

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

(BY W. J. ELLIOTT.)

Fairfield county had two men as citizens whose main characteristics were their courage. They could always be counted on in any emergency during the Reconstruction period—and never failed. They were brothers, one named Jack and the other John. A great many people thought Jack was named John but his real name was Jackson. They were sons of old man Bob McCarley who was a decided character himself. My maternal grand mother, who was born in

where most of the Scotch Irish in Fairfield came from, told me that Robert McCarley's father was sheriff in Ireland and owned a great many horses and hounds which, she said, accounted for the sporting blood in the McCarleys in Fairfield. She told me that the sheriff had Robert planting potatoes in Ireland in some very long rows, and becoming weary of such common occupation, he planted

it to the end of the row and sat the basket down on the ground. The sheriff looked for Robert to come back in a certain time, but the next he heard of Robert was by letter from America where he had gone and from whence he never returned. During the Civil War Robert McCarley kept a pack of blood hounds with which he chased runaway negroes, and in some instances Yankee soldiers. Just previous to the war he and one of his brothers, Hugh, I think,

John D. McCarley once told me that they had fitted out a wagon to go to Louisiana. They got the wagon almost finished but did not get the floor down, as John D. they wanted to come to Winnsboro to get some liquor to put on the trip. Returning to Blackstock, he said, they had the whiskey thoroughly

something frightened the horses and ran away throwing Robert out of the wagon. He was not able to walk in the direction the wagon had taken. He found Hugh sitting on the only plank left, holding securely to the cherished jug. He approached the team Hugh did not know the cause of the high speed, said, Robert for fidelity's sake dont drive so fast any more. These two men, all the McCarleys were good soldiers. General Bratton wrote Hugh McCarley's epitaph and I've heard the general remark frequently of his fine qualities as a soldier. He was buried at Concord church. It would not do to say you were a better man than McCarley in the days gone by—even in the family. Two of these brothers going home from Winnsboro together were quietly riding along when one remarked to the other: "I'm the best McCarley me mither iver raised."

The reply was, "and ye'll just prove it, will ye," and out they got to see who was the best. It was a draw and they got in the buggy and went on.

John D. McCarley was a soldier in Butler's cavalry, Jack was too young to be in the war. W. J. Martin late of Monticello was a born companion in the same command with John D. and many a yarn have I heard him spin at night in Winnsboro. Martin's face was so badly burned by an explosion that he could not wear a hat—had to wear a sunbonnet. "Down on the coast," as they always called it, the people had given nearly all the food they had to the suffering soldiers, so McCarley and Martin were nearly starved. Coming to a handsome residence with a hedge around it an idea occurred to John McCarley. He said, Bill you get behind this hedge and dont show anything but your bonnet, I'll get something now sure. Bill Martin obeyed faithfully. McCarley knocked at the door and earnestly plead for food, but the usual reply was forthcoming, we have given till we have nothing to give. Well, good people, said John, if you have nothing for me will you, for humanity's sake, give me something for my old woman. She is at the gate and has followed me all through this war. Sleeping with me in camp

on the ground wherever night caught up and she is nearly starved. With looks of amazement and exclamations of surprise and approval, they said, yes sir, we cant see a woman who has followed her husband in our cause suffer. She must be fed if our children go hungry. They came out with about a half bushel of "Hop and John," fat bacon, corn bread and potatoes. John

said they put it in a "bull rush" basket and he trotted out to fill up his old womans haversack, keeping Bill Martin hid behind the hedges. As he returned to the house with the basket he told Bill to move on behind the hedge. So Bill Martin's sun bonnet served a double purpose. Martin was a daring soldier as any in the army. I've been told that to escape capture when the chances were against our men he grabbed General Forrest's horse around the neck and locking his legs over the saddle, and this while the horse was running away, safely effected his escape from capture. Martins people were also Scotch Irish.

John McCarley could tell a story different from most men. He told me that while in Savannah he "wanted to visit Annie," but having no decent pants thought he would try to borrow a pair. No one could help him out. So waiting till General Forrest went to sleep he quietly slipped to the edge of his tent and stole the generals pants. They were, he said, ten inches too long. Knowing that there was a broad axe in camp he searched till he found it and in his haste and excitement went the slope on one leg different from the other. One was short in front and the other short in the heel—but in this garb he went to see the present Mrs. Annie McCarley. Another visit to Miss Annie lead to his capture. He was visiting or living at Blackstock when Sherman came through and he carried too long, was cut off by the Yankees in Duffy's Woods near the Shannon place and taken to Laurens to jail. The first night on the way the captured Confederates were placed in Tom Perry's screw pit while two Yankees marched around the pit all night. John said there was a sow and 8 or 10 pigs in the pit and that he kept the boys awake and enlivened by chucking them with pigs—that as soon as a soldier would get to sleep he would chuck a pig in his breast and wake him up.

