

STORY OF JOHN BROWN

Career of Man Who Tried to Free Southern Slaves Is Recalled

The school kids sing about "They Hung John Brown on a Sour Apple Tree." But how many know the details of the trial, conviction and hanging of John Brown in Charles Town?

Sixty-three years ago the nation was rent with discussion over slavery. It had become the greatest issue since the Revolution.

George D. Moore, a former prosecuting attorney in Charles Town, W. Va., writing in a local paper, says in part: "During the early summer of 1859 a party of strangers arrived near Harper's ferry, then part of Virginia."

Excitement Prevailed "Twenty men descended upon Harper's Ferry on the night of Sunday, October 16, 1859. They shot men in the streets and took possession of the town. Nobody seemed to know what it was all about."

"News of the attack on Harper's Ferry was flashed across the nation. The Virginia militia came, and Governor Wise of Virginia took personal charge. After a three-day fight the little army was captured. Its leader was recognized as John Brown."

"Brown and his followers were taken to Charles Town, where the grand jury was in session. Virginia and what is now known as West Virginia were then one state."

"The old Virginia law required five days' lapse between the preliminary examination and the submission of the case to the grand jury."

"A whole nation was wrought up to the tensest pitch during those five days of suspense. It was rumored everywhere and particularly through the South, that John Brown's little army of twenty men was but the forerunner of a mighty army from the North to come down and free the slaves and that a powerful secret organization was planning revolt by riot and murder and the Brown gang was to be released from jail."

Rumors Traveled Fast "These rumors grew; they traveled fast. It was argued that John Brown would not have dared attempt such a bold thing as the capture of Harper's Ferry unless he knew he had ample backing."

"On October 26 the preliminary hearing opened, with the courthouse heavily guarded by militia troops. Everywhere the town was jammed with strangers. There was a little army of newspaper men."

"Brown, it is believed, fully realized what was to come. The courthouse was across the street from the jail. Brown was marched out from the front door of the jail, grim and determined. A double file of soldiers guarded him. He presented a remarkable picture."

"Whether he was legally right or not, he believed his cause just. He was six feet tall, stoop-shouldered, old, bareheaded and wore a long, shaggy grey beard. But his piercing old eyes showed no signs of fear. His condition is described as feeble, and bystanders gasped in silence as he moved slowly along, manacled."

"The court room was jammed with five or six hundred people. Eight justices of the peace conducted the preliminary hearing. They constituted the court of first resort; upon their say would depend whether John Brown, avowed Abolitionist, should be set free with his comrades or whether they should be held for the grand jury."

Great Lawyers Prosecuted "Charles Harding was the district attorney. Governor Wise of Virginia appointed Andrew Hunter as assistant prosecutor. Hunter was a great lawyer, a wonderful pleader and a man of imposing appearance."

"Prosecutor Harding demanded to know whether the prisoners were represented by counsel or whether they wished the court to assign counsel. Then came one of the great dramatic episodes of legal history. "Old shaggy-haired John Brown, feeble and stooped, apparently ready

to utter upon the floor, did not like the tone in which the question was asked. He might be old, he might be feeble, but he was a man withal. And the haggard old man slowly and feebly arose from his chair. His steely eyes swept the breathless crowd with scorn as he exclaimed: "Virginians! I did not ask for quarter at the time I was taken. (He was badly wounded). I do not ask for quarter now. I do not ask to have my life spared. If you seek my blood you may have it at any moment without the mockery of a trial. I have no counsel. If we are to be forced into a mere form of trial—a trial for execution—you might spare yourselves that trouble. I am ready for my fate. I beg no insult, nothing but that which conscience gives or cowardice drives you to practice. I again ask to be excused from the mockery of a trial!"

"Then John Brown sat down. He, in that short speech, not only addressed the court, but he flung a challenge at the pride of old Virginia."

Auditors Amazed "His auditors were thrilled and amazed. They even respected the daring old man."

"When the second day's court opened an attorney for Brown informed the court that he had received a telegram from an Akron, Ohio, man who declared that there was a good deal of insanity in Brown's family, and he desired to investigate the statement."

"While the defense counsel was making his plea, John Brown interrupted him. The old man struggled forward, his eyes blazing with wrath and his voice shaking with emotion. In unmistakable language he repudiated his attorney's plea and denied there was any insanity in his father's family, though some of his mother's people had been mentally afflicted. He refused any such subterfuge of defense in his behalf. He was out in the open, he had nothing to hide, nothing to excuse and no apologies to make. The court ruled that there was no testimony supporting this evidence, and the insanity end would be disregarded and the trial proceed."

"Several witnesses described how the armed band came across the bridge at midnight and took possession of the United States arsenal at Harper's Ferry. They described in detail the stirring events of October 16, 17 and 18."

