

WAR TIME TALE

A Confederate Soldier's Escape from Prison and Death.

WHEN THE CIVIL WAR

Was Going On, as Told by His Daughter in the Confederate Veteran Magazine. He Was Under Sentence of Death, but Gave Sherman the Slip.

The following interesting sketch from the diary of the late Capt. M. A. Miller of how he made his escape from "Irving Block" prison at Memphis is furnished by his daughter, Mrs. Wm. R. Vawter of Richmond, Va. "I have one man under sentence of death for smuggling arms across the lines, and I hope Mr. Lincoln will approve it." The above is a quotation from a letter of Gen. W. T. Sherman to his brother John after the capture of Memphis, Tenn. And herewith is a sketch of how that "one man," Capt. Matthews Ames Miller, made his escape from prison. Miller, was assistant city engineer of Memphis at the commencement of the war. A number of the engineers and architects formed a company of sappers and miners of which we were the officers and some of our best mechanical privates. This company threw up the first works of fortifications on the Mississippi river, beginning four miles from Memphis, then at Fort Pillow Island No. 10, New Madrid and Columbus. At the latter place we had our first infantry fight. Memphis was captured by Gen. Sherman in June, 1862. At that time I was home on sick leave, having just passed through a severe attack of typhoid fever. It was true, as stated in Gen. Sherman's letter to his brother John, that the mercenary spirit of his people enabled us to buy anything we wanted for gold or cotton. When Sherman first took possession of Memphis he issued an order declaring gold, medicine and salt, contraband, and as such prohibited their sale to our people. But his orders were practically reversed, and we got anything we wanted. So greedily were we for money that they actually sold us arms. The people with whom we dealt were mostly camp followers and merchants. Finding that arms could be easily procured in this way, and knowing our people needed them badly, I determined to get a quantity of them. I represented to one of my neighbors that I had purchased a few pounds of gold for my own funds, but was the means of equipping the best part of two companies of cavalry before my operations were discovered by the enemy. It was rather difficult to get the arms to the southern districts after I bought them, for in addition to the gunboats, the river was closely patrolled by picket boats. My plan was to put my goods mostly in sacks and pistols, on board a skiff and carry them over to the Arkansas side, where the cavalry would get them. For a month I was steadily supplying our soldiers with arms and men with no serious difficulty. But one afternoon, in the latter part of July, my gun boat, the "Cotton Blossom," was carrying over two boxes of officers' goods, and was in the middle of the river, when a picket boat, that I did not see when I started out, ran upon me. I at once knew that danger was ahead, and, jumping on the gunwales of my boat, I tried to sink it; but it was too heavy and would not "dip." The officer in charge of the picket boat arrested me, and the skiffman also, and took us with the two boxes to a gunboat nearby. Here the boxes were opened, and as soon as the nature of their contents was disclosed I was at once carried to the military prison in the "Irving Block," in the center of the city. In two or three days there was a court martial. The evidence was, of course, conclusive, and I could make no defense. What the verdict was I do not know, but it was pronounced death; and it was not until some five weeks afterward that I became aware of it. I was first made aware of the seriousness of my position in a sensational way. Late one afternoon in July 1862, a friend, a Miss Gibson, who had been calling on me, after glancing around cautiously turned and whispered to me: "Captain, you are under sentence of death, and are to be shot at an early day. Take my advice; get away from here before they put shackles on your ankles and wrists, for then you can do nothing." My idea is that the officer in charge had no authority to carry such a verdict into execution without the approval of the president, pending which I was kept in ignorance. Later, the same day, a woman I was told was a friend of mine, told me that she had seen a man who was in charge of the train, had the engineer removed to the baggage car and wired to the authorities for an engineer to carry the train to Columbia. An engineer was sent from Branchville to take the train on and meanwhile the many passengers had a tiresome wait. Among the passengers were several prominent men. This of course, is a very serious matter and the penalty under the rules of the railroad is instant dismissal for the offending engineer. A pathetic feature of the case is that the engineer in question is said to be one of the oldest in the service and has made an honorable record.

"NOT GUILTY."

Jury Sets the Men Free Who Were Held for Murder of Bookhard.

