

## Kansas Charley

### 1. The Cradle of Youth

- a. What was the child study movement?
- b. Who was G. Stanley Hall?
- c. How did the middle class and the lower class view of children differ?
- d. What nationality was Charley?
- e. What was the economic situation of the Miller family?
- f. What happened to Charley's mother when he was just five?
- g. What is a "half orphan" asylum?
- h. What is Paris Green?
- i. What happened to Charley's father?
- j. How many children were in the New York orphanage when the Miller kids moved in?
- k. What was the routine at the orphanage?
- l. What was the indenture system?
- m. How did Carrie Miller's leaving show the social/economic picture of the era?
- n. How did Fred leave? Where did he end up? Who was his host?
- o. What is the "orphan train?"
- p. Where did Willie end up?
- q. What "problem" did Charley have?
- r. How did Charley's problems reflect on the times ideas on masturbation?
- s. How did they treat Charley's problem?
- t. What was life like for Charley at the Booth's?
- u. How did Charley do in Kansas?
- v. At this stage in his life what seemed to obsess Charley?
- w. How did Charley resolve his problems in Kansas?

### 2. Becoming "Kansas Charley"

- a. What was "beating?"
- b. What was tramping like—its extent and nature—in the 1890s?
- c. What physical characteristics worked to Charley's advantage?
- d. What are "dime novels" and how did they impact Charley?
- e. Who was Charley's hero?
- f. What were "tramp directories" and how important were they?
- g. Why did he choose the name "Kansas Charley"?
- h. What were the Tramp Acts?
- i. Who were the "bulls?"
- j. What was "The Magic City of the Plains?"

### 3. "Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight?"

- a. Who were Waldo Emerson and Ross Fishbaugh?
- b. How different were they in background to Charley?
- c. How did Emerson and Fishbaugh treat Charley in Sidney?
- d. How did Charley treat them?
- e. After the murders where did Charley really want to go?

f. Why were the murdered boys exhumed?

#### 4. Attention, At Last

- a. After a stint as a sheep herder where did Charley end up?
- b. How were newspapers commonly used after reading?
- c. Who was Albert A. Stewart?
- d. How were Charley's constitutional rights addressed in Manhattan, Kansas?
- e. Who did Charley first confess to?
- f. Charley returned to Wyoming in October, 1890. What had happened in July of that year?
- g. What is a maverick? To what extent was Charley one?
- h. What is a "cattle baron"?
- i. How old was Charley at this time? Should this shaped his trial and sentence?
- j. How did Preston Loofbourrow, back in Kansas, seek to help Charley?
- k. To what cause did Loofburrow attribute Charley's actions?
- l. What was the position of the two murdered boy's families?
- m. What is rehabilitation v retribution?

#### 5. In Court

- a. What kind of lawyer did Charley have?
- b. What kind of prosecutor faced Charley?
- c. What was the Cheyenne Club?
- d. How important were the masons in Wyoming?
- e. What was the most powerful group in Wyoming?
- f. What is the difference between first degree and second degree murder charges?
- g. How important was the question of venue in this case?
- h. How important is the legal strategy of objections to this case?
- i. How important is the issue of drinking in the box car prior to the killings?
- j. Why did the defense always refer to the Manhattan, Kansas, confession as a conversation or discussion?
- k. How important were Stewart's notes to the defense strategy?
- l. What is a "Pyrrhic victory"?

#### 6. Boys Don't Cry

- a. Why is the title of this chapter important?
- b. Why were Charley's head and facial features important to the people of Cheyenne?
- c. How did Charley's defense attorney set him up for defeat?
- d. How did the press [and the people] interpret Charley's witness stand style?
- e. Why did Charley kill and seal the money?
- f. Was Charley a hardened criminal?
- g. What was the basic strategy of the defense in explaining Charley's actions?
- h. What was the prosecutions strategy in explaining Charley's actions?
- i. How did Charley's witness stand performance doom him?
- j. Who was Daniel McNaughten?
- k. Who was Charles Guiteau?

- l. How did masturbation fit into this incident and defense strategy?
- m. What were the nineteenth century attitudes towards masturbation?
- n. After a four day trial how long did the jury deliberate?

#### 7. The Politics of Clemency?

- a. What impact did Charley's behavior at sentencing have?
- b. What is a "bill of exceptions?"
- c. What seemed to be the main preoccupation and obsession of Charley in jail?
- d. What kind of background did Amos Barber have?
- e. Who were Charley's greatest supporters in avoiding hanging?
- f. What is a waif?
- g. What is the W.C.T. U.?
- h. How was the territory and the state of Wyoming unique in the 1890s?
- i. What was the position of the various anti-hanging of Charley coalition?
- j. Dillon, the railroad millionaire, argued what?
- k. Why was the Rochester Petition different and effective?
- l. Generally when was the age of accountability for crimes?
- m. How were those under 14 to be treated?
- n. Was the execution of youngsters between 14 and 17 unusual?
- o. Generally, how did most of the people of Wyoming feel about these outsiders relying to sway the governor's opinion?

#### 8. Acting Out

- a. What did Charley do in September 1891?
- b. How did the "boy as victim" argument give way in November 1891?
- c. What did Charley do in December 1891/January 1892 to harm his public image?
- d. How did he continue to erode public sentiment?
- e. What was the outcome of *Miller v Wyoming*?
- f. Who was Jesse Pomeroy? Why is he significant?
- g. How much would it cost the state of Wyoming per year to imprison Charley?
- h. What was Frank Bond's argument and how effective was it on the governor?
- i. What was the threat of vigilantism in the state?
- k. How did Illinois figure in to this upcoming execution?
- l. Who was J.P. Julian?

#### 9. A Stormy April

- a. What other "nuisance" plagued Cheyenne in April that hardened people against Charley?
- b. What was the Johnson County War? How did it impact on Charley?
- c. Who were the "regulators?"
- d. How was George Weaver's appeal so modern in outlook?
- e. How did the religious leaders of Cheyenne line up on this possible execution?
- f. How did his impending execution show the "calibration of death" to be an issue?
- g. Given the "scientific" projections how long would it take Charley to die?

10. "I Can Die Game"

- a. According to Charley's code of ethics what was most important at this stage of his life?
- b. What literary activity did he now become involved?
- c. As he began to write his personal story what was the main cause for his misfortune?
- d. According to him why did he kill the two boys?
- e. What religion did he "find" on his last day?
- f. How many people were present for the execution?
- g. In the technology of the gallows what was the water bucket for?
- h. How long did it take for Charley to die?
- i. Who ended up being Charley's father figure?
- j. Where was Charley buried?
- k. What ever happened to Charley's brothers, Fred and Willie?
- l. What ever happened to Charley's sister, Carrie?

11. Afterword

- a. Who is John Lee Malvo?
- b. How might modern neuroscience help us better understand Charley?
- c. Who are more likely to be executed in this country now?
- d. Who were the "child savers"?
- e. What is *In Re Gault*?
- f. What was *Thompson v Oklahoma*?
- g. What was *Stanford v Kennedy*?
- h. Today what states are more likely to execute young people?
- i. How does the rest of the world view America and its execution practices?