The raiders took possession of one of the nearby plantations and made the slaves and plantation owners all prisoners of war. The night express train was held up on the bridge and the porter shot. Men were shot down in the street, witnesses said, and the mayor killed. Militia companies were hastily summoned from Martinsburg, Shepherdstown and Charles Town."

Fort Is Established "Finally the remnants of the Brown party barricaded themselves in the municipal fire engine house of Harper's Ferry. It was later known as John Brown's fort. "There they were surrounded by troops and escape shut off. Efforts to negotiate were futile. Flag of truce bearers from Brown's barricade were shot down or captured. On the night of the second day after he entered the town a company of U. S. Marines from Washington arrived. They were under command of Colonel Robert E. Lee, and Lieutenant J. E. B. Stuart, who later became the two great generals of the Confederacy."

"Brown refused to surrender and the next morning the fort was carried by storm. Brown and his surviving companions were captured. Brown was badly wounded in several places. So were some of his companions. "Among the town's citizens who were taken prisoner by Brown was Colonel Lewis W. Washington, grand-nephew of George Washington. "The casualties of John Brown's Harper's Ferry raid were twelve killed, two wounded, one escaped. Two of Brown's sons were killed. Of the attackers five were killed and nine wounded."

"So-called damaging literature introduced as evidence at the Brown trial were copies of the Constitution and ordinances drawn up by Brown for the reconstruction of the constitution of the United States through amendment and repeal. Letters from Joshua R. Giddings, member of congress from Ohio and Abolitionist, were a part of the evidence."

Arguments Begun "On the sixth day of the trial argument was begun; the court delivered its charge; and the jury retired. Soon a verdict of guilty was returned. There was no demonstration in the court room. "The next day Brown was brought into court for sentence. He was asked if he had anything to say as to why sentence should not be imposed. His reply to the court was another landmark of this country's history. He said: "I have, may it please the court, a

few words to say. In the first place I deny everything but what I have already admitted—the design on my part was to free the slaves. That was all I intended. Now, if it is necessary that I forfeit my life for the furtherance of the ends of justice and mingle my blood with the millions of slaves in this slave country whose rights are disregarded by wicked, cruel and unjust enactments, I submit; let it be done! Let me say one word further. I feel entirely satisfied with the treatment I have received on my trial. Considering all the circumstances it has been more generous than I expected. But I feel no consciousness of guilt. Now I have done."

Sentence Imposed "Then the court imposed the sentence, which was that he should be taken to a place of execution on December 2, 1859, and there be hanged by the neck by the sheriff until dead. "Then on December 2 John Brown was taken five blocks away to a field where a scaffold had been erected. He was unperturbed and looked with interest upon the many soldiers about. He walked upon the gallows. The black cap was adjusted and soon he began the great adventure. "On December 16 four Brown followers, named Cooke, Greene, Coppee and Copeland, were executed in Charles Town."

But what of Charles Town? It has figured in history since colonial days. It was the scene of hot fighting in early Indian warfare and in the Civil war. It knew well the activities of General Stonewall Jackson of the Confederacy and "Phil" Sheridan of the United States army. The town was named in honor of Charles Washington, brother of George Washington. Many descendants of the Washington family still live there."

Kibler-Baxter Miss Era Kibler of Newberry and George Baxter of Elloree were married Wednesday at three o'clock at the residence of the bride's parents, by Dr. C. A. Freed. Miss Kibler has taught in the city schools for several years, resigning at the close of the session. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter left immediately after the ceremony for their home at Elloree.

James Fitz James Caldwell Chapter The meeting of the James Fitz James Caldwell chapter will be held Thursday morning, June 8th, at five o'clock at the home of Miss Inez Green. Attention is called to the change of the hour of the meeting to five o'clock. Major Caldwell is expected to be with us on that occasion. Ida Mae Hayes, Secretary.

Adickes-Moore Friends in Newberry have received invitations to a marriage on the 15th instant at York, the announcement of which will be read with interest, as follows: Mrs. Withers Adickes requests the honor of your presence at the marriage of her daughter Jean Frances to Mr. William Sadler Moore on Thursday evening, the fifteenth of June at half after eight o'clock First Presbyterian Church York, South Carolina Dr. B. H. Maynard Pelzer, June 2.—Dr. B. H. Maynard of Florence died this morning at the age of 62 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. Ligon Simpson, here, with whom he had made his home since the death of his wife in December. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Henrietta Matthews of Williston. Of this union four children survive: William Maynard, attorney of Baltimore, Md.; B. H. Maynard, Jr., of Florence and Mesdames J. Ligon Simpson of Pelzer and G. W. Sadler, who is now with her husband on the missionary fields of Africa. One child by the last union survives, Nannie, a daughter of 14. His second wife was Miss Bright Clary of Saluda. Funeral services will be held Sunday morning at Pine Pleasant Baptist church in Saluda county, of which he was a member for many years.