The Famous Entawville Case Which Has Attracted Much Attention Ended Friday.

The trial of the five white men charged with the murder of Keitt Bookhard at Entawville was commenced in the court of general sessions at Orangeburg on last Wednesday and ended Friday afternoon in an acquittal. The men accused of the crime were J. H. Palmer, S. A. Eadons, Andrew Martin, Benny Martin and Penny Martin. The following gentlemen composed the jury: D. N. Smith, foreman; W. C. Bricks, G. B. Holman, R. P. Baldwin, R. S. Willingham, E. Grady, George R. Binson, C. M. Dickson, Henry Sandel, G. T. Ayers, W. J. Whetsell and R. H. Riley. Mr. J. H. Gaskins was drawn on the jury, but was taken sick and was excused. The State and the defense exercised great care in the selection of the jury. There were many challenges on both sides. The prosecution offered three objections and the defense objected to six of the regular panel. When the name of A. S. Salley was called and Judge Dantzer was catechizing the juror as to whether or not he was in any way interested in or connected with the case, Mr. Salley stated that a friend had expressed the wish that Mr. Salley would be drawn on the jury so that he could vote to acquit the defendants. Solicitor Hildebrand smilingly accepted the juror, but the defense objected.

When the regular panel had been exhausted there were 10 jurors; the State had offered three objections and the defense six. When the extra panel of 12 jurors was called and assembled after about an hour, no juror was obtained, the State had used one of its two remaining challenges and the defense four. Another extra panel of 12 jurors was summoned, and from this panel the jury was completed as above named.

After the jury was drawn the taking of testimony was commenced. The State put up Magistrate Wiggins and others to identify the body found with the weight tied to it as that of Keitt Bookhard.

W. E. Jackson, a white man, who conducted a store at Entawville, stated that among others in his store the afternoon of July 11th were: H. C. Edwards, Andrew Martin, Benny Martin, Adger Butler, John Palmer, S. A. Eadons and others. They had some packages which were left in the store, among other things two bottles of whiskey. He gave them permission to take a drink in there.

T. S. Gelzer, a prominent merchant, who served on the coroner's jury stated that J. H. Palmer was on the coroner's jury the night they went down to the river, but did not serve on the jury subsequently.

E. P. Winter, another merchant and member of the jury, declared that Palmer had been a member of the jury the first night, but was not subsequently.

Hildebrand wanted to bring out a declaration made by Palmer when the foreman of the coroner's jury called for a private conference of the jurors. The statement of Palmer was admitted. He had said that the jury must excuse him a minute at the time of the trial.

Peter Gibbs, colored, was working for S. A. Eadons at the time of the Entawville affair. At 6 o'clock the morning after the disappearance Mr. Eadons was not up. The buggy was in front of the buggy house. There was a lantern, a piece of cotton rope a foot and a half long, and a hatchet. He stated on cross-examination that Mr. Eadons was always up except when sick. At the time Eadons was in a carbuncle, had had it for two weeks.

THE HORRIBLE CRIME DESCRIBED.

Henry C. Edwards was then sworn. The principal witness is a youth of 22, small and pale in appearance, with sharp features but a not unattractive eye. He gave his evidence in a labored manner as if he feared that he might be trapped, and was cautious against being trapped.

He is a native of Orangeburg, 22 years of age and an orphan. Worked near Entawville last year for Andrew Martin, a defendant, for six months. The week before July 11th he went fishing with the defendants, Lewis Martin, Eugene Washington and Keitt Bookhard. Coming back in the wagon he and Keitt Bookhard got into a dispute. The negro cursed him, he cursed back. He said he was unable to defend himself against the negro and the other white men were not disposed to help him. That night sitting on the piazza Andrew Martin started the talk about having a war, and he got up and went to bed. They kept on after him Sunday to have the negro arrested because he should not talk that way. The next day Andrew Martin went with him to Entawville and had the warrant sworn out for the arrest of Keitt. After the trial they sent him to get some whiskey, a quart and a pint, some of which they drank up in Jackson's store. The men there commenced to talk about "putting the negro away." The men in the crowd were: Palmer, Eadons, Piney Martin, Adger Butler, Penny Martin, Andrew Martin and Benny Martin.

