

Birth: Unknown

Death: Apr. 17, 1867
Belmont (Nye County)
Nye County
Nevada, USA

History of Nevada (Thompson & West, 1881, p. 347):

April 17, 1867 - At Belmont, Nye County, a gang of drunken ruffians seized R. B. Canfield, General Agent of the Silver Bend Mining Company, and, putting him astride a rail, rode him through town. Lewis M. Bodrow interfered and was killed. J. P. Dignon (Dignen), one of the aggressors was also killed. Dignon was the first white person born at Galena, Illinois.

Daily Alta California (San Francisco), 4/22/1867: Particulars of the Tragedy at Belmont.

Austin, April 21st. - By the arrival of the stage from Belmont we have obtained later intelligence regarding the recent tragic affair that occurred there. John P. Dignen died of his wounds at 8 1/4 o'clock P.M. on Thursday. Through the inefficiency or criminal neglect of the officers, the parties engaged in the late riot, after being permitted to walk the streets without arrest, have finally, and at their leisure, when popular feeling began to rise and the public voice clamor for their punishment, made their escape unpursued.

From the Silver Bend Reporter, published at Belmont, of yesterday's date, we glean the following particulars:

...after drinking and carousing for a time, they were about to compel Mr. C. (Canfield) to again mount the scantling, when Mr. Lew. M. Bodrow interfered in his behalf and an affray occurred, which terminated fatally to two persons.

So far as we can learn there was no justification - no excuse whatever - for the outrage upon Mr. Canfield, but was only a preconcerted plot upon the part of a gang of lawless ruffians to extort money from that gentleman for some fancied or anticipated grievance.

The Coroner's Inquest.

Although the Coroner's inquest upon the body of L. M. Bodrow was commenced upon the morning of the 18th, it is not yet at an end, and will probably not be finished until a late hour to-day (19th)...

Dr. J. G. Riddle, sworn - Says he resides in Belmont; that he is a practicing physician; that he was called on to examine the wounds of L. M. Bodrow; found four pistol-shots - two in the body, and two in the left leg; one shot in the body entered the back about two inches above the kidneys, passed through the man, coming out at the cartilage of the fifth rib; the other shot in the body entered through the shoulder blade course to the heart those two wounds were either of them necessarily fatal; one shot penetrated the fleshy part of the left thigh, passing entirely through the

leg; another shot passed entirely through the left ankle, neither of the latter passing through the bone of the limb; the shot marks in the leg range about level, passing through the leg from the side; it may be a little downward in their course; should judge from the shot marks that Bodrow was on his feet when they were inflicted; also a knife wound penetrated the right leg, about four inches below the hip joint, passing entirely through the leg and coming out an inch below the groin; another cut at the bottom of the abdomen is about three-fourths of an inch deep; examined vest which I was told was taken off Bodrow, and in said vest, on the right side found seven ball holes that did not take effect in the body; also, two in the back of the vest, corresponding with those wounds in the back of Bodrow. [Witness was here shown and recognized the vest.] Should judge the ball holes made in front of the vest were made while the deceased was standing on his feet; I think the same shots could not have been done by one man, but must have been a volley and shot simultaneously; that is my opinion; arrived at the deceased's place about fifteen minutes after the shooting was done; I found twelve ball holes in the body, the clothing and boots, which were shown to me as Bodrows; saw one ball hole in the boot above its heel, ranging downward; did not strike the skin; the ball holes in the body were not of one size, the one entering above the kidney being the largest....