

John St. Helen ✓ 48
D.L.(Lee) Nutt.

At the time St.Helen was in Granbury, about 1871-75, I was in the grocery and liquor firm of J.F. and J.Nutt Brothers, and always considered myself as a pretty good friend of "Saint"

He had something wrong with the inside of his throat which made him hoarse and wheezy. He seemed to be a little stoop-shouldered and turned his head as though he had a stiff neck. He carried a cane occasionally but not very often, and I never noticed him limp.

St.Helen could draw beautiful pictures of birds and animals. I never saw him draw anything else. At no time did he ever have more money that he could have made in the business, that I ever knew of. He could have easily saved at least a thousand dollars a year in his business if he had been of the saving type. He was particularly a good friend of Jno.Reed, who made most of his living by gambling. St.Helen was a man of fiye brain. It was talked around that he drew up a paper which helped Reed beat an old man by the name of Ward out of his farm. I remember A.S.Mc.Camant (now dead) was the County Clerk at the time and did not like St.Helen, who said he was a crook, and Mc.Camant would tell of the Ward deal with which he was familiar. I've heard Mc.Camant say many times "St.Helen and Reed are rascals." The Court House burned in the Spring of 1875 and the story was that Reed set it on fire because he had been indicted for some crookedness and wished to destroy the evidence. As I remember, Reed was tried for some kind of an offense but beat the case and got off in some way. I do not remember whether it was for the offense of arson or not.

St.Helen drank a lot and was awfully drunk several times and could hardly get around. He and Bill Mc.Donald were close friends, in fact I think it was Mc.Donald who brought St.Helen to Granbury in the first place.

Mc.Donald was a drinking and fighting man who got drunk frequently and was quite handy with the knife and cut Jno.Green up pretty badly.

St.Helen once started a fight in my place of business with a half-breed Indian by the name of Selvidge. St.Helen came in half drunk and in a violent and vicious mood. Just how the fight started, I do not

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know, but the first thing I saw was Selvidge on the floor with "Saint" on top of him. Bill Mc.Donald was in the saloon and ran up with a knife to aid St.Helen. I grabbed Hill and pushed him out thru the front door. When I turned I saw St.Helen going out the back door and found Selvidge back of the counter with a bloody knife. He had cut St.Helen across the back of the neck, opening the muscles, which left a bad scar.

The nearest St.Helen and I came to having trouble was over old Man Taylor, an old Confederate soldier, who hung around St.Helens place and mine. He was "simple minded" and cranky. St.Helen didnt like old Taylor and not only ordered him to keppout of his saloon, but also out of town. Just for what particular reason I do not know. Taylor came over to my place and St.Helen followed him and tried to run him out. I ordered St.Helen to leave the old man alone, which he resented and patted his pistol pocket at me threatningly but left without starting trouble.

I have some recollection that St.Helen was sick ~~an~~ one time in some room upstairs. Am sure it was ~~at~~ in the back of the saloon and I believe some of the men sat up with him and my best recollection, was, that he was pretty sick.

I donot think he sold his place of business to anyone, but merely sold his stock out adleft. He didn't even say "Good Bye."

I remember Bates and the only legal business I know of him attending to for St.Helen, was for some criminal offense which was tried down about Tyler, in East Texas. Colonelx Cooper was an attorney here at the time and was a particular friend of St.Helen's and they were together a great deal.

I have nothing against pates and always regarded him as an honest upright citizen.

D. L. Nutt

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 23rd. day of July, 1921, by the said D. L. Nutt.

R. E. Carter

Notary Public Hood County, Texas.