VIOLINA DANA AS A VAMPING DETECTIVE To Appear in Novel Role in "The Match Breaker"—Wrecker of Romances Another of Viola Dana's delightful photodramas will be presented at the opera house Thursday, June 8, when "The Match Breaker," adapted from the story of Meta White, is shown. This Dallas M. Fitzgerald production for Metro presents the vivacious star as a sort of a female Sherlock Holmes who finding she is only fitted to steal other girls' sweethearts makes a professional occupation of it with the idea of rescuing susceptible males from the schemes of designing females. Among her first customers are a father and son and it is the exciting episodes connected with vamping the recalcitrants that gives the popular little star plenty of opportunity to show her peppy personality in her newest production. In the cast supporting Miss Dana are Jack Perrin, Edward Jobson, Julia Calhoun, Wedgewood Nowell, Kate Toneray, Lenore Lynard, Fred Kelsey and Arthur Milette, some of whom have been seen in previous Dana productions. John Arnold, who has photographed Miss Dana's previous pictures handled the camera for "The Match Breaker." The continuity was written by Arthur J. Zellner, A. F. Mantz was art director.

A horse, 51 years old, is livng at Catawissa, Pennsylvania. He is the property of a minister who has owned him for 35 years. The horse is believed to be the oldest in existence.

Destroying Fields and Gardens Near Naples Naples, May 30.—Billions of locusts are destroying fields and gardens in the farming district six miles from the city. Within the past four days many acres of wheat, hops, clover and corn have been wiped out and it is estimated that the pests are causing \$20,000 damage daily. Last year a few locusts appeared and their eggs are now producing a scourge of insects which is covering the land in some places in masses a foot deep. The distracted population has implored the help of the government and measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the plague. The war stocks of asphyxiating gas and flame throwers have been hurried to the stricken locality. While millions are starving along the Volga river in Russia, inhabitants of great areas of that country not remote from the Volga are malting and distilling their surplus grain and indulging in drunkenness after a long period of abstinence, according to the Moscow Isvestiya.

FORD TURNS OUT SIX MILLIONTH MOTOR Next One Comes Through 5 1-3 Seconds Later Ford motor number 6,000,000 was lifted from the assembly line in the Highland Park Ford plant at 9:14 a. m., May 18th. Just 5 1-3 seconds later number 6,000,001 was finished. The unusually heavy demand for Ford cars and trucks at the present time has necessitated the building of 5400 motors daily. These are shipped in carload lots to the various Ford assembly plants throughout the United States. The first model "T" Ford motor was completed on October 1st, 1908; number 1,000,000 left the assembly line December 10th, 1915; and number 5,000,000 came through May 28th, 1921. Although the Ford Motor company turned out a number of different models prior to 1908, the present numbering system begins with the first Model "T."

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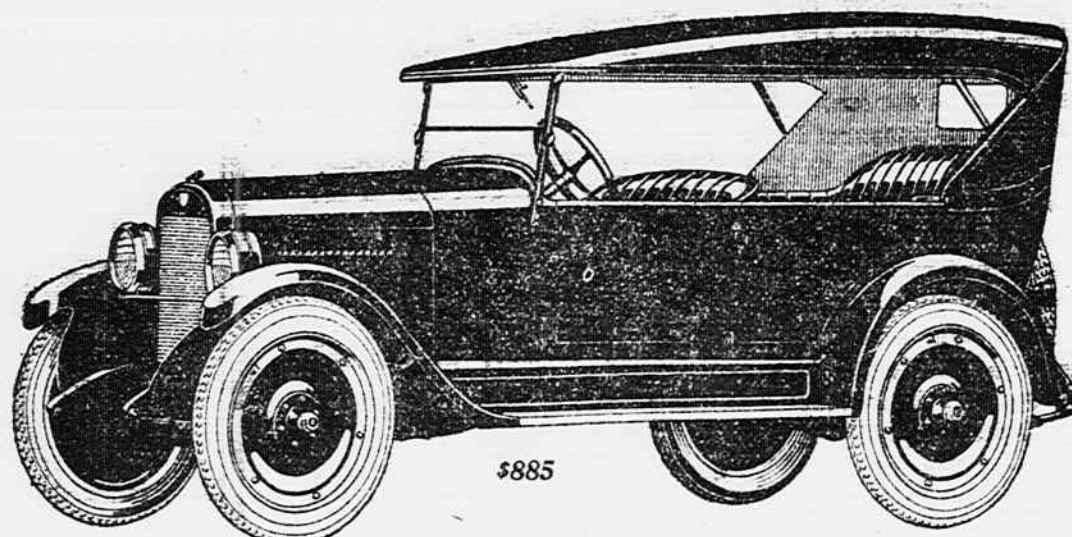
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