

"Bloody Bill" Cunningham

(John T. Boffalett, in Augusta Chronicle.)

If you wish to read a blood-curdling story of the brutal deeds of a most atrocious man, peruse this article. I have made it my theme today in consequence of a letter which I have received from Mr. J. H. Crisp, postmaster at Fender, Tift county, Georgia, from which I quote the following:

"I should be glad if you would tell me where I could find the facts in regard to the 'Bloody Bill' Cunningham massacre at Hayes' Station, that was enacted in Laurens county, South Carolina, in about 1775 to 1780. I was born on a farm in that county which my father inherited from my grandfather, Charles Allen, of Revolutionary fame. I was reared by a widowed mother.

"I have heard that my grandfather was in the horrible massacre, but by some means he missed being killed, and effected his escape. He died in 1852, before I was born, aged ninety-four years.

"A monument was erected on the spot of the massacre, but it was struck by lightning many, many years ago, and broken into fragments.

"I should like to learn particulars about 'Bloody Bill' himself, and the terrible butchery of human life which he perpetrated."

The awful and thrilling facts I herewith present in this article. I have gathered and synthesized particularly from Ramsey's "History of South Carolina," published in 1853, and from Landrum's "Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina," printed in 1897. "Corwin's Memoirs," "Johnson's Traditions," "O'Neill's Annals of Newberry," and Howe's "History of the Presbyterian Church of South Carolina," also contain much interesting information regarding the outrages and atrocities of the infamous "Bloody Bill" Cunningham, as he is called on many historical pages.

William Cunningham ("Bloody Bill") was born in Abbeville county, South Carolina, according to "O'Neill's Annals." In early manhood he was promising and influential. At the beginning of the Revolution he enlisted in Capt. John Caldwell's company, which was composed of the most respectable young men in the region of Saluda.

One account says that Cunningham was disappointed in not receiving the commission of a first lieutenant; another recital is, that when he enlisted it was with the stipulation that he was to be carried to the lower country, but his company being taken to Charleston, he resigned, but was prevailed upon to accompany the command to James' or John's Island, and was there put in irons by order of Captain Caldwell, was tried by court-martial and acquitted.

Whatever may be the true story, it is a fact that Cunningham "deserted" the American cause and became an active partisan on the British side. His service was, for the most part, directed against Marion." His daring and aggressiveness won the British favor, he was appointed a captain and promoted to major. His command was known as Cunningham's Loyalists, having been recruited largely in the vicinity of Orangeburg.

I can not within the limits of this article give an account of all the cruel and outrageous acts performed by Cunningham and his murderous men in the diabolical raids, especially in the up-country of South Carolina, where the most atrocious attacks were made against the defenseless Whig families. They literally left the country through which they passed in tears." Cunningham's march "was characterized by celerity and destruction. . . . He gave no advertisement of where he was going. . . . Plunder, burn and murder was his motto. . . . In the unsuspecting hours of sleep and domestic security, they entered the houses of the solitary farmers and sacrificed to their revenge the obnoxious head of the family. . . . It was a heartrending scene to witness, the women burying their dead."

Owing to the lack of space, I can only tell of a few of the infamous deeds of "Bloody Bill" and his notorious characters, who at times numbered three hundred mounted men. The massacre at Hayes' Station in the vicinity of Little River church, in Laurens county, is the one about which Postmaster Crisp asks information. As I learn from the historians mentioned by me, at this place there was a small block house, inside of which was about twenty-three men, commanded by Colonel Hays. Cunningham reached this place unexpectedly to Hays. This was in the close of the year seventeen hundred and eighty-one (1781).

According to the narratives, the house was set on fire by irons heated in a blacksmith shop nearby, which were thrown on the roof. The only alternative was either to be burned alive or to surrender themselves. Co. Hays surrendered on condition that he and his men were to be treated as prisoners of war.

Ramsey's History says: "Colonel Hays and Captain Daniel Williams were hung at once on the pole of a fodder stack. This breaking, they both fell, on which Major William Cunningham ('Bloody Bill') cut them into pieces with his own sword. Joseph Williams, a boy fourteen years old, cried to his eldest brother, as they were putting him to death: 'O! Brother Daniel, what shall I tell mother?' Cunningham turned to

him and replied: 'You shall tell her nothing, you d-d rebel suckling,' and with his sword bowed him down."

