

CONWAY STORY BACK IN 1864

The Leading Men and Where They Lived Their Lives

WOMEN RAIDERS IN WAR
Facts Written in Three Chapters as Told by One Who Remembers

Here is a story of Conway, which begins in the spring of 1864, and ends in the following year when the Civil War ended. The facts stated in it are given to the writer by G. J. Watts, who came to Conway as a boy in the spring of 1864, with his father, Everette Watts, the latter having been appointed to the position of jailer of the county. The family occupied the old jail which was located in the exact spot where the Grace Hotel now stands.

CHAPTER III

How Dennis Todd Was Sentenced and Shot

Following the incident which was recorded in our last issue in the closing years of the Civil War, the Yankees came and took Conway.

There was not much population to fear them, but what there was got scared good and plenty. Many of them fled and got out of sight as the Yankee soldiers came in and took possession of the court house and jail, and all such things as they happened to fancy.

Some of the officers and those who were loitering around the public square hid in the thick gall berry and sweet gum bushes which grew as thick as the hairs on the head between the court house and the jail on the spot where the Peoples Filling Station and the Conway Building Company now have brick buildings.

All of the negroes were scared to death and it was some time before they could be revived and made to understand that what the Yankees wanted just then was to get work out of them. The purpose of the Yankees was to free them, but the negroes were too ignorant to understand that.

The soldiers took possession of the old wooden store that stood on the corner, now occupied by the brick stores of the Conway Trading Company; also the Buck & Beatty store that stood on the corner where F. C. Todd now conducts a large mercantile business in a two-story brick building; also they took possession of an old building which stood where the Todd hotel and bar room was later on built out of long leaf pine and which was standing there until a few years ago when this was torn down to make room for the building which is now occupied by the Farm Implement Company.

These were the quarters of the soldiers during the period of weeks that they occupied Conway. There was not many of them as the size of the quarters would indicate.

It had been hard times in Conway-borough, and all over Horry County, as to that matter, but times immediately got much harder in the town than they had been before the soldiers came. They took possession of every pig, every chicken, every cow and steer or heifer that could be found to make food for their cook pots. Those who had these things had to give them up as well as supplies of corn, fodder, rice, sweet potatoes and dried beef and bacon. It took much to feed the soldiers while they stayed, and they did not stay an ylonger than was about necessary to wipe out all the food supplies that could be found inside the place and for many miles in the surrounding country. This was not very long before the close of the Civil War when the men could return to their homes and take up life once more in the fields and in the sticks.

The men who went from Horry County to fight the battles of the lost cause were as brave as Horry men have always been. They were schooled in the standing of the hard knocks before they went to the war. During the war there was nothing but privation for them. When they returned they came home to face a terrible condition of affairs. Before they left it had been bad enough, and when they returned they found it worse than it had been before. Their little fields were full of bushes and briars in many places. The women and children and the old men had done what they could to raise crops while the men went on, but they had not a minute of time to spend on making improvements or keeping up repairs. It was to a condition like this that the Confederate soldier, Dennis Todd, expected to return. He had fought through the Civil War as a brave and faithful follower of the cause, and he was on his way back home where he had been doing duty along the coast of eastern North and South Carolina. He was worn out bodily and mentally, and was foot-sore from the long tramp after the surrender and he was

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HORRYITE DIES SUMTER LOSES

John Saye Buck Passes Away Very Suddenly. Leader in Business

Sumter, Feb. 10.—Special—John Saye Buck, a well-known and highly esteemed, as well as one of the most active business men in Sumter, died early this morning at the Tuomey Hospital, where he was taken two days ago for treatment. He was forty-seven years of age and is survived by his widow, who previous to her marriage was Miss Leila Beatty, of Conway, and five children, Edward, a student at Clemson College; Gene, a girl in the Sumter High School, and three smaller sons, John, Jr., Alex and Archer.

