

INCIDENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR RELATED BY MRS. M. C. GARY

REMINISCENCES WRITTEN BY ABBEVILLE LADY WON U. D. C.
PRIZE IN NORTH CAROLINA—RELATES ACTIVITIES
OF WOMEN DURING LONG STRUGGLE

(By Mrs. M. C. Gary, Abbeville, S. C.)

Last year the United Daughters of the Confederacy of the State of North Carolina offered a prize for the best paper touching the incidents of the Civil War. Mrs. Frank S. Hassell, formerly Miss Blanche Gary, presented the following article written by her grandmother, Mrs. M. C. Gary of Abbeville, S. C., which had been published in the Charleston News and Courier and it was awarded the prize.

"Incidents of the Civil War"

The Charleston News and Courier requested that, "Our Women in the War," who had any experience would write an account of it for publication. As I had some at that time I respond to the request.

When war between the North and the South was proclaimed, companies were formed all over the South and men went to battle for Liberty, which they thought dearer than life.

Many of the women of the south had been reared in wealth and luxury, without the knowledge of hardships but when those near and dear to them were exposed to the dangers of war, they did not pine in idleness, but bound themselves together to aid in the cause with the zeal and heroism that characterizes the true woman.

We cannot dwell upon the acts of a few, when all did so well.

My home at the time of the war, was in Cokesbury, S. C. As that town had never been raided or invaded by Union soldiers I was spared the insults, privations and cruelties that many noble women of the South were subjected to when Sherman's army passed through South Carolina devastating everything in its way.

At one time the citizens of Cokesbury were greatly excited and alarmed when news reached the town that Yankee soldiers were on their way there, as there was no one in the place at that time, except a few old men, women, children and servants.

The servants were told to get the wagons and haul all provisions to a place of safety, or everything would fall into the hands of Yankee soldiers and then there would be nothing for them to eat, as we had no money with which to buy more. They began their work at once and soon everything was beyond the reach of the enemy, while the women busied themselves in securing their valuables.

Then we quietly awaited their coming, knowing not what the result would be. At last night came on and still we watched for what we dreaded. There was no one in my house except myself, four little children and the nurse.

All was solitude and we were startled even at the dropping of an acorn, with no hope of human aid unless there was a Mason among those expected. My husband having taken the precaution before he left for the war, to have me given a Masonic degree, telling me if I was ever in distress and made the sign of distress if there was a Mason present he would be bound to protect me. The trying moment came—footsteps were heard upon the front piazza and a rap on the door. I can never forget the expression on the faces of the children and nurse, or my own feelings, but to the door we went and when the door was opened, a ray of joy came over all as there was McLendon Connor and another young man who had come to tell me I could retire without fear as there would be no Yankees there, they having been unable to cross the river at the ferry as they had expected, and were forced to cross higher up which would cause them to go through a different part of the country.

At the beginning of the war I had a carriage and a fine pair of horses, which Gen. Stewart learned of in some way and sent an order from Virginia for them which was granted at once, and when I saw them being driven away, knowing that I could have them no more it was without regret, as I felt I was aiding in the cause for which brave men were fighting.

Early in the great struggle for lib-

erty the ladies of Cokesbury, as they did everywhere else, formed themselves into societies, that they might more readily aid in their work for the soldiers.

Work was being constantly done by day and night. We used tallow candles until tallow was exhausted, then we used a cord dipped in melted bees wax wound around a bottle with one end extending up where it was lighted. As it burned down it was uncoiled for further use. In our work we cut, sewed, knit, spun, dyed and made cloth which was quickly made into garments of every description and sent to the army.

As I was the wife of a surgeon in the army I knew how important it was to have lint, so boys and girls were put to work and old pieces of linen were soon converted into lint.

We were not engaged in this kind of work alone, we superintended the industries, directed the servants and kept things together as best we could.

Too much praise cannot be given to the faithful servants who were so humble, industrious, obedient and kind, who labored for us so willingly for four long years.

When sick, convalescent and slightly wounded soldiers were returning to their homes, there were a number of ladies appointed to carry dinner to them at the railroad station about a mile from town. The comfort and relief we were able to give those suffering soldiers caused us to look forward to the time with much interest.