The Ramsey recital continues: "Cunningham turned upon the others and continued on them the operations of his savage barbarity, till the powers of nature being exhausted, and his weakened limbs refusing to administer any longer to his insatiable fury, he called upon his comrades to complete the dreadful work by killing whomever of the prisoners they pleased. They instantly put to death such of them as they personally disliked. Only two fell in action, but fourteen were deliberately cut to pieces after their surrender. Their names and rank were as follows: Col. Joseph Hays, Capt. Daniel Williams, Lieut. Christopher Hardy, Lieut. John Nell, Clement Hancock, Sr., Joseph Irby, Jr., John Milven, James Feris, John Cook, Great Irby, Benjamin Goodman and Yancy Saxton."

Another of Cunningham's fiendish deeds was the "Massacre at the Turner House," as the crime is called in history. Captain Sterling Turner was a popular and intrepid officer. On one occasion he, with twenty-two of his heroic patriots and old Captain James Butler, took refuge in a house and bravely defended themselves against an attack by Cunningham and his forces of two hundred and fifty. When the ammunition of Captain Turner's men was about exhausted, and Cunningham set fire to a shed attached to the house, Captain Turner and his gallant band surrendered, on receiving solemn promise that they would be treated as prisoners of war, and were to be sent to the nearest British post.

According to Historian Johnson, and as I found it in Landrum's History, they were to march out with "clubbed arms, and to ground them in front of the house. Captain Turner and Butler came out first. As soon as they passed the door of the house Cunningham drew his sword and said: 'These fellows had better be paroled and I will show you what kind of parole they are to have. Do you follow my example.' With this he made a blow at Butler, but missed him, and Butler, with his clubbed rifle, struck one of them to the ground, and by a blow from another, he fell dead on the man he knocked down. In a few moments every man was thus murdered except one, who was saved with difficulty, by the intercession of a relative belonging to Cunningham's command. 'Thus fell the venerable Captain Butler and his worthy commanding officer, Captain Turner, together with twenty-three of their brave men. Captain Butler had been a very active and useful patriot in the early part of the war, and had resigned in favor of Captain Turner, by reason of infirmities of age.'

It will be recalled that I stated at the commencement of this article that Cunningham originally enlisted in the Revolution on the American side in the company of Capt. John Caldwell, an uncle of John C. Calhoun. Historical accounts say that Cunningham, at the head of a party, rode up to the gate of Major Caldwell and hailed him. The major walked out, and when within a few paces of Cunningham, "Bloody Bill" drew a pistol and shot him dead in the presence of his wife, who fainted as she saw him fall.

Captain Steadman was sick in bed at the home of Mr. Charles Moore. Cunningham shot and killed him on his couch. Two other young men who were in the house tried to escape, but they were fired upon as they ran, and fell dead in their tracks.

These few instances of a long list of similar villainous deeds, will serve to give the reader an idea of the atrocious character of "Murdering Bill" Cunningham. Be it sufficient to say that on two of these occasions he and his men murdered thirty-five persons.

Unceasing efforts were made to capture Cunningham, but without success. On one of these pursuits a number of his men were seized, killed and buried in a common grave at the foot of the hickory tree where they met their death. After the Revolution, "Bloody Bill" fled from South Carolina to the Spanish possessions in Florida. His final fate has never been recorded by historians, so far as my readings have disclosed. His property in South Carolina was confiscated.

Illiteracy in Cuba Said to be Increasing

Havana, Cuba, Aug. 18.—Illiteracy among white Cubans between the ages of 10 and 14 years has increased 15.5 percent between 1907 and 1919, and among blacks 22.3 percent, according to an analysis by Diario de la Marina of data contained in the 1919 Cuban census, which has just been made public. The paper points out that this increase in illiteracy occurred while Cuba enjoyed self government, and declares that it indicates a "fundamental crash" failure of the Cuban school system.

The following figures are quoted by Diario de la Marina to substantiate its analysis. The 1907 census showed that 70.5 percent of native white and 69.9 percent of native black children could read and write. The 1919 tables showed a decrease in these percentages to 55.1 and 47.6 respectively. In pointing the moral of its analysis, the paper asserts that this illiteracy imperils the republic, for the ignorant children of 1919 will soon be the citizens who will direct the country's destinies.

