

Dead Town.

around deserted houses.

Murder Committed by a Texas Cattleman in a Yarn Worth the Reading.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Distance from the flourishing border, Texas, the Stephens houses a well-wooded valley a mile wide. Not many

was riding there with Mr. Stephens, of Tennessee, who was bound for stray cattle.

across the valley we turned into what had once been a grass-grown, and marked a cow path that twisted and along the trees. We had ridden a mile from the main road, when we came into a

where were some 50 or 60 frame houses, quite a little

As we rode along I perceived half-raised windows

and that among all these there was a human being's

each was empty, bare and there was a broad, wide

wheels had long ago ceased to turn. On this street were

four store buildings, a two-story hall and a little steeped at the upper end was a coal

engine house, outbuildings, all complete. There was a

trade, from which ties and long been taken.

possible to describe the eerie produced upon me by this

own. Of course, I piled with questions, and found that

of the place was Newcastles, a day it was full of life and

great coal-producer, that day and night, employing a

at good wages; that the railroad was a spur from

for many years no one had lived here, and the place was

living things, except thousands of flies, which thrived and

down in the mine. Why these conditions existed, and just as Jim

questions from me, and just as Jim Williams told it to me, I, in turn, wrote a story of Newcastle:

"A good many years ago," said he, "this was one of the liveliest and best

for its size in Texas. Tons and tons of good coal was hoisted out

at mine, and there's plenty more there for anybody who wants it. They

they and night, employing a

they plenty, and all these houses had

living in them. All on a sudden

ers began to leave in droves, and

their families, the mine shut down

ent of diggers, then everybody

of the railroad company tore the

Nobody has lived here since, the

the houses are good and rent

some say this was all because

was losing its owners' money,

they quit, but I know better,

was humming, with no signs of

the time the place was alive,

and a digger and threw him into

Right after that came the

You may say it's nonsense,

less or too much meat, whisky,

and things go on here at night

you can't get a man, a horse, a

dog, or anything, and I'm a snake

in a mile of it after dark I've

all, so has lots of others, and

of us have ever come back to

again.

at my dose when I first came to

part of the country, and about two

after everybody had quit, and

I had often heard about it, but

I take stock in tales about ghosts

such things. About dusk one sum-

mering I came through here driv-

little bunch of cows. I see good

in a well and good grass. That

is the very spot to turn in for

right, which I did. I rounded up

some staked my camp, and, as I

some grub and curled up in my

under that lone tree down

front of the biggest store.

I bunk in a house for it was sum-

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