Mr. Buck came to Sumter from Conway about fifteen years ago and has been engaged most of his time in Sumter in the bottling of soft drinks, first with the Coca Cola Bottling Company and for the past five years as manager of the Chero Cola Bottling Company. He took an active interest in all community matters and was always a strong advocate of progressive steps for Sumter. His last work was in connection with the reorganization of a board of trade last Tuesday night. He was appointed chairman of the steering committee and worked hard to make the meeting of Sumter's business men a success. He was taken ill the night after the meeting, but was up the next day. Thursday morning he was again taken ill and became unconscious, never regaining consciousness before his death.

The deceased was a past master of Claremont Lodge No. 84, A. F. M., and was at his death a senior warden of the past masters' club of Masons. He was a member of the Rotary Club and took an active part in the Young Men's Business League. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church, but not an active one in the Sumter church during his residence in Sumter.

The funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the late residence on West Calhoun street and will be conducted by Claremont Lodge of Masons. Interment will be at the Sumter cemetery.

DUNCAN LETTER SENT FORWARD

Another and Similiar Missive in Hands of The Agents

GUNS TAKEN FROM MEN

Trouble Brewing About Grassy Bay School Children Moving Away

The Herald has made an investigation so far as the paper was able to ascertain further facts in connection with the shooting of D. A. Duncan in the Green Sea section of Horry County recently. The story of this outrage appeared in the issue of The Herald last week wherein it was stated that as Mr. Duncan was passing Grassy Bay church, men who were concealed in the shadow of the building, fired several loads of shot into his buggy, missing him, as it happened, but filling the buggy full of shot and hitting the mule in several places. The Herald could not obtain the original letter written to Duncan, and which he received some time before he was shot at. A few weeks ago he received a letter which was signed with three capital Ks, and which had been mailed at Marion, S. C., and addressed to D. A. Duncan; and the substance of the letter was that he must open a road leading from M. C. Blackwell's house to the public road and must treat his neighbors with kindness and move out of the neighborhood in a short time, or the writers would "get him."

Duncan kept the letter a few days and investigated and then turned this letter over to the authorities.

It is said that another man in the community at about the same time received a letter which was apparently in the same handwriting as the Duncan letter and apparently written with the same pen and ink and the same kind of envelope was used. It is said that this other letter was also turned over to the United States Department of Justice and probably also reported to the Post Office Department.

The Herald was not able to obtain the name of this other man who got a letter, but it is stated that shortly after he got this letter the children at Grassy Bay school become so cruel in their treatment to this man's children that he wrote the teachers a note in which he stated that if things were not improved he would have to stop his children from the school.

He undertook to get his children in at the Green Sea school but the patrons of the Grassy Bay school objected to this as it would cause the Grassy Bay school to lose credit with the school department. It is said that further trouble is brewing over the school matter and there is no telling where it may end.

Olin Blanton, who is a deputy, Wil-

DID NOT WRITE THE LETTER

In our last issue appeared an account of the receipt of a threatening letter received by Rufus M. Jenrette barring him from free speech on the night of February 22nd, when it had been arranged that the literary society would debate on the question of the Ku Klux Klan; there was also some mention made of a similar letter received by another one of the debaters.

It would appear that the responsibility for the writing and mailing of these letters has been variously charged by people of the community who have taken sides in the affair.

The Herald has received a letter from one of the young men of that section of the county in which he emphatically denies certain reports about his having originated the letter or letters.

In order to give the same publicity to this letter that the paper gave to the news item mentioned, the letter is here printed in full:

Adrian, S. C.,
Feb. 9, 1923

Editor Herald:

Please publish the following:

Inasmuch as certain parties have tried to connect me with the sending out of recent notices purported to have been sent by the K. K. K. I desire to say that I did not know a thing about these notices until I was so informed by others. Any person telling that I did so is a falsifier and a slanderer and will be prosecuted to the limit if I can ascertain his identity. Neither have I any knowledge about a Klan being in existence in this community and I know it as well as any one. I have heard there was such, but of my own knowledge I know nothing about it. I hold no briefs for the K. K. K.—any such organization is not to be desired in this community and if there is such I know nothing of it. Those who have nothing more to do than to accuse me of any participation in any acts recently committed in this community would do well to be in position to prove it. I certainly am not going to sit quietly by and allow it to occur.