Asia, The Cradle of The Life of the World

New York, Aug. 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—Proof of the paleontologist's pet theory that Asia was the "mother of continents" and the cradle of life on this globe—carrying with it great promise of the discovery in the wastes of the Gobi desert of the long-sought "missing link" in the evolution of mankind—has been found by the Third Asiatic Expedition led by Roy Chapman Andrews for the American Museum of Natural History, Henry Fairfield Osborn, the Museum's director, announced today.

The "proof," to the uninitiated, would appear to be just a heap of fossilized bones, dug up by a band of curious men in the frozen wastelands of Mongolia. But to the mind trained in groping back through hundreds of thousands of years for history of the days when man was not, these fossilized remains of dinosaurs and other prehistoric beasts and reptiles furnish a conclusion simple and inevitable as "two times two."

The discoveries, barely hinted at in cable dispatches, are fully reported and interpreted by Dr. Osborn—original proponent of the "Asia, mother of continents" hypothesis—in the current issue of the magazine Asia. The magazine cooperated with the Museum and the American Asiatic Association in organizing this most ambitious of all similar expeditions, toward the financing of which liberal contributions were made by J. P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Mrs. Willard D. Straight, George F. Baker, Darwin P. Kingsley, Dwight W. Morrow, Childs Frick, W. A. Hariman, the late H. P. Davison and many others.

The hypothesis put forward by Dr. Osborn in 1900—and now confirmed to his satisfaction—was based on the fact that two great deposits of remains of animals at the dawn period of mammalian life on the northern hemisphere have been found previously at widely separated points—the one in Europe, the other in the American Rockies.

They could not have originated where the remains were found, Dr. Osborn reasoned, else they would have spread westward from Europe and eastward from the Rockies during the period of early dispersal. Hence, he held, they must have originated at some halfway spot on the less explored side of the globe, traveling as far as the Rockies on the one hand and Europe on the other, before the early sun set on the last of their line. He then drew up a series of charts locating Asia as the dispersal center, and plotting out with a nicety remarkable in view of the expedition's discoveries, the spots where the first centers probably were located.

A little further on than the expedition has gone so far is the section labelled "primate"—the species of ape held by paleontologists to have been the first ancestor of man.

So enthusiastic has Dr. Osborn become over the expedition's discoveries to date, and the promise for the future that he plans to sail for Peking, the winter headquarters, September 15, to get first hand reports and aid in mapping out the campaign for the second year of the five year program.

Writing, with elation, on the report received from Mr. Andrews, Dr. Osborn said of the fossil deposits: "This discovery gives the answer to one of the four great questions which the expedition sought to solve: namely, whether ancient Asia is the mother of the life of Europe to the far west, of North America to the far east. It is a kind of realization of a paleontologic Garden of Eden—the birthplace, or Asiatic homeland, from which many kinds of reptiles and mammals spread westward and eastward."

"The existence of such a center has long been a matter of pure theory—we have waited until 1922 to verify it. This verification has come with unexpected suddenness and with a completeness beyond our fondest hopes, and there still remains four years in which the great expedition, under Roy Chapman Andrews will fill out the details."

Mr. Andrews' report was made in a letter dated May 9 at Urga, in upper Mongolia. The party had set out from Peking a month before, traversing the desert by motor truck toward Turin, where they planned to meet a caravan of 75 camels with supplies, which had been sent on head.

Halfway across Mongolia, between Kalgan and Urga, the attention of the explorers was caught by some interesting geological exposures, and camp was made. While supper was cooking, the three geologists of the party—Walter Granger, Charles P. Berkey and Frederick Morris—began prospecting, and within a few yards of camp, discovered some bones of dinosaurs. This was the first discovery of giant reptiles in northern Asia.

The region promised to be so interesting that Mr. Andrews left the geologists at work and pushed on to Turin, 152 miles south of Urga, with other members of the party, to meet the caravan. He accompanied the caravan to Urga, planning to plunge deeper into the heart of Asia. But at Urga he received a letter from the fossil-hunter-by-chief, Granger, telling of such rich discoveries that he hurried back.

The dinosaurs, remains of which were discovered in great profusion, were found to belong to the Upper Cretaceous period—very close to the Age of Reptiles—and to be strikingly similar to those of the Rockies in America and those found in Europe.

On top of the dinosaur beds were layers of mammalian fossils, belonging to the dawn period of mammal life—the Eocene. Above these were fossils belonging to the Lower Miocene or middle period, and mingled with these were the remains of a giant mammal not found either in Europe or North America, but similar to one discovered some years ago in Baluchistan, southwest of India, and dubbed Baluchitherium—the largest land animal known to have existed.

