

Arthur Chas. Curator,  
Historical Dept.

IT DOES NOT APPEAR IN  
THE REVIEW  
IT DIDN'T HAPPEN

# THE DENISON REVIEW

THE NEWS IN THIS  
ISSUE NEVER AP-  
PEARED IN PRINT  
BEFORE.

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NO. 18

## LAUB VS. ROMANS

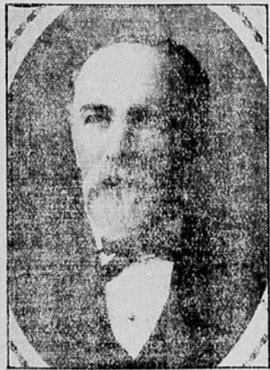
### Litigation Involving Denison's Most Valuable Business Property Commences Thursday.

### Ownership of the Laub Block on Main and Broadway is at Issue. Case Promises Many Sensational Developments.

May 5, in the District Court begins the trial of what promises to be one of the most interesting and hardly fought legal battles ever witnessed in Crawford county. The prominence of the parties involved; their standing in the community; the value of the property involved; the bitterness of feeling already exhibited; the many sensational developments hinted at by the attorneys on both sides all unite to make it "cause celebre" such as the county has never before known.

The property involved is that commonly known as the Laub block, and while the building is old, having been erected in 1872, it is from its location on the corner of Main and Broadway the most valuable single property in the city. It is stated in the answer to the petition filed by the defendants that the income is "more than \$500 monthly." Taking into consideration the first cost of the property which could not have been much more than \$20,000, it will be seen that it is now paying close to thirty per cent on the original investment. The block is occupied by The Boys Department Store, The J. B. Romans Company, The Bank of Denison, U. G. Johnson & Co., E. C. Chamberlin, Cassaday & Co., Haugh & Brummer, George Menagh, the Ferguson Art Gallery, nearly all the lodge halls of Denison and by the offices of Dr. B. F. Philbrook, Dr. L. L. Bond, Attorney George Richardson, the real estate office of J. B. Johnson and a number of other tenants. It is a veritable hive of industry and has always been rented at good prices. Mr. Laub first built the store for his own use, for his general store and residence, and for years the upper stories of this building constituted the finest residence in Denison. A portion of the block on Broadway was added in the early eighties and this too has been occupied by good tenants at first class rentals. Mr. Menagh has purchased the two eastern rooms of the Broadway block, and we do not understand that his deed will be affected by the litigation.

The REVIEW does not think it right



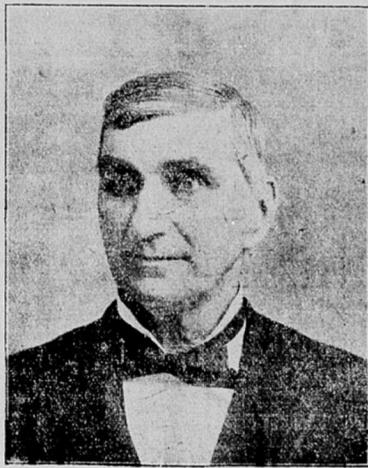
J. B. ROMANS.

or proper at this time to say anything which might be construed or unfair to either party. The case is about to be tried upon its merits and the REVIEW therefore simply states the case as it is shown by the papers already on record without mention of any of the current talk about what the trial may bring forth. That the case has come to trial at all is a matter to be regretted as it is bound to stir up and perpetuate many animosities not only among the principals but in the community at large. Already citizens and politicians and church members have taken sides in the controversy, and the ends not yet. At the same time, the REVIEW, as a newspaper, cannot refrain from giving the facts to the people, and it promises its readers a full review of the trial and the evidence that shall be offered. Henry Clay Laub, the plaintiff in this action, is one of the best known

and oldest settlers of Denison and Crawford county.

He is one of the few men who can boast a residence of fifty years in Crawford, having come here in 1854. He was born in Pennsylvania; worked on the farm in that state and Maryland; learned the trade of shoemaking, and finally taught school. In 1851 he came to Iowa, teaching a year in Muscatine. He then lived a year in Cedar Rapids and finally landed in Denison in 1854. He first went to farming, but he soon opened a store—the first building in Denison—14x18 in size; built on the corner of Main and Broadway—the exact location now in litigation.

The venture was unsuccessful as money was so scarce collections could not be made, and Mr. Laub went back to the farm until 1858 when he traded for a hotel and store and began business again, which business he contin-



HON. H. C. LAUB.

ued many years both by himself and in various partnerships.

Politically, he has held many offices. He was a member of our first board of supervisors; was county superintendent for twelve years. He was the second sheriff of Crawford; served one term as county surveyor and one term in the state legislature.

It was in 1872 that the "Laub Block" was erected and for many years it was the architectural pride of Denison. After withdrawing from the mercantile business Mr. Laub went into real estate and was at one time the largest property holder in Denison, renting no less than fifteen houses besides the business block. In this way he did much for the upbuilding of Denison. Various causes combined to bring about financial reverse, and much of this once large estate has been lost to Mr. Laub, although he still retains his handsome residence, and if the present case is decided in his favor he will have an equity in a most desirable and well paying property.

Mr. Laub has been a helpful citizen

of Denison in many ways; has shown much enterprise, and when able, has been generous in his donations to his church, the city and the poor.