J. R. KING

COLLINS IS BELL TRUSTEE

Will Take Inventory at Early Date of The Estate

The first meeting of creditors of A. Bell took place in Florence, S. C., on last Friday.

The creditors present failed to nominate any competent man for the position of trustee and the referee, under the Federal law, appointed A. T. Collins, of the A. T. Collins Co., as trustee for the bankrupt estate.

A number of claims were filed. All of those filed claims listed in the schedules of the bankrupt and there was no contest developed as to any of these.

In a short time the trustee will take an inventory of the stock of goods of Bell and will list the accounts and bills receivable.

As soon as the inventory can be taken and the estate appraised by sworn appraisers, appointed under the bankruptcy law, the trustee will apply to the referee for an order of sale of the merchandise. He will undertake to collect the many accounts due to the store, and the estate will be wound up as soon as the necessary action can be taken.

Mr. Bell has been engaged in the mercantile business at Bayboro for about twenty years. During that time he has served that section of the county and made many friends among numerous customers. The people were sorry to see his store closed. Two bad crop years, coming in succession, according to Mr. Bell, has caused him to have to fail because he could not make collections from those who owe him.

He is postmaster at Bayboro and is still keeping the postoffice open. Aside from the book accounts and the like, the estate consists mainly of the stock of goods listed in the schedules at two thousand dollars. Some of it consists of salable goods while some of it is patent medicines and the shop worn accumulations of a business extending over about twenty years.

For many years Mr. Bell conducted his business in a store which stands close to his residence. Later on he purchased the store of the Burroughs & Collins Company, when that firm decided to quit the mercantile business at that place and ever since then the business has been carried on in the old Burroughs & Collins Company's store.

Lie Ayers and J. J. King, rural policeman, and also Fred Floyd, magistrate, have searched for guns which would show the source of the shells found on the ground and would answer the description of the holes torn in the buggy, which appeared to be made by one twelve gauge and one sixteen gauge.

These officers have found where the shells were purchased just a few days before the shooting and they have taken the guns which they fully believe fired the shots. The guns have been taken from Monroe Hill and Maybury Hill.

SECOND LETTER SENT DEBATOR

Another Man on Negative Gets Threat of Dire Nature

As a further step in the blocking of the debate that was set to be heard at Maple school on the night of February 22nd, another of the debators on the side of the negative, according to reports has received a letter similar in all respects to the one which was mailed to Rufus M. Jenrette, and which appeared in the last issue of this paper.

The second man assigned to the negative of the proposition as to whether the Ku Klux Klan has been a benefit to the United States, to receive one of the threatening letters was Wilbur Jones. In his letter he was notified that the eyes of the "Invisible Empire" are on him and that he must be careful about what he would say on February 22nd, in the course of the debate, and in substance, that the way of the transgressor is death.

Nothing that has happened in that peaceful community in a long time has so stirred the thinking people of a community. Many different opinions have been expressed as to whether the letters came from members of the Klan, or at their instigation, or whether the letters were sent by persons interested in winning the contest for the affirmative of the proposition.

One thing in this country that is highly prized by the people is the liberty of the press and of speech. People of widely differing views on religion or other subjects feel and know that in this country they have a right to express their views.

Why should not the young men of a literary society feel perfectly free and welcome to discuss either the good or the evil that the order might do? This is the question that the people concerned in the debating society might well ask at this time.

