



mediately obvious that the political situation between them could not be resolved. But before the dispute could come to a head, Calvin died from typhoid apparently contracted while campaigning. His death ended that political movement and opened the route for the acceptance of full entry into the union – long awaited by much of the rest of the population.

Lucas County

LINCOLN, LUCAS COUNTY'S CAPITAL, was established sometime in the early 1810s and quickly grew as a focal point for the scattered farming settlements which grew up in the Green River valley.

It was the northern and eastern mountainous regions of the county and its diffuse and ill-defined border with the country of Canada, however, which were the predominate causation of the relative infamy of the area in the years before union.

Sparely settled early in the 19th century by an eclectic mix of hunters (mainly of bear and beaver) and woodsmen, the district had remained relatively peaceful bar the inevitable low-intensity conflicts between several woodland Indian tribes and the hunters who were seen as intruding on their land.

Following the Civil War, two new forces came to play. The first was the growth of the west coast cities – particularly San Francisco – in the years following the war, which led to a high demand for timber and a growth in the Lucas County industries harvesting it from the great forests where it could easily be floated down the Green River and its navigable tributaries towards the coastal ports.

The second was the finding of both gold and substantial deposits of coal in the East Mountains.

Immigrant labour – often Irish and Chinese – flooded into the area to work in the growing industries, migrating west from New York and also north from California. They established a number of new and almost lawless settlements in the East Mountain foothills – many of them little more than squalid long-term campsites.

The United States exerted little direct influence over the territory and in the early years the Cloudy Mountains were largely controlled by the Canadian North West Mounted Police who were spread thinly.

Not only were these settlements plagued by gang violence from rival gangs in the Irish and Chinese populations of the time struggling for con-

trol of the lucrative markets, but banditry through the countryside was also widespread rendering travel highly dangerous – The most notorious of these bandits was Tom Gabadine but he was far from alone. They were capable of turning their hands to various criminal activities; ambushing shipments from the mines and bank robbery gained them prominent headlines and murder lurid write-ups in the penny dreadfuls, but their workaday petty theft, extortion and gambling rackets formed the background to life in the camps.

The wave of population growth and its resultant crime almost overwhelmed the small, almost entirely volunteer, lawmen organisations heretofore entrusted with maintaining order. Up until this time, Lucas County sheriffs had not been overworked and the role revolved around defusing occasional feuding in the trading posts between groups of hunters. The men appointed had never been known for being particularly hard previously.

Their reactions were further hampered by several sheriffs in Havelock county which lies to both the south and south-east of Lucas.

The Taylor family held substantial power in Havelock. The two eldest brothers (whose wealth was allegedly

Tom Gabadine was born in either 1860 or early 1861 in Havelock County. He gained initial fame for shooting his father when aged just 13 – the story being given that Gabadine senior had chosen to fight for the South. After being captured he was held in terrible conditions in a Union prison regarded and treated as not just an enemy but a traitor for three years. He returned home a broken – and apparently violent – man. The violence eventually led to the shooting.

Gabadine followed this up with a num-

ber of robberies and murders in and around Lincoln – while still a teenager – before, with a rising reward on his head, taking his first leave of the county and heading south into Havelock and taking advantage of the sanctuary there.

Over the next few years, his gang got rich pickings from the mining and timber industries' worker populations. Gabadine, however, seems to have gambled much of this away. He was, by all accounts, an inveterate gambler who offset his poor luck (or skill) by reg-

ularly shooting those whom he lost to. By the late-1880s, as the territory became more civilised and considered entry into the Union, the safe harbour of Havelock was closed to them and Gabadine and his ilk disappear from the records. He is believed to be behind an attempt to rob a mine's pay-chest while it was in transit near the upper stretches of the Green River in 1887 but after that his eventual fate is unrecorded.

somewhat due to dubious means) were sitting mayors in both Havelock City and also the second largest town of Grensville. They, in turn, had appointed their younger brothers Brin and Gabe as sheriffs.

Some time in 1878, Gabe was shot while arguing about jurisdiction by a posse of lawmen from Lucas, led by the ill-regarded sheriff Carter Smith who was attempting to arrest bandits fleeing over the border. Brin, determined to have revenge, began a feud between the family and the authorities in Lucas that would take up the next two decades.

As part of funding this passion, he accepted bribes to turn a blind eye to some of the more notorious criminals of the area. They, of course, were only too happy to have a safe refugee in return for their practicing their activities outside Brin's jurisdiction.

The feud continued as the sprawling Taylor family brought forth cousins, nephews and eventually sons to carry on their corrupt rule of the towns. When Brin lay down his badge to fight it full time and became little distinguished from the killers and robbers living it up in Havelock's bars, the Taylor hegemony merely ensured a cousin was elected to the role of Sheriff to carry on as before.

It was only eventually stopped when the now fairly elderly Hiram Taylor's political career gained enough profile that he could no longer be connected to it and ordered it ended. Hiram aspired to be a senator for the new state upon union but he died in 1888. Brin continued to campaign on the subject of the perceived injustice until his death and

in 1902 his voluminous manuscript was published post-humously as *"The Murder at Greenwater Ford"*. His account of Gabe's shooting 'in cold blood' must be questioned since he was apparently not present and never interviewed any of the witnesses.

The sheriffs of that later time were more conscientious and slowly order returned to the Green River counties; many of the worst bandits migrated southwards or further north into the more lawless Canadian prairie.

As the 1870s and 1880s progressed and the size of the gold and coal finds was more clearly understood, the indian troubles grew.

The several days-long trails down from the mountains towards the towns had always been ideal ambush points for indian attacks – the original reason for the hunters to form gangs was for protection against this. As the indians began to significantly impact the mining and the territory moved ever closer to full union, the US Army began to act.

Establishing forts in the foothills, they undertook several punitive raids into the wooded slopes and valleys. On each occasion, indian villages were burned and many casualties inflicted. The indians reacted with predictable hostility and began outright warfare against the miners and small hunter communities. It was, however, in vain and the Army presence was ramped up in the months before, and several years after, 1889. Because of the raids on civilian populations, the indians were never

offered sanctuary on reservations and eventually many of the tribes were extinguished forever.

Once the easily accessible gold and coal were mined out, the remaining stakeholders sold their claims to larger industrial mining companies which could move in heavier equipment and fund ore processing stations; many headed north into Canadian territory and several are known to have participated in the Klondyke gold rush.

The timber industry of the East and Cloudy mountain areas was devastated by a reduction in demand (and hence prices) during the panics of '93 and '96, and many of the workers left the area.

By 1895 Lucas county, along with Havelock, was amalgamated into a new administration area, that of Greater Lincoln, and the wilds of the East Mountains were tamed.

Caroline County

FURTHER WEST OF THE GREEN River the land flattens and becomes more fertile. Without deep woodlands and the danger from indian tribes, Caroline County was widely settled through the 1700s and soon became a patchwork of wheat and corn fields. The town of Caroline became a major center for crop trading and gained a railhead as early as 1870. This led to a