Mary Welsh is staying in Emmet at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Jesse Wills, while going to school.

Mrs. Tom Welsh visited at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jesse Wills, Tuesday.

W. P. Dailey attended the livestock sale Tuesday at Atkinson.

Clyde Allen was in O'Neill on business Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. W. P. Dailey was visiting in O'Neill Tuesday.

Guy and Arthur Cole were at Stuart Monday to attend a livestock sale.

Miss Marion Holbert returned Saturday from Sedalia, Mo., where she spent Christmas and New Years.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Puckett and son, Jimmie, were visiting Tuesday in Emmet.

Mrs. Ruth Wagnon and Joe Luth were in O'Neill Tuesday on business.

Marie Bonenberger visited at the home of her brother, John, from Thursday to Sunday.

Duane Bonenberger spent the week-end with his grandmother, Mrs. Ella Dallegge, in Atkinson.

Miss Theresa Pongratz spent the week-end in Atkinson at the Givens and Clarence Gilg homes.

Andy Brown of Sioux City, arrived in Emmet Tuesday on a business trip.

Mrs. Frank Foreman called on

the Emmet teachers, Geraldine Harris and Viola Kellar, Sunday afternoon.

George Frohardt of Atkinson, was a business caller in Emmet Tuesday.

Larry Tenborg made a business trip to Stuart Sunday afternoon.

(Continued on page 8, column 2.)

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