The serious part of the capture came after they had spent the night in Lancaster jail. Sherman ordered 17 of these men, perhaps all these were, to be shot. They were lined up against the yard wall and John says his father was calling out, wont some good man pray for these poor boys, for God sake, some one utter a word of prayer them. McCarley told me that he heard the clatter of a horses hoof at a high rate of speed sounding nearer every minute. The tension was at the busting point—the arrangements were about complete. The rider carried a couriers flag in his hat, he darted up to the wall and handed a note to the officer in charge. It read thus.

"Headquarters in the field, Feb. 27, 1865. Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, U. S. Army. General: Your communication of the 24th reached me to day. In it you state it has been officially reported that your foraging parties were "murdered" after capture, and you go on to say that you have ordered a number of Confederates to be so "murdered."

You characterized your order in proper term, for the public voice, even in your own country, where it seldom dares to express in vindication of truth, honor or justice, will surely agree with you in pronouncing you guilty of murder if your order is carried out.

Before discussing this portion of your letter I beg to assure for every soldier of mine murdered by you I shall have executed at once two of yours, giving in all cases preference to officers who may be in my hands.

In reference to the statement you make regarding the death of your foragers, I have only to say that I know nothing of it: that no order given by me authorizes the killing of prisoners after capture, and that I do not believe any men killed any of yours, except under circumstances in which it was perfectly legitimate and proper they should be killed. It is a part of the system of the thieves whom you designate as your foragers to fire dwellings of those citizens whom they have robbed.

To check this inhuman system, which is fully execrated by every civilized nation, I have directed my men to shoot down all of your men who are caught burning houses. This order shall remain in force as long as you disgrace the profession of arms by allowing your men to destroy private dwellings.

You say I cannot, of course, question your right to forage on the country. It is a right as old as history. I do not, sir, question this right. But there is a right older even than this one, and one inalienable. The right that every man has to defend his house and protect those who are dependant on him; and from my heart I wish that every old man and boy in my country who can fire a gun would shoot down, as he would a wild beast, the men who are burning their houses, desolating their country and insulting their women. You are particular in defining war rights. May I ask if you enumerate among them the right to fire upon a defenseless city without notice, to burn that city to the ground after it had been surrounded by the authorities who claimed, though in vain, that protection which is always accorded in civilized warfare to non-combatants, fire the dwelling houses of citizens after robbing them, and perpetrate even darker crimes than these crimes, too black to mention.

You have permitted, if not ordered, the commission of these outrages against humanity and the rules of war: you fired into the city of Columbia without a word of warning, after its surrender by the mayor, who demanded protection of private property; you laid waste the whole city in ashes, leaving amid its ruins thousands of old men and helpless women and children, who are likely to perish of starvation and exposure.

Your line can be traced by the lurid light of burning houses, and in more than one of these households there is an agony far more bitter than death.

The Indian scalped his victim regardless of sex or age; but with all his barbarity, he always respected the persons of his female captives. Your soldiers, more savage than the Indians, insult those whose natural protectors are absent.

In conclusion, I have only to request that when you have any of my men disposed of, or "murdered," for the terms appear to be synonymous with you, you will inform me of it, in order that I may know what action to take in the matter.

In the meantime I shall hold fifty-six of your men as hostages for those whom you have ordered to be executed.

I am, yours truly, Wade Hampton, Lieut. Gen."

This is to my mind the most execratory letter one man ever penned to another, and when Sherman got it, he, as the old negro preacher said of the Prodigal Son, "come to his self." None of the men were shot. Sherman carried them with him to Bentonville, N. C., where Hampton charged his rear to relieve these men and McCarley escaped unhurt in the fight.

John D. McCarley passed to his reward a few years ago, his funeral was said to have been the largest ever attended in Winnsboro.

Rion Y. M. C. A. Notes. The next number on the Rion-Greenbrier Lecture and Entertainment Course will be on Friday night Feb. 12, at 8 o'clock at the Rion Y. M. C. A. building. A musical and literary treat is in store. In addition to the Carolina Male Quartette of Columbia, which is the musical attraction secured for this number, Mrs. S. C. Byrd of Chicora College, wife of President Byrd, will accompany the quartette with readings and recitations. Madame Byrd is a charming entertainer and with the superb music by the quartette an excellent program is assured. A piano has been placed in the Y. M. C. A. for the occasion. Admission, adults 25c, children under twelve 15c.

Two afternoons each week has been arranged so that the free use of the hot and cold shower baths and other games is turned over to the ladies of the community. A married lady will chaperone the gatherings and no men or boys will be allowed in the building on these afternoons. The afternoons are Tuesdays and Fridays from 2:30 to 5:30. The final opening will be Friday February 11. All ladies of the community invited free.