He went home early in the night and was in bed when "Old Man" Lewis Martin came to his window (Conversation not admitted). Witness then got up at 12 o'clock at night and rode his mule to Entawville. There he met in front of Capt. Matthews' house Benny Martin, Benny Martin and Penny Martin. They were going down the road by Palmer and Eadons, who had the negro with them in the buggy. Keitt was handcuffed. When they had proceeded to a point near the river, about a quarter of a mile, they stopped and Eadons and Palmer and Penny took a drink. Benny stood by the buggy in which the negro was. When they arrived at the river bank, Eadons said, "We have arrived at the river Jordan your time has come." The negro began to beg and said he would work all his life for Eadons for nothing if he would let him off this time. Keitt was made to get out of the buggy, and Benny and Penny tied him to the grate bar. Palmer had gone up the bank a little ways and soon came back with a boat. Benny got into the boat. Eadons threw Keitt across the bow, face downward, and Palmer made a flirt with the boat when he had got out in the stream about 25 yards. The second time that Palmer flirled the boat witnesses turned his back and heard a splash and went back to his mule and went back to Lewis Martin's.

He stayed at Lewis Martin's until Monday following when he went to Charleston, having been sent at Lewis Martin's suggestion. Lewis Martin gave him money to go and took him to Pregals in a wagon. Lewis Martin gave him \$15 in part payment of cotton crop. Stayed in Charleston from Monday to Thursday, came up to Ridgeville and stayed with his aunt until the next day when Mr. Pink Martin came and took him to Augusta at Mr. Lewis Martin's suggestion. Pink Martin carried him to his son's in Augusta. Pink Martin's son got work for E. J. Ward at Bugg's sawmill at Dunbarton, Barnwell county. There he stayed until the 14th of October. He went by the name of Allen at Dunbarton, at the suggestion of Lewis and Pink Martin. In October he came to Orangeburg to see his cousin, J. R. McCants. After seeing his relatives he made a statement to Mr. Dimaio, a Jackson's store, when they were talking about putting Keitt away, some wanted to hang him; Palmer was one who wanted to put him in the river. Eadons and the others wanted to hang him to a limb. They talked about half an hour. He left Entawville to go home between 7 and 8 o'clock. Piney Martin and Adger Butler were with him. He and Benny Martin occupied the same room. Benny Martin did not come home until after the negro was put in the water.

The solicitor then led the witness over the whole story, which was told without any conflict of evidence. The course taken as described by the witness was the same as that described by Isaiah Ellis. It was a rather dark night at the river. Nobody had a lantern that he saw. He got on his mule and gave him the money to go to Charleston, and put him on the train. He met Andrew Martin in Charleston. Andrew told him that Lewis Martin told him to come to Ridgeville. Lewis Martin also came to Charleston. Mackey Martin is the name of the brother in Augusta. He stayed there Friday night and until noon Saturday. He paid his railroad fare out of the \$15 Andrew owed him for his work on the farm and had not paid him. He stated that the reason he had come to make a statement to the solicitor was that he wanted to clear his conscience.

The cross examination was conducted in a very skillful manner by Mr. Wolfe, who was unable to break the witness down. This cross examination was the feature of the trial. Mr. Wolfe endeavored by a multitude of Mr. Wolfe's questions to show that Edwards gave himself up through fear of the detectives and that ever since he has been putty in the hands of Mr. Dimaio. This was in a strong play, there is so much resentment here against the Pickertown man. Mr. Wolfe made the witness report the vile language applied to Edwards by Keitt Bookhard and he asked when he would ever be a man. (The offensive language is such as to make the jury think rather unkindly of a white man to whom it would be applied by a negro with resentment.) On another point Mr. Wolfe worked hard to make witness declare what was the mistake of force used by Lewis Martin in taking him up out of the boat and take part of the rope instead of running away to his mule (Edwards' uncle who lived three miles from Lewis Martin. As none of his boys had gone home from Entawville, how did Lewis Martin know of the plot, asked Mr. Wolfe. Witness denied having any conversation with Lewis Martin between Sunday and the night of the lynching when Lewis Martin came to his window.

