

Birth: Unknown

Death: Apr. 17, 1867

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.

...An inquest was held on Thursday evening by Justice S. G. Davis, acting Coroner, upon the body of John P. Dignen, when several witnesses were examined, and the following verdict was rendered by the Coroner's jury:

"We, the undersigned Coroner's jury, at an inquest held in the town of Belmont, Nye County, Nevada, find that the name of the deceased was John P. Dignen, that he was about forty years old, that he died from the effect of gunshot wounds inflicted by L. M. Bodrow on the evening of April 17, 1867."