A half dozen or more young people were entertained by Mrs. L. D. Adams in her charmingly original manner last Friday evening. After enjoying a course dinner, the guests were invited to go to the picture theatre, where the rest of the evening was delightfully spent.

ROCK CREEK IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

An Organization That will be in All School Districts

Editor News and Herald: The first society of its kind organized in the county so far is the "Rock Creek Improvement Society of School District No. 13," and the ladies of that community are to be commended for getting up an organization so useful and beneficial to their neighborhood at large. They meet once a month at the different houses of the members and it will be seen by the rules of the society's constitution, given below that their aim is a good one, and we hope that there will be more societies of the kind established in the rural districts.

Their purposes are, that the women of the neighborhood may come to know one another better, may have a richer social life, and may work together for the betterment of themselves, their families and the community, to help make their neighborhood a center of progress and neighborliness, noted for pretty homes and beautiful home life.

We will especially encourage social meetings to bring the people together, such as picnics, lectures, school entertainments, singing, schools, spelling bees, etc.

To study home problems, the work may be easier, health better, economics promoted, and the day's work made more interesting through knowledge and desire for protection.

To study community life, in order to know the conditions of all our people and promote the influence of excellent environment; that youths may be supplied with clean, wholesome influences and pleasures, and that all have better opportunities, sociability, religion, and the development of the finer qualities.

To study economical problems that we may have good schools, good homes, good roads, good telephone service, and better health.

To study the needs of our boys or girls not enjoying all the advantages, and to share blessings with them.

Guests may be invited by members at the discretion of the club. The officers of the club shall be president, vice president, and secretary, in one. The president to preside at the meetings and to call extra sessions. The treasurer shall pay out money on the orders of the club, and keep account of same and make monthly reports of all expenditures. The duties of the vice president shall be to preside in the absence of the president, to give notice of meetings and keep the names of members. The annual dues are the amount of each members age, as their birthday comes, one penny for each year.

The present officers are: Mrs. W. B. Pearson, president; Miss May Blackwell, vice president; Miss Estelle Lyles, treasurer.

The organization is to be commended and we hope that it will live and prosper and reach the ends for which it aims.

ONE MAN KILLED, ANOTHER WOUNDED

Theodore Upton Runs Amuck on Greer Road.

Spartanburg, Feb. 7.—Theodore H. Upton, an employe of the Appalachian mill, near Greer, who ran amuck on the highway leading from Greer to the mill early Sunday morning, killing Lafayette Mims of Greenville county and wounding A. B. Waddell of Greer, is in jail here awaiting an investigation of his strange conduct. Upton is a married man and is said to have several children residing at Appalachia. Sunday night he appeared on the highway leading out from Greer, with a gun in his hand, demanding of those whom he met what they had on the road. He first encountered A. B. Waddell, against whose stomach he thrust his gun, which Waddell wrenched from his hand, but later returned it to Upton, to have himself again covered, and this time wounded in the shoulder. Frightened, Waddell put off for an officer, but before he had gone far Upton came upon three men, Lafayette Mims, John Walker and Cliff Brown. He demanded of these that they throw up their hands, which they did, but in spite of their disposition to surrender Upton fired upon Mims, shooting him through the heart and killing him instantly.

In so far as has been developed by the police Upton had nothing against Mims, and it is possible he did not know him. After Upton remained at the scene, he threw his gun to the ground, and was taken to the hospital by the officers. The case is reported to have failed to shed any light upon the mysterious case.

Upton is reported to be one of the strangest in the criminal affairs of the county.

Columbia Boats Swept Down Stream. The Ruth II and the City of Columbia, freighters on the Congaree river, broke from their moorings at Granby landing yesterday and left for an unscheduled journey down the swollen stream. The Ruth II, the larger and the finer of the two, was reported found late yesterday afternoon, about 30 miles south of the city, and a party will go to her aid this morning. The City of Columbia is drifting somewhere down the raging river, or in the swamps below Columbia.

Steel cables fastened the missing boats and several gasoline launches to a large tree. But the river rose higher than was expected and pulling the tree up bodily the boats became free. Richard Parr and Henry Shannon, watchmen, with two helpers, were aboard, and they cried for aid. The crew of the government dredge, which was tied up on the side of the river, heard the appeal, and Gary Ward, the engineer, and a helper went to the rescue. They overtook the Ruth II and put the four occupants safely in the government life boat, but while on their way to a landing place, the life boat capsized and the six were thrown into the water. They clung to trees until day break came and government boats rescued them.—The State.

Great Falls to Have Modern School Building. The following is from a recent issue of the Anderson Intelligencer: We understand Great Falls will construct one of the most modern school buildings in upper South Carolina.

Supt. T. B. Felton has received a letter from Mr. George D. Brown, state supervisor of rural schools, stating that he and Mr. H. B. Mebane, president of the mills at Great Falls, S. C. would be in Anderson early Tuesday morning for the purpose of visiting the new school building at White Plains.

