

# Dewey's account of events differs from Berry's

**By Evelyn Ward**  
*Sherman County Historical Society*  
**Feb. 27, 1904:** Dewey Defense Made Public — The defendants' contention of what occurred after the Deweys arrived at the Berrys' home differed from the account of the Berry family.

The principal feature was that instead of Dewey and his men shooting the Berrys without warning, that there was a fierce fight, in which the Berrys fired the first shot.

As the Dewey version of the tragedy has never before been given out in an official way until the inning for the defense, the statement of Senator Hessin is here printed: "The defense intends to show that Chauncey Dewey is 25 years of age. Three years ago he came from the University of Manhattan and then was sent to the Dewey ranch by his father.

"He was without experience. After he went to the Dewey ranch, he was a quiet and law-abiding citizen. The testimony will show that Clyde Wilson, 26 years old, was Dewey's bookkeeper.

"He lived in Salina. When the Spanish war broke out, he entered the Twentieth Kansas regiment and is now suffering from a wound to the knee. William McBride was a member of the Sixteenth United States artillery, and his captain, Captain Vandusen, is here to testify that he was an excellent soldier. Lieutenant Prunty, another of his officers, is here to testify as to his excellent record as a soldier.

"There never was any serious trouble between the Deweys and Berrys prior to April, 1902. The Dewey ranch headquarters was on a creek. Daniel Berry lived a mile and one half east. The surrounding land was owned by C.P. Dewey.

"His farmers in that April went upon the Dewey land to sow it in barley. The Berrys had no claim upon the land. Beach Berry ordered them to get off, and according to orders, they quietly went away.

"The same day, Burch Berry, with a gun, drove Chauncey Dewey and McBride from the same land. The courts granted an injunction to restrain the Berrys from the land and to prevent them from interfering with the Deweys.

"Notwithstanding the injunction, four of our men were attacked and driven away by the Berrys. Roy Berry was arrested for disturbing the peace. Beach and Burch assaulted others of the Dewey men, but the Berrys dodged the officers and were

## today in history

never arrested, although warrants were out for them.

"You will observe that all times we acted in accordance with the law. The Berrys rode the country. There was organized a band of thirty-six men who came to see Mr. Dewey, but he was not at home.

"Then seventy-five came, but still Mr. Dewey was away. The Berrys were there. July 18, nineteen men, the Berrys included, armed, waited on Chauncey Dewey and demanded that he take up the warrants against the Berrys.

"Chauncey refused to do this. Burch Berry said to Dewey: 'If those warrants are not withdrawn in forty eight hours, something is going to happen.' The warrants were not withdrawn, and the next night, 12 whiteface thoroughbred bulls were killed. The prairie was fired, fences were cut, wells were filled up and other depredations were committed.

"The testimony will show that until April 27 there never was a gun on the Dewey ranch. There never was a man armed except the riders. After the bulls had been killed and after the Berrys made their threats enough, arms were purchased to make the complete armament 12 rifles and four pistols.

"Threats were made by the Berrys so often and so frequently that it became a matter of common knowledge that the Berrys intended to shoot Chauncey on sight. We will show that they were men without character and dangerous.

"A circular letter was sent through the country for the company saying that thereafter no armed body of men would be allowed on the premises. There never was after any trouble with the settlers except the Berrys.

"Old Daniel Berry carried a revolver and told persons that the Berrys intended to get rid of the Deweys. Alpheus also went armed nearly all the time. This will be proven conclusively."

"June 2, a tank was purchased at sheriff's sale by A. Winship at the Alpheus Berry place. As Winship, who was armed, entered the Berry yard, Burch Berry told him to get off the place unless he was unarmed. Winship bid on the tank from the road with the aid of the sheriff.

"When Winship and his two companions left the place, the four Berry boys met them at the road corner and

not only abused them, but spoke of Chauncey Dewey in the most objectionable terms. Trouble was narrowly averted."

Mr. Hessin then said that June 3 there was no preconcerted gathering of men at the ranch. He gave excuses why the cowboys happened to be there that morning. "Mr. Dewey took ten men to get the tank because he believed that if the Berrys had any idea of making trouble, they would take a second thought.

"They got off their horses. Wilson and McBride went to the door and told Mrs. Viola Berry that they had come after the tank. She told them to take it. McBride and Wilson went back. An auger hole was bored in the tank to let the water out.

"Chauncey Dewey was in the open, not behind the mud fence; Wilson was near him and McBride near the tank. Then the Berrys rode into the yard, dismounted and tied their horses.

"They walked across the yard with their hands upon their revolvers. Chauncey Dewey called out

'Stop! Stop! Stop where you are.' The three Berry boys drew their revolvers, and Al fired.