Mr. J. B. Romans, who is the prominent person involved in the defendants' side of the case, is an Ohioan by birth and came to Crawford in 1870. He entered the employ of H. C. Laub as a clerk at \$30 per month, and soon after married Mary E. Laub, who, as the head of his household, was for many years one of the leaders in Denison's social and philanthropic life.

Mr. Romans showed marked business acumen and his rise from a position as clerk to partner and proprietor and capitalist has been steady and positive. Mr. Romans too, has taken an active part in the support and encouragement of church, city and public enterprises. He has given largely to the college, to his own and other churches, and has taken great interest in the Carnegie library and other public institutions.

Prior to 1896 Mr. Romans was one of the recognized republican leaders of the county. He was a candidate for various offices on the republican ticket and was chairman of the republican committee.

In 1896 he was won to democracy by the silver issue, and he has been active in that party since.

At present he is interested in the J. B. Romans Co., the largest hardware and implement house in the county.

It will thus be seen that the parties involved are of the greatest prominence in our community, and that each has a host of friends and sympathizers. As before stated, the REVIEW has no object in being unfair to either side, and simply wishes to perform faithfully its function as a public news gatherer.

Statement of the Case.

The property involved is that commonly known as the Laub block. Mr.

Laub claims that he is the absolute and unqualified owner of the property, but that his title is clouded because the defendants, Ione Elizabeth Romans and Junia Belle Romans, make some claim to the title by virtue of a contract made between Laub and J. B. Romans and W. H. Laub, dated Dec. 9, 1898, which contract purports to have been assigned in writing to Mary E. Romans, mother of the defendants.

The plaintiff further sets forth that the said contract and assignment were filed for record Aug. 31, 1903.

Further, and here comes the real point at issue, plaintiff declares the assignment of contract was made as security against any liability that might accrue to Mary E. Romans by reason of certain promissory notes given by her to the plaintiff to be used as accommodation paper.

That these notes were, with the consent of Mary E. Romans, used as collateral for certain indebtedness owing by the plaintiff and were returned to him to be returned to Mary E. Romans, but

Continued on Page Five.



LAUB BLOCK,  
Valuable Property now in Litigation.

## Menagh's for Hardware

We have just opened up our Hardware Department with an entirely new and complete line of everything kept in a first-class Hardware Store. Come in and inspect our stock. In Cooking Ranges we carry one of the best makes on the market

### THE FAULTLESS RANGE

Is acknowledged to be as good a range as the so-called best. It is all that its name implies, faultless. If you intend buying a warm weather stove, let us show you a handsome up-to-date

### GASOLINE BURNER

We will aim to supply the wants of our customers in this as well as other lines. Just at present perhaps you need a garden rake, hoe, spading fork, or hand sickle. If so we have them.

## Highest Market Price Paid in Cash For Butter and Eggs

### SUMMER HATS A NEW LINE COMING IN THIS WEEK SARACHON SISTERS

## MRS. EVA GIRARD, BREEDER OF BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK CHICKENS.

**PEN NO. 1—COCKEREL MATING**—This pen consists of 12 large dark 2-year old hens. I have mated to them a cockerel scoring 92 points. He is large boned, well marked, and a shade lighter color than the hens—all evenly barred. Eggs from this mating will produce some fine winners.

The following is a list of my matings for 1904.

**PEN NO. 2—COCKEREL MATING**—Consists of 10 large hens, all of good shape and color; weight 7 to 8 pounds each; splendid combs, beaks, eyes and legs. They are 2 years old and mated to a cock bird scoring 92 points; he weighed 10 pounds and is as fine a bird in every respect as I ever owned. Eggs from this mating will produce some fine birds.

**MRS. EVA GIRARD,  
SCHLESWIG,  
IOWA.**

**PEN NO. 3—COCKEREL MATING**—Two large, narrow barred cockerels, splendid shape, strong in under barring and color of wings and tail. To them I have mated 20 pullets, all as near the same shade as I can get. All large, evenly barred birds in this pen, and will produce some fine exhibition birds.

**PEN NO. 4—PUCKET MATING**—This pen is made up of ten pullets and hens, all of exhibition color. Mated to them a cockerel of good shape, splendid comb, perfect in beak, eyes and leg; rather light in color of plumage with narrow barring and will produce fine pullets.

Eggs from all of my pens \$2.00 per fifteen.

Peter Messner, a resident of Richfield, Wis., has completed a table 30 by 40 inches and 39 inches high which contains 250,450 pieces of wood of different shapes and colors gathered from all over the world.

John J. Doran, who received from congress a medal for valor in volunteering to cut the cable at Cienfuegos under fire of the Spanish batteries during the Spanish-American war, has just died. At the time he cut the cable Doran was chief boatswain's mate on the cruiser Marblehead.

**Homesekers' Excursion**  
The Chicago Great Western Railway will on the first and third Tuesday up to Oct. 18, sell tickets to points in Alberta, Arizona, Assinibois, Canadian Northwest, Colorado, Indian Territory, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. For further information apply to any Great Western Agent, or J. P. Elmer, G. P. A., Chicago, Ill. 18-24t.

## THE PRIDE OF DENISON

There is no equal or comparison to be made between our Home-made BREAD and others. Ours is Sweet, Wholesome and Nutritious. The Pride of Denison. Call and be convinced.

## THE CITY BAKERY