At last accounts it was stated that the authorship and mailing of these letters had been pretty closely traced and that circumstances pointed directly at one of the debaters on the affirmative side of the query. It was also hinted that legal steps might be taken at the proper time to find out if there is not a Federal law which has been violated. The United States mails cannot be used to convey obscene, vulgar and threatening messages such as these were in the opinion of those who are interested in the occurrence; and it would appear from this that the writer and mailer of the letters may have to answer in the courts for a violation of the postal regulations.

In the meantime, it seems to be uncertain that the society will use the subject they selected, but may change the subject.

Supt. E. C. Allen, accompanied by Miss Wil Lou Gray, had difficulty in making some of the appointments in the organization of the adult schools last week while the weather was so cold and wet but they persevered and met them the best that they could.

COLORED BOY HITS A WHITE

Incident Causes Unfounded Rumor of Race Trouble in Town

Rumors of a serious trouble between the races, living in that section of Conway which borders on the Race Path, reached citizens of the lower part of the town last Friday.

There were several stories of residents being out with loaded guns and that it was only the interposition of the officers of the law that prevented a riot.

Investigation by the chief of police showed that the reports had been exaggerated; but there had been some trouble which might have led to a more serious consequence if it had not been for cooler heads.

A son of Jim Davis, colored, had struck the young son of Charles Bruton, white, over the head with a stick. The white boy was painfully hurt, but not seriously. The injury appeared to be worse than it really was and his father was highly incensed when he realized the injury had been inflicted by the colored boy.

Bruton came down the streets with his gun on his shoulder, but he had taken it for purposes of protection in case of need if the trouble between the boys should be renewed. He placed the matter in the hands of the town police.

The officers investigated and made the arrest and on Saturday morning the negro boy was tried in the municipal court for assault and battery. He was found guilty by the mayor and was fined in the sum of ten dollars.

The trouble between the boys arose over some matter of a trifling nature, coming up in the course of innocent pastime, as children will do. The incident took place in a section of the town where the blacks greatly outnumber the white residents. It is in the section of Conway where on both sides of the long narrow street which has been called the race path for all these years, the homes of the people extend for about half a mile.

The trial of the case against the negro attracted a large crowd at the town hall on Saturday morning. Contrary to the reports which had gained currency through the town on Friday night, there did not appear to be any ill feeling about the matter further than a desire to see justice done through the city court.

All sides seemed to be satisfied with the outcome.

ALLENDALE MAN DIES TUESDAY

POPULAR MEMBER OF CITIZEN OFFICE FORCE DIES OF PNEUMONIA ATTACK

Thomas Daggett Ogilvie, for the past three years in charge of the mechanical force of The Hampton Guardian, and The Allendale County Citizen, published in Allendale, passed away at his home here last Tuesday noon, after an illness of only a few days. He was taken about ten days with an attack of influenza which developed into pneumonia from which he succumbed. His death came as a surprise even to those closely associated with him. His wife and children and his mother, Mrs. M. E. Ogilvie, of Chattanooga, Tenn., were at his bedside at the time of his death.

Mr. Ogilvie came to this town in 1920 to take charge of the printing department of the publishing concern that puts out The Citizen and Guardian. Previous to that time he was connected with The Guardian at Hampton, coming to that office from Lake City, where he operated a job printing establishment. Since coming to Allendale he has made a host of friends by his friendly manner and his earnest and careful attention to his work. He was considered a valuable man by his employer, having had charge of the printing department where he discharged his duties with courtesy to all with whom he came in contact. He was of a rather retiring nature and was not so well known among the citizenship of the town but with all who knew him he bore a splendid reputation for energetic application to duty. He was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Ogilvie was a native of Conway, Horry county, of this state, and was the son of the late Mr. James W. Ogilvie, who was well-known in the newspaper life of this state. He was married in 1913 to Miss Anna Marlow, of Conway, who survives him. Besides his widow Mr. Ogilvie leaves four small children: Thomas Daggett, Jr., Elizabeth, Marion Gray, and James Wiley; his mother, Mrs. M. E. Ogilvie; three sisters, Mrs. Harry Foote, of Newbern, N. C., Mrs. W. E. McCord, of Greenwood, S. C., and Mrs. Alec Bowie, of Chattanooga, Tenn., and one brother, Mr. Mayo Ogilvie, who is connected with the Columbia Record of Columbia.