Other findings included fossils of rhinoceroses, immense tortoises, large carnivores, crocodiles and turtles and enough others to make a Barnum weep that none such still live.

These bygone animals, said Mr. Granger, bore unmistakable resemblance to those found in Wyoming, including two kinds of flesh-eating dinosaurs and a smaller running fellow called the ostrich dinosaur.

There were other fossils, of the dinosaur known as the Iguanodonts—a tall, two-legged herbivorous beast which ranged from southern England to the New Jersey coast.

Describing his trip, Mr. Andrews wrote:

"We reached Turin without a single accident and, as we approached the outskirts of this Mongolian town, we saw a large caravan and decided to camp. Then I suddenly recognized the American flag and realized that it was the caravan of the American Museum Expedition. It had been five weeks on the way from Kalgan and had just arrived one hour before us. Pretty fine connection for a 700-mile journey across the plains, was it not? We went over to the great rocky outcrop and pitched our tents. The caravan followed and reached our encampment one hour later. It was an inspiring sight as the 75 camels wound up from the plain with the American flag at the head. It made me realize, as nothing else had, that the Third Asiatic Expedition was really an accomplished fact, that all the long days and months of preparation in New York had resulted in this: it was a dream come true."

Gubernatorial Contests Attract Attention In Montana

Cheyenne, Wyo., Aug. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—Interest in Wyoming's primary election August 22 centers in the contests in both the Republican and Democratic parties for the gubernatorial nomination. The United States senatorship is not an issue in the primary for the reason that there is only one candidate in each party for the nomination—Frank W. Mondak, floor leader of the national House of Representatives, Republican, and John B. Kendrick, incumbent, Democrat, who seeks reelection. The Mondak-Kendrick fight in November, however, is expected to be one of the most spectacular in the history of Wyoming politics, both having a large personal following.

Robert D. Carey, incumbent, has been challenged for the Republican nomination for Governor by John W. Hay of Rock Springs. The issue between the two men has been over the matter of economy in state government expenditure, Hay charging the administration with extravagances. Governor Carey has denied the charges.

The Democratic contest for governor is between William B. Ross, the straight party candidate, Frank McDowell, endorsed by the conference for progressive political action, the farm-labor movement.

There are two candidates for the Republican nomination for Wyoming's only member of Congress and three for the Democratic nomination. All state officers, two justices of the supreme court, in addition, will be nominated.

County Campaign Meetings

Tuesday, August 22, morning, Black Rock; night, Ottaway Mills. Wednesday, August 23, Cross Keys. Thursday, August 24, morning, West Springs; and Buffalo at 8 o'clock p. m. Friday, August 25, morning, Jonesville; and Wallace Mills, night. Saturday, August 26, morning, Kelton; and Lockhart at night. Monday, August 28, 8 o'clock p. m. Union, at monument.

Legion Bands Will Compete in New Orleans

New Orleans, Aug. 20.—New Orleans will entertain the largest assembly of musical organizations in its history during the American Legion national convention next October, according to plans announced by the convention band contest committee.

More than 100 bands and drum corps from all sections of the United States are expected to compete in prize contests. Entries, which will be restricted to Legion organizations, will be judged by a committee of New Orleans musicians as the units march by the reviewing stand in the convention parade. Prizes for the band contest will be: First \$1,000, second \$500, third \$250. Bands will be judged on the following points: Playing 75 points, appearance 10 points, marching 10 points, and number of instruments 5 points. The winner of the drum corps contest will receive \$250 with a prize of \$100 for second place. Playing will count for 50 points, appearance 20 points, marching 20 points and number of instruments 10 points.

"Cross Crossings Cautiously."

WANTED

EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO STOCK IN THE CANNERY.

WE ARE PLANNING TO TAKE CARE OF FIVE CROPS A YEAR. ONE THOUSAND ACRES OF PRODUCE. YOU WILL HELP A GOOD CAUSE AND YOU WILL BE MAKING A SAFE INVESTMENT IF YOU WILL TAKE \$50, \$100 OR \$500 OF STOCK IN THIS ENTERPRISE.

HELP US TO HELP UNION COUNTY AND, INDIRECTLY, YOURSELF.

OUR ONE AND ONLY SHAR? NEED IS OPERATIVE CAPITAL. TAKE STOCK!

Union Canning & Products Co.

LEWIS M. RICE, President.