THE DEFENSE BEGINS.

The defense then introduced their witnesses. Among the number was Lewis Martin. He is a very large man, white haired, 61 years of age. He has two sons under indictment, L. Andrew Martin and Ben F. Martin. Penny Martin is a relative by marriage. Witness has lived near Entawville all of his life. H. C. Edwards has been living around there for about four years. He was working for L. Andrew Martin, who had a position with Kalinski on Young's island and was at home then on a visit.

He declared to be "utterly false" Edwards' statement to be called in the night. He stated that Edwards asked him during the day Monday and asked about the wording of the warrant. (Edwards had stated that he had not talked with Lewis Martin Monday.)

He went to Charleston to see his son Andrew and saw Edwards but did not advise Edwards to leave there and change his name. He explained his interest in getting Edwards to leave Entawville because Edwards lived in the house with Benny and he was afraid from threats he had heard that the negroes in trying to hurt Edwards might do something to Benny. So he moved Benny up to his own house and sent Edwards away, as the latter was an orphan and did not know his father. He said Edwards \$15 on his crop but the crop did not bring that much. He told on cross examination that he went to Charleston to see his son Andrew on private business, although Andrew had been at home just the week before. Dined saying to Dr. Gilmore at Holly Hill that somebody's neck would be broken.

Mrs. Carrie E. Eadons, wife of one of the defendants and aunt of two others, was next sworn. She remembered the 11th of last July because of the disappearance of Keitt Bookhard, whom Mr. Eadons had arrested that afternoon. Andrew Martin came to supper with Eadons. The latter carried supper to the pris. Mr. Eadons went to bed in the room in which she was sleeping. Her daughter, Mrs. Coleman, was in the same room with a sick baby. Eadons was suffering with a carbuncle while giving medicine to the baby she watched Eadons' neck several times. At 8 o'clock she woke him so that he could go to Moncks Corner with the prisoner.

It was not out of the house all night except to get up at 8 o'clock. He went to the guard house in a buggy and was gone about half an hour. He had gone to Moncks Corner lots of times and always left at 3 a. m., for it is a 60 mile drive.

Andrew Martin slept at her house that night. He was up until nearly 12 o'clock playing games in the parlor and then went to bed and slept in the

TAGS NOT USED.

Many of Them Bought and Scattered in the Cars.

That Is the Charge Made by Many Letters to the Secretary of the Cotton Association.

A dispatch from Atlanta says additional letters received by the Southern Cotton Association show that the fertilizer tags, the sale of which has been reported in large quantities of late, are being scattered over the country by putting them in cars in which fertilizers are shipped and by placing two, three, four and five tags on each sack of fertilizer. These letters are from people who are acquainted with the situation and who have seen these things with their own eyes. This wholesale distribution of tags is not confined to any one section or State, but extends throughout the whole cotton growing belt. The following are some of the letters:

W. P. Gaffney, LaGrange, Ga.: I notice that much has been said regarding guano tags that have been sold. Did you ever stop to think that the tags may have been sold, but not the guano? I have been investigating Troup county and find more guano on hand than last year by several thousand tons. LaGrange is heavily overstocked as I heard several parties who know say Chipley has not sold to date more than 25 to 30 per cent of last year. West Point and Hogansville are way behind last year. This probably explains the guano question—that tags have been sold but the actual guano is not. The section around Troup factory has reduced both acreage and guano and an oath to believe that every section of the county and State will not do likewise.

John G. Key, Welsh, Ala.: Cotton acreage here (Chambers county) undoubtedly reduced about 20 per cent and fertilizers under cotton reduced 30 per cent. More corn planted and more fertilizer used under it than heretofore. It is also a notorious fact that thousands of unused tags are in fertilizer cars in bundles, this in addition to those on the sacks. One small dealer says he has half a bushel. Two other dealers whom I have heard upon this matter make the same reports. There is fraud or collusion somewhere.

W. H. King, Weston, Ga.: You will please find enclosed fertilizer tags that were sent here loose in car. You will notice that they have not been separated or broken loose. These tags are extra ones, besides all the tags being properly tagged. Other people are buying cars shipped in same condition. Seems that lots of tags are being used besides those that are required.

