

**HENRY CLAY PRACTICALLY
A SELF-EDUCATED MAN.**

**His Early School Days in Virginia Gave Him
the Familiar Nickname of "The Mill
Boy of the Slashes."**

Henry Clay, one of the most striking men in American politics during the first half of the past century, was practically self-educated, and it was his early school days in Virginia that gave him the familiar nickname "The Mill Boy of the Slashes." The neighborhood in which Clay was born and where he spent his early childhood was known as "The Slashes."

Clay's ancestors had emigrated from England to Virginia early in the seventeenth century. Clay's father, who was a minister, died when Henry was only a little over 4 years of age, in 1781, and a short time afterwards the boy was sent to the country school in the neighborhood, taught by an Englishman named Peter Deacon. Here he learned to read and write and a very little arithmetic. In this log school house in the "Slashes," the only school Clay ever attended, he spent