"Then our men fired and not until then. Our men acted in self defense. Beach Berry ran to the barn and then to the house. Instead of shooting only once, as he said, he emptied his revolver. We will show that the revolver of Burch Berry was not only replaced after his death, but we will make it plain that it was reloaded with fresh cartridges, that the barrel was cleaned with a rag, but whoever cleaned the barrel forgot to clean the chambers."

**Feb. 28, 1904:** Dewey Trial — The first witness for the defense was Edgar Cane. He is deputy sheriff in Clay county. He was in Rawlins county in August and September, 1902, and had a conversation with Burch Berry, in which Burch said that the thing for them to do was to get the Deweys out of the way. Cane said that Burch Berry was armed with a revolver at the time.

Charles M. Kryder, a Norton clothier, testified that he had heard conversations between the Berrys to the effect that if the Deweys got too damned fresh they would take a shot

at them. J.P. Pierce, a farmer in northwest Rawlins county, said that the Berrys stated to him that if they could not get justice in court, they would get it out of court.

Pierce said Berrys said they intended to burn the Dewey range. One witness said that Daniel Berry said they would fill the Deweys so full of holes they could never be put together again.

Ernest Berkhart of Manhattan worked for Dewey on his ranch from November 1901 to May 1902. He testified that Beach and Burch Berry said that if the Deweys did not leave the country there would be trouble.

N. W. Pearson was the last witness before noon. He testified that Roy Berry said the Berrys were going to kill the Deweys. Alpheus Berry told the witness that Dewey had destroyed his crops, and he could get no satisfaction from Dewey.

**Feb. 29, 1904:** It Being Leap Year — Will Receive Proposals — William Bode, a machinist in the shops, wants a partner for his joys and sorrows. Bode is 26 years of age, about five feet nine inches in height, has blue eyes and sandy complexion.

He is a young man of good habits and very industrious. He prefers an American girl but will not limit proposals on that score. Being a stranger and diffident, and it being leap year, Bode will receive proposals from any respectable young lady desiring a husband.

He says he has sandy mustache and chin beard, but that his chin beard is exactly like that of Kaiser Wilhelm III, and his mustache is like that of Prince Henry. But if these facial adornments are displeasing, he will have them removed.

His hair, although sandy, is inclined to curl, and dressed in his best. Bode, believes he would be presentable. His address is Goodland, and those wishing personal interview can arrange for date if they do not wish to propose by mail.

He reserves the right to reject any and all bids, but this does not mean he is hard to please. He means business and says that this is no "josh." *From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.*

## Worship warms the heart



### Calvary Gospel Church

**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Rains  
Fourth & College • 899-3605  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Service: 10:30 am  
Small Group Ministries  
**Wednesday:** Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.  
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
307 W. 13th • 899-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

### Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398  
**Minister:** Tony Kafka  
**Youth Minister:** Doug Bean  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9:30 am  
Sunday School: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:**  
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm  
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

### Word of Life

**Joursquare Church**  
10th & Clark • 899-5250  
**Pastor:** John Coumerilh  
**Service Schedule:**  
**Sunday:** Worship Celebration  
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am  
First Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!  
Grades 1 through 5: 7 p.m.

### Pleasant Home Church

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**Pastor:** Charlie Busch  
694-2242  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am  
Sunday School: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm

### Bible Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Glenn Hermanson  
Fifth & Broadway  
899-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Morning Service: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
(719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 am  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 am  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 am

### Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo  
Spanish Speaking Church  
**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.  
1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru  
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

### United Methodist Church

**Brewster:**  
**Pastor:**  
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST  
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST  
**Winona:**  
**Minister:** Rev. Bob Winters  
Worship Service: 9 am CST  
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

### First Christian Church

**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**Pastor:** Loren Strait  
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 am  
**Sunday School:** 9:15 a.m.  
**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups,  
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,  
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  
**Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing  
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler  
Nurseries Available

### Kanorado United Methodist Church

**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship Service: 10:15 am

### Church of the Nazarene

**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:50 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 pm

### First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman  
899-3631  
**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Hernandez  
**Saturday:** Informal Worship: 5:30 pm  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Worship Service: 10:30 am

### Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Morning Worship: 11 am  
Evening Worship: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** AWANA (Winter)  
and prayer: 7 p.m.

### First Baptist Church

**Pastor:** John Meckling  
Fifth & Center • 899-3450  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Worship: 10:30 am  
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm  
**Tuesday:** Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am  
**Thursday:** Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center  
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  
**Priest:** Father Hal Lycett  
**Holy Eucharist:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Thursday  
**Morning Prayer:** 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.  
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969  
Sr. Warden for emergencies  
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

### Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423  
**Pastor:** Bob Snyder •  
Residence: 890-0134  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am  
Worship Service: 11 am  
Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

### Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Jim Martin  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 11 am

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw  
**Sunday:** Christian education/fellowship:  
10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service: 9 am  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm

### Church of Christ

401 Caldwell  
899-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

**The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:**

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