

Sacramento Daily Union, 2/14/1868:

Homicide at Belmont (Nev.) - Recently Jesse M. Peters, who was shot by one S. Goldstein at Belmont (Nev.), died from his wounds. The following account of the shooting we take from the Belmont Reporter of February 8th:

Our town has been enlivened by another pleasant little episode, which will probably rid the community of two unpleasant citizens. On Thursday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, S. Goldstein, a merchant of this place, shot and mortally wounded Jesse M. Peters, at Brown's saloon. Goldstein fired four or five shots into Peters, who, though still living as we go to press, it is thought cannot possibly survive. While Goldstein was attending to Peters, a man named Frank Hamilton, a friend of Peters, seized a pistol from a holster upon the saddle of a horse standing upon the sidewalk in front of the building, and as Goldstein was retiring fired several shots at him, but without hitting him. For this little side play Hamilton is now in limbo, and will probably be sent up for a good long term. The immediate cause of the shooting was as follows:

Some three or four weeks since Goldstein and others located a claim upon the eastern end of the extensive salt field near Silver Peak. Before they had taken legal possession of it Peters followed some of the party there, and also laid claim to it. Goldstein procured the services of the County Surveyor, and had it surveyed and occupied as soon as practicable. While upon the ground with the Surveyor, Peters came there, abused Goldstein shamefully, beating him over the head with a six-shooter, shooting through the hat upon his head, threatening to kill him, and otherwise brutally treating him. Peters here had it all his own way with the unarmed man, but Goldstein very quietly bided his time.

Leaving the salt marsh, a day or two brought him into Belmont an hour in advance of Peters. As soon as the latter made his appearance Goldstein immediately attacked him, with the result given above. Peters had just dismounted from his horse and entered the saloon, and was in the act of drinking. He was armed with a large knife, and had he possessed true bravery could easily have used it with fatal effect upon his assailant. The primary cause of Peters' hostility to Goldstein arose from the fact that the latter refused to sell tickets to the former and his friend Hamilton, for the Masonic ball given at the Cosmopolitan, in this place, on New Year's night - no such men being wanted there. Peters persistently "hunted his man," and he found him when he least expected it.

Peters is a young man, not more than 25 years of age, and was slightly crippled by a shot in the leg, received in a row in Montana or Idaho. He may have possessed some excellent qualities, but his bad associations and many bad acts overshadowed them all, and there are non in this community who will be sorry that he is gone.

Goldstein gave himself up to the authorities, had an examination before Justice Davis and was acquitted. The atmosphere of Belmont is getting to be unhealthy for rowdies and those who court the title of desperado. They must hunt other quarters or be peaceable and quiet. Let them be forewarned.

History of Nevada (Thompson & West, 1881, p. 348):

February 6, 1868 - Jesse M. Peters was killed by S. Goldstein, at Belmont, Nye County. The former had threatened to take the life of the latter. No action was taken in the matter, as the shooting was considered to be justifiable.