

STATEMENT OF A. R. GORDON

I entered the grocery and saloon business in Granbury in 1871 and soon after employed Richard St. Helen for about a year, after which time he left me and started the "Black Hawk" saloon. St. Helen was tall and slim. He must have been about six feet tall, and weighed about 160 pounds. He was of dark complexion, something like a French Creole, had small dark piercing eyes, a rather pointed chin, and a very noticeable scar on the right side of his throat where it looked as though he had had his throat cut. It didn't look like it had been done in an operation, but in a fight. He also had a scar on his breast,

While he was in Granbury, he was cut across the back of the neck in a fight and carried another scar as the result of this. One could hear St. Helen breathe for quite a distance, and this was worse when he became excited. I do not remember ever seeing him limp or complain of being crippled.

I think that I knew St. Helen as well, or better, than anyone else in Granbury. During the time he worked for me I could not complain of his work. He was a good worker. He claimed he was a Southerner, and once said he was from Tennessee. He did not have the appearance of having been in this part of the country long when he came to Granbury. When he was at Glen Rose, he took his meals at L. B. McClanahan's who were from Nashville, Tenn., and St. Helen said that he was from the same state. St. Helen was a fine penman and prided himself on his penmanship. He could draw pictures of birds, eagles, horses, and men with the pen, drawing his men so well that one would recognize them. His signature was very neat and he made fine scrolls when signing his name. St. Helen was a dangerous man when drunk. He was considered a very wicked man and always went around with a pistol and knife. He could pull a pistol quicker than any other man I knew. Once, I remember, he was drinking and quarrelling and about to get into a fight. I talked him out of it. He then said, "I don't want to have any more trouble with anybody; my hands are all dyed with blood." He always seemed to be dreading something and several times while drunk claimed that he had blood on his hands.

This didn't mean anything here at that time, as lots of the men had been mixed up in shooting affairs. He was always neatly dressed but not unusually so. He was very keen and could get up any kind of document he wanted. He wrote up some papers that helped a friend of his; John Reed, a gambler, beat an old man by the name of Ward out of a farm about three miles from Granbury. St. Helen wrote the claim or patent for Reed in his own hand.

St. Helen, during the time I knew him - all the time he was in Granbury, did not have a noticeable amount of money. It would have been possible for him to make quite a little money in his saloon business, but whatever money he made he got rid of about as fast as he made it. He left the women entirely alone. Kept away from public meetings and crowds, and never to my knowledge took part in any plays or entertainments. He was not interested in politics and never got dramatic unless warmed up with whiskey. He was inclined to quote poetry both when sober and drunk, but I never saw him read any book or have any in his possession. In speaking of him or to him all who knew him called him "Saint" or "St. Helen". He was well liked by the cowboys and knew how to handle them.

St. Helen claimed he was a member of the Masonic Lodge, of which I am a member, but never showed himself as one. He talked considerably about Masons and either had read a lot about them or was one.

St. Helen and Lee Nutt, who was also in^a saloon and grocery here, were quite friends. John Formwalt also knew St. Helen quite well and was in his saloon a lot. I do not remember that St. Helen and Finis Bates were ever intimately acquainted and do not think it could have been possible, due to their difference in age and character. Bates was just a young green kid and St. Helen a hardened man of the world of at least forty. Bates spent the greater part of his time while in Granbury in his office and practised very little.

I do not remember that St. Helen was ever seriously ill here in Granbury, and I am sure that if he had been sick enough to have friends in to care for him, that I would have known and remembered about it. Neither did he have a negro or Mexican porter in his saloon. As to the confession Bates claims St. Helen made to him, if made at all, it must have been told Bates as a joke just to "string" him along.

St. Helen did not room here at Granbury in his saloon at night unless gambling all night, which he often did. Occasionally he slept outside back of his saloon in a wagon and claimed that he could breathe the better when in the open. He never mentioned the assassination of President Lincoln in my presence or discussed any of the people connected with it. Where he went when he left here, I do not know. He suddenly left about 1875 and that was the last I ever saw or heard of him.

~~Signed - A. P. Gordon~~

A. P. Gordon

Sworn to and subscribed before me by the said A.P.Gordon
this the 20th. day of August, 1921.

R. E. [Signature]

Notary Public Hood County, Texas.