On one occasion when I was furnishing dinner to them I went into the coach with a well filled plate when a long thin hand was extended towards me, saying give me that lady, which I did and he ate as though he had had nothing for days, about the time he had finished with his plate I entered the coach with another which he asked me for, but before I could respond one sitting near said I think it best to be careful, that man is just recovering from typhoid fever, upon which I declined to give him the plate; he insisted so feelingly that I told him if he would promise me he would not eat it for sometime I would put it in a package for him. He promised that he would not, but said "No lady, I want it on that beautiful plate just as you have fixed it." I said I would hate to lose my plate and break my set. He said, "I will send it back to you by the conductor." I said, "very well," never expecting to hear of it again.

The next morning I went to the station to ask the conductor how the soldier got on. He handed me my china plate, saying he told me to tell you, he had improved ever since he got something to eat.

When President Davis, his cabinet and an escort were retreating through South Carolina they spent a portion of the day and a night in Cokesbury. They were entertained at the home of my mother-in-law, Mrs. M. A. Gary.

The escort was under the command of General M. W. Gary. A large reception was given them that night. The floral offerings which were presented were beautiful roses from my garden. I recall with pleasure an interesting conversation I had with President Davis during the evening.

The party enjoyed a comfortable night, but at an early hour in the morning they were hurriedly aroused by a courier bringing a message informing President Davis that Yankee soldiers were in pursuit of him.

They went from Cokesbury to Abbeville where the last cabinet meeting was held and the soldiers disbanded. Mrs. Davis joined the President and they with a few others went into Georgia where he was soon captured.

The surrender of General R. E. Lee came and the gloom that overcast the entire South.

The cause for which brave men fought had been surrendered, but their hearts, their energy, their courage and their integrity they still retained.

Their course and its results are before the world, let the world de-

PRESIDENT HARDING WRITES OF CHRISTMAS SEAL SALE

Honorary Vice President Seeks Support of Campaign To Check Tuberculosis

An appeal for the further development of the successful work in combating tuberculosis is conveyed in a message yesterday to the people of the country by President Harding. The president hopes for complete success in the Christmas Seal Sale now in progress throughout the United States the attractive little sticker symbolic of the holiday season being probably the biggest factor in checking the advance of the great white plague.

The White House communication follows:

My dear Dr. Hatfield:

I am glad to note the splendid success of the campaign against tuberculosis as shown by the decline of the death rate in 1920 to the remarkably low level of 114 per 100,000. The enormous saving of life reflected by these figures clearly indicates the success of the work of the National Tuberculosis Association and its affiliated organizations.

As Honorary Vice President of the Association I will be glad to have you convey to all who are interested in the prevention of tuberculosis my earnest hope that the coming Fourteenth Annual Christmas Seal Sale may be completely successful in order that your splendid work may be further developed. I trust that there may be a generous response to your appeal.

BODY OF SOLDIER IS BURIED THIRD TIME

Cleveland, O., Dec. 1.—The body of Wm. H. Campbell, 26, who was killed in the battle of the Argonne forest in September, 1916, was buried for the third time here today.

The body was first interred overseas. Upon its arrival in this country three weeks ago, it was claimed by a Chicago woman as that of her husband and taken to that city, where burial was made. The woman then made application for war risk insurance.

Up to that time, Mrs. Mabel Heckel, of Cleveland, Campbell's sister, had been drawing his insurance.

Congressman John C. Speake, of Columbus, who was a brigadier general in the 37th division of which Campbell was a member, interceded. It was found that the first name of the Chicago man was not William.

The body was disinterred again, identified as that of the Cleveland soldier and sent here, where it was buried with military honors.

\$75000 FIRE IN AUGUSTA

Augusta Ga. Dec. 1.—Four firemen were injured and property and stock loss of \$75000 suffered when fire gutted the Georgia-Carolina Paper Company and the Bothwell Grocery Company here tonight. The fire occurred in a chain of eight warehouses owned by J. T. Bothwell.

A half hour after the fire started all the warehouses were in danger as was the Augusta factory one of Augusta's largest cotton mills nearby.

The conditions of the injured firemen is not regarded as serious. They were caught under a falling brick wall.

CHICAGO BOND ISSUE OFFER IS WITHDRAWN

Chicago Dec. 1.—The \$8,000,000 bond issue offered by the city two weeks ago to meet a deficit in the city's revenues in 1920 was taken from the market today when a lone bid was withdrawn.

A syndicate headed by the Guaranty Trust company of New York offered the only bid, approximately 98.57, but on the condition that the legality of the issue, be approved by a special legal firm within ten days. When this was not done the bid was withdrawn. New bids will be called for, Controller Harding announced.

Decide whether it be to approve or disapprove.

We honored the Confederate soldiers. We honor them now. We honor the memory of those who have passed over the river.