Mr. Mebane wishes to visit the White Plains school in order to become more familiar with the details of its construction, with the view of building one at Great Falls like it, except of brick," wrote Mr. Brown.

This is just another instance that shows how Anderson county is taking the lead in the building of up-to-date and modern school buildings, which are so convenient, and so much like they should be, that other people hear of them and come to see them with the object of building another like them.

SEVERAL THOUSAND PERSONS HOMELESS

Breaks In Arkansas River Levees Disastrous to Large Section.

Little Rock, Feb. 6.—The rapidly widening lake in southeastern Arkansas, formed by the flood waters of the Arkansas River pouring through breaks in the levees, had engulfed a score of towns tonight, leaving several thousand persons homeless. Sixteen lives have been lost in the last few days, and damage that will probably run into hundreds of thousands of dollars has resulted in the rich farming territory.

Still greater damage is feared if the Mississippi continues to rise as in the last few days. Predicted stages at Arkansas City would endanger the levees there and a break in the Mississippi levees would precipitate a serious situation in the river valley.

All day the 700 men who remained in Arkansas City toiled in an effort to strengthen the levees against the fast rising waters and tonight they were hopeful that the levees would hold and the town be saved. The narrow strip of levee is the only land in sight there. On one side is the river, swollen until its surface is 15 feet above the level of the town. On the other side of the levee is the great flood lake nearly 40 miles long and 20 miles wide. From it only the upper stories of buildings in Arkansas City protrude. At the levee are three steamboats, one of which is ready to carry the workers to safety should they lose their battle with the flood. They are living in the second stories of their homes and in box cars on the levee.

Today the river rose two-tenths of a foot, to 58.7 feet at Arkansas City, and is still rising slightly tonight.

At Lake Village the flood rose at the rate of half an inch an hour today. At Gaines Landing, four miles north of Lake Village, 400 persons were on the levee tonight without shelter. Residents of Lake Village went in boats to the court house today where they planned to send a rescue fleet of rowboats to Gaines Landing.

In Clarendon, on the White River, where the levee broke last night water today is six feet in the highest portions of the town. The river had attained a stage of 37.4 feet and still is rising. Little is known of conditions in the rural districts of the flooded area, but there seems little doubt that many who refused to leave their homes in face of repeated warnings have perished.

Fred J. Henry of Washington, meteorologist in charge of the river and flood division of the United States Weather Bureau, who is in Little Rock, declared that a condition similar to that which now exists in Arkansas has never before occurred in the history of the Weather Bureau.

"Heavy snow followed by thaw and heavy rains in Illinois and other Northern States has caused a rise in the upper Mississippi River," he said. "The Ohio was flooded in its lower course and general rains in the valleys of the Arkansas, Red, White and other tributaries of the Mississippi have flooded the latter river until it will require nearly a month for the water to run out. The swollen condition of the Mississippi has made the Arkansas River flood much more disastrous than it otherwise would have been."

Cadet William Dixon of Clemson College spent the week end with his parents here, en route to York to stand the examination for West Point.

Mr. W. F. Stevenson, candidate for congress, states that he is still for road improvement by the United States Government: First, because it uses our roads to carry the mails; second, because it benefits practically everybody; third, because our states and counties in 1914 spent \$249,075,067.00 on public roads and the United States Government used 1,220,579 miles of them in carrying the mails, and spent nothing. Our states, counties, and townships will be loaded down with debt soon to build and maintain roads for the national government to use. Congress spent \$50,000 on an experimental road or two in 1914; and fourth, because the United States Government has spent \$475,000,000.00 on river work to make water transportation. Now help the river farmer by fixing his road a little. Will give more facts next time.

FIRST ANGLICAN VOLUNTEER

Episcopal Pastor Gives Up Parish Work to Fight for Prohibition.

(From The New York Times) Ready to begin a hard fight against the liquor traffic, the Rev. Dr. James Ewingham, until recently rector of St. Paul's Church, Syracuse, N. Y., yesterday morning took charge of the offices of the Metropolitan District of the Anti-Saloon League at 156 Fifth avenue. The new superintendent is an Episcopalian clergyman, and gave up a large salary to work for half the amount in the interest of local option in this State. He received hundreds of letters and telegrams of congratulation upon his arrival in the city.

He is the first Episcopalian rector to serve as superintendent of the league and as such will be received into the pulpits of his faith in this Diocese. His predecessors were Protestants.

The league received yesterday a communication from the Rev. Frederick Courtney, president of the Church Temperance Society, an Episcopalian organization and rector emeritus of St. James' Church. The Bishop said he heartily congratulated the league in adding to its staff so distinguished a man. He added: "It is to me the more satisfactory because, being one of our own clergy he will have its cause pitched in the Episcopal ranks."

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