G. W. Everette, Lumpkin, Ga.: The big increase in the sales of guano tags may be accounted for in a very different manner, and an unexpected one, as well as unusual. There have been several cars received here in which there were several hundreds of tags other than those attached to the sacks. Some of these tags were in boxes and many scattered about loose in the car. This to me is something new and startling. There is no use to read between the lines to find a cause. There is something dead up the creek.

G. H. Laramore, Leesburg, Ga.: Mr. Jordan, I think that the guano tags that are claimed to have been sold ought to be looked into. Mr. Tomp McDonald, at Swater City, Ga., found 25,000 tags in one of his sacks of guano. The same is reported in DeSoto, Ga., in my home town. What is more shameful than that every effort is made to keep the poor farmer down? If it can't be done honestly they will do it white.

F. W. Traylore, White Oak, S. C.: The reduction in the cotton acreage far greater in the country than the man sitting on a dry goods box in town is aware. Now, as to commercial manure: In this section there has been less bought and less used in the cotton crop of 1905. Lots of guano has been and will be used until corn planting and working is over.

G. C. Williams, Empire, Ga.: Now, Mr. Jordan, about the tags: Mr. Horstford said there were 390 or 400 to come to Empire loose in a car and had never been on a sack; and it was said that one half peck of them came to Dubois in a car and some came to Yorker, four and one half miles from Empire.

F. B. Doyle, Bowersville, Ga.: A very large number of tags can be accounted for on account of unsold guano now in hands of dealers, and most of it will remain unsold for this season. The sales for April this year will be lighter than any year which I have been in the business. It is no exaggeration to say that there are not less than 7000 tons of guano between Toccoa and Elberta now stored in warehouses that will not be sold this season. I know of three loaded cars right here at Bowersville that dealers are trying to get the company to take back. I have sold 20 per cent less than last year, and believe that this has not been exceeded by any other dealer. The sales of guano here are less than last year, it don't matter what the crowd say, and there is going to be more carried over than ever before.

H. V. Brooke, Luverne, Ala.: T. W. Shows, Luverne, Ala., informed me that all the cars he has received contained a number of loose tags in addition to those on the sacks. L. C. Williams, Sr., of Luverne, Ala., bought a carload of fertilizer, every sack of which contained two tags. G. W. Bowen, of Moorefield, Ala., writes me that a carload of fertilizer came to his place with six tags to the sack. At Union Springs, Mr. J. M. E. E. showed me 150 tags that were picked up loose in a car of fertilizers, and he added that he had a bushel basket of them in his office which came in the same manner. These cases come from different portions of the State and lead me to believe that the practice is general. Last in March the Virgin Chemical Co. of Georgia, who had purchased 55,000 tags; this year they purchased 150,000 tags for Alabama. Last year they could not get their stuff hauled by the railroads, this year they buy nearly three times as many tags. How is that for trying to rob the farmers?

S. H. Christopher, Buena Vista, Ga.: A gentleman told me that some where in his travels he had noticed a large number of loose tags scattered promiscuously on the floor of cars. I was talking to a representative of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company a few days ago, and he says the output last year was in Georgia will be about short of last season. My belief is that individual gain will be about 1.3 less than last season, and nine out of ten farmers will tell you that they

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Complete Review of the Crop Situation in South Carolina.

Section Director Bauer Wednesday issued his weather and crop report as follows:

The temperature during the week ending Monday, May 8th, was much above normal, and the daily maximum ranged generally above 80 degrees during the last half of the week; the night temperatures were also slightly above normal. The precipitation was heavy, in many places excessive, and damaged lands by erosion and flooding. Farm-work was impracticable during the greater part of the week, as the lands were too wet to plow, plant or cultivate. The prevailing high temperature and copious rainfall caused crops of all kinds to grow rapidly, and were particularly favorable on small grain and truck crops, and for transplanting. Many fields have become foul with grass and weeds and stand in urgent need of work, this being especially true of early planted corn and cotton; though, in early corn has received its first cutting.

Corn has good stands as a rule, but bud and cut worms are thinning stands on low lands; some corn is trampling yellow from too much rain.