We erect monuments to their valor. We will continue to erect them until there is not a place in the South, that has not her Confederate Monument.

SOUTHERN STATES LEAD IN HOMICIDES

Decrease of Five Hundred in 1919 For Entire Nation Is Shown.

New York Dec. 1.—Homicides in the United States during 1920 totaled approximately 9,000, a decrease of 500 from the record according to a computation by Frederick L. Hoffman third vice president and statistician of the Prudential Life Insurance Company of America.

The figures made public last night through The Spectator showed Memphis Tenn., still in the lead with a killing record of 63.4 persons for every 100,000 of population. The safest of thirty-one cities for which figures were tabulated was Rochester N. Y. where the rate was but 1.3 for every 100,000. In general the tables showed that southern states, with large negro population had the highest homicide rate and the proportion of negroes slain was from three and a half to seven times that of whites. The average was slightly in excess of four to one.

Tabulations for the period 1915-1919 grouped geographically showed the New England states to be the most law abiding so far as homicide was concerned with a rate of 2.8 for each 100,000. The southern group had the highest rate 10.8. In the middle Atlantic states, the rate was 5.1. Central states 6.1. Rocky Mountain states 9.4 and Pacific coast states 9.25. Of the larger cities Boston had the lowest rate 5.1.

New York was second with 5.9. The Chicago rate was 10.3; San Francisco 7.6; Philadelphia 8.2; St. Louis 12.6 and Cleveland 12.5.

Commercial airplanes in the United States flew 3,500,000 miles in the last six months at a cost of 15 killed and 43 injured.

DR. AUGUSTUS STRONG IS DEAD, AGED 85

Pasadena Cal. Dec. 1.—Dr. Augustus Hopkins Strong, president emeritus of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Rochester, N. Y. and one of the most eminent theologians and educators of the Baptist denomination died here late yesterday at the age of 85.

Death followed quickly after a blood transfusion which had been resorted to in preparation for an operation.

Dr. Strong was a life-long friend of John D. Rockefeller his son having married the latter's daughter Miss Bessie Rockefeller who died in 1906.

BLACKMON GETS JOB

Becomes Alumni Secretary at University of South Carolina.

Columbia, Nov. 27.—O. C. Blackmon, a law graduate of the University of South Carolina and for the past seven years a Columbian, has been elected executive secretary of the alumni association of the university, filling out the unexpired term of R. W. Wade, resigned. Mr. Blackmon was named by a special committee of the alumni council, announcement of the election being made yesterday morning by Ben M. Sawyer. He is from Lancaster.

G. F. & A. RAILROAD BOUGHT BY CREDITORS

Pensacola, Fla., Nov. 26.—The Gulf, Florida and Alabama railroad was purchased today by William Fischer, acting as attorney for the creditors' committee, a committee of Pensacola business men. The road was bid in for \$90,000, the only other bidder being F. M. Stevens of Mobile, whose offer was \$80,000.

The road has been in the hands of a receiver for the past four years.

SELL PONY AND DOG

Thrifty Farmer Boys Net Depend- ing on Cotton

Laurens, Nov. 26.—Two thrifty young farmer boys were in town yesterday to deliver to purchasers a well trained Shetland pony and a registered pointer dog. The purchase price of the pointer was \$25 more than that of the horse. The demand for bird dogs, as well as that for opossum and fox hounds, is always in the ascendancy at this season, but it seems to be more spirited this fall than usual. Bird dogs sell readily at \$75 to \$90 and a good hound fetches the worth of a half bale of cotton. Horse trading is quiet.

TENDERS RESIGNATION

Chester, Nov. 26.—The Rev. E. D. Wells, the popular pastor of Beaver Creek and Cool Branch Baptist churches, after a very successful pastorate extending over a period of 21 years has tendered his resignation. This action on the part of the Rev. Mr. Wells caused profound regret among the members of the two congregations. During the nearly quarter of a century of service which he has rendered to these two excellent rural churches he has done a wonderfully construction work. He has not announced his plans for the future, but it is understood that they have been formulated and they will be announced later.

Bookkeeper Held Up in Alcolu.

Manning, Nov. 26.—The bookkeeper of Alderman and Sons company of Alcolu was held up Wednesday night near Manning by three drunken negroes. The bookkeeper succeeded in escaping without loss and as soon as he reached Alcolu he rushed an officer to trace the three negroes which were found in Manning and immediately lodged in jail.

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Lumber Yard at Ice Plant.