The remains of Mr. Ogilvie was removed to his old home at Conway and the interment will be held in the family buring ground at that place.—Allendale County Citizen.

HOLDEN TOLD TO MOVE OFF

Receives Threatening Letter Signed by The K. K. K.

REPORTS IT TO SHERIFF

Has Had Minor Troubles With One or Two About Hunting

S. H. Holden, a tenant on the farm of Henry Buck, known as the W. J. Singleton Bay Farm Place, in Socastee township, came to Conway last week and exhibited to the sheriff a letter which he had received through the United States mail, crudely lettered in capitals, and which in substance gave him twenty days to move away and out of the County.

The letter was as follows, as nearly as The Herald can imitate the same with such type as it happens to have in the shop:

2. 5. 1923

SAM. HOLDEN. WE THE UNDER SINED.

GIVES YOU TWENTY DAYS AND NO MORE. TO BE MOVED OUT OF HORRY COUNTY.

K. K. K.

Holden applied to the sheriff for such aid and assistance in this matter as the sheriff's office might be able to render him. This letter was left in the sheriff's hands and it was understood that the sheriff went to Socastee on the following day to interview the only persons with whom Sam Holden has had any difficulty since the latter moved from Marion County to the Henry Buck farm, three or four years ago. Just what the sheriff said to the parties involved and just what they said to the sheriff cannot be covered in this article and may not ever be, unless facts can be obtained later at the sheriff's office.

It is stated that in December, 1922, according to statements made by Holden, he caught George Brown and Ralph Watts hunting on the land of Henry Buck; that he, Holden, had been charged with keeping trespassers off the place, this being the strict orders of his landlord. He warned Brown and Watts, and with Brown he had some words which were hot and angry, Brown cursing back at Holden for some time, it is said. On the afternoon of that same day Holden met Brown on the road above the Cooper store and was stopped by Brown. Holden asked Holden if he remembered what he had said to him that morning, and what he, Brown, had said back to him, and when Holden told him that he remembered these things Brown answered back and said, "You put that in your pipe and smoke it, the words I said to you, and I will get you, Holden," or words to that effect. This conversation on the public road was heard, it was, said, by Doc McLin, Ed Smith and a negro.

This incident is interesting in connection with the further statement that in September before that Holden saw the Watts boys and George Brown hunting on this same land and they had killed a deer. Holden remonstrated with them about it at that time and told them to be certain not to do that any more. A little later Holden and a son of W. J. Singleton were both reported for killing this same deer to the game warden, W. S. McCaskill. Holden and Singleton stood the trial before Magistrate Chestnut, in the course of which Atis Brown, a brother of George Brown, told on the stand that he killed the deer himself and that the deer had been divided by him with another. The jury found a verdict of not guilty.

Aside from these things which are mentioned as showing the possible difficulties out of which this present trouble may have sprung, Holden stated to the sheriff that he has had no trouble with anybody of any other kind except with Wyatt Watts about some fertilizers. Holden saying that Watts had come to his place after he had sent him half a bag of fertilizer and angry words took place.

The note which is above described, together with the envelope in which it was mailed, shows by postmarks that it was mailed in Conway on February 5th. It was delivered to Holden on the R. F. D. No. 1, Myrtle Beach route, at his home, on February 6th. Holden lost no time, but came to the sheriff's office and reported the facts on February 7th. Holden claims that he has never been in any trouble in the law except as above stated, from which he was cleared, and he stoutly maintains he had been reported for killing the deer

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