Cotton planting is not finished in the western part, though practically finished in the central and eastern counties, except on bottom or low lands that have been too recently to plant. Stands vary greatly, being generally good for that planted since the April killing frost, and very poor for the early plantings, much of which is being replanted. Some being replanted on account of cut worms, and some on account of being too foul to rid of grass and weeds. Some cotton has been chipped.

Tobacco transplanting is about finished, and doing well generally, though grasshopper and cut worms have damaged stands locally.

There has been a marked improvement in oats, which is quite promising. Wheat is not doing so well on account of the Hessian fly and some rust. Truck crops and gardens have improved rapidly, though melons are still poor. The weather was favorable for rice. Peaches are dropping in the eastern and southern counties, with enough left to make a good crop; in the western counties the fruit prospects are very poor; apple and pear trees are blighting badly. Pastures are fine. The shipments of beans, peas and strawberries are heavy.

California Tomato Story.

Throughout the winter months, when easterners were crouching about their fires and shivering, and nature growths were either asleep or frozen stiff with the cold, F. J. Bates, of Pasadena, Cal., was in his garden climbing an 18 foot ladder to gather his various crops of tomatoes. He has three plants which have reached a length of 30 feet. The seeds were planted in May, and three months from that time they had climbed to the top of a 20 foot trellis. When they reached this remarkable height they waved their flower tassels, heads nodding, and the farmers around and grew toward until they have attained a length of 30 feet. They have had no special care or cultivation, and have had no protection from the weather, yet, in spite of every disadvantage, they have kept on growing and fruiting in the most astonishing fashion. The trunks of these vines are one and a quarter inches in diameter. The foliage is thick and luxuriant, and at all times blossoms, green fruit and ripe fruit can be seen on the vines. Enormous quantities of tomatoes have been picked from these three plants. The fruit is of unusual size and has an extraordinary fine flavor.—Scientific American.

A Drunken Engineer.

A dispatch from St. Matthews to The State says on Tuesday night of last week several residents of that town boarded the Southern's train from Charleston to Columbia at Orangeburg and it was not long before it became evident that something was wrong by the lurching and sudden jarring movements of the train. On reaching St. Matthews the engineer was found to be almost helplessly drunk. The conductor, Capt. Murray, was in charge of the train, had the engineer removed to the baggage car and wired to the authorities for an engineer to carry the train to Columbia. An engineer was sent from Branchville to take the train on and meanwhile the many passengers had a tiresome wait. Among the passengers were several prominent men. This of course, is a very serious matter and the penalty under the rules of the railroad is instant dismissal for the offending engineer. A pathetic feature of the case is that the engineer in question is said to be one of the oldest in the service and has made an honorable record.

The Largest Book in the World.

The largest book in the world is in the British museum. It is an atlas measuring 5 feet 10 inches by 3 feet 2 inches and weighing close upon two hundred weight. The largest map in the world is the Ordnance survey map of E. g. and w. c. c. covers over 108,000 sheets. In its preparation it cost \$200,000 a year for twenty years. The scale varies from ten feet to one-tenth of an inch to the mile. The details are so minute that maps having a scale of twenty-five inches "show every hedge, fence, wall, building and every sort of tree in the country." The plates indicate not only the exact shape of every building, but every porch, area, doorstep, lamp post, railway and fire plug.

Horde of Immigrants.

On twenty-two steamships arriving in New York last week from Great Britain and the continent is the biggest crowd of emigrants ever scheduled to enter during such a period of time. The horde numbers nearly 25,000. Figures for the past week were close to 22,000, showing that the rush has kept up for a longer period than ever before, and it is likely that the total immigration for the spring has far exceeded any previous year.

It Was "Biscuit Morning."

The cadet mess hall of the Virginia Military Institute was destroyed by fire at 4 o'clock Thursday morning. The building was a large stone structure, used as a dining hall and for office purposes by the authorities of the institute. Nothing was saved from the building, which was completely gutted by the flames. It is partly covered by insurance. The only regret expressed by the cadets over their loss was that the hall burned down on "biscuit morning."

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A Confederate Soldier's Escape from Prison and Death.

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