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# Trouble

Dick Chapman

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# Trouble

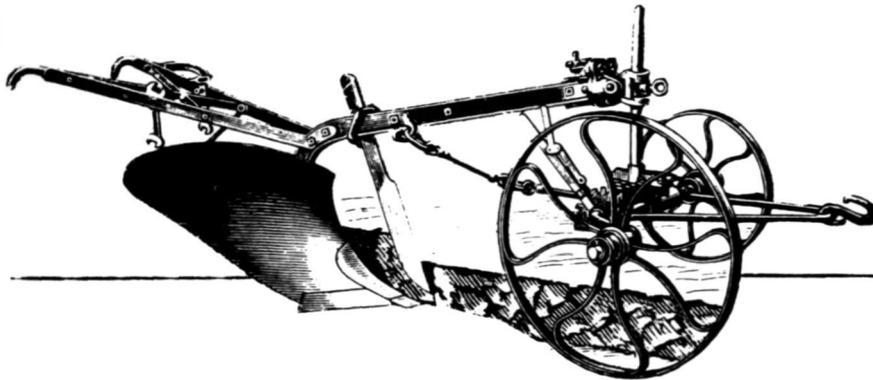
By Dick Chapman

J. A. Dunn, a settler from Kansas, was going over west of the river somewhere to see about getting the loan of a plow so he could use two teams in breaking out more land in order to double his acreage the next year. The time was 1895 or 1896 when the Cheyenne-Arapaho country was filling up with settlers from the North, East, and the South. The day of Dunn's outing was hot, and the sand of the Washita River bottom was hotter. Dunn was driving a team of small mules, one of which was spotted. His homestead was only a mile from the new Lone Star Post Office, which was established in 1895. He could get his mail twice a week since mail was now brought from El Reno.

Stopping at the river to rest and water his horses, he came upon three cowboys squatted on the ground near the trail; their horses were grazing nearby. There was also the body of a dead man whom Dunn recognized as a Mr. Cootze.

Dunn asked the cowhands what had happened to Cootze and found out that there had been some trouble about their cattle damaging Cootze's corn crop. During the showdown, Cootze had been killed.

The man responsible for the killing, Bert Atcheson, was eventually brought to trial; but a jury of mostly cattlemen turned him loose. Bert soon left the country and disappeared. This is one story that supports the idea that Cheyenne-Arapaho country was rather unsettled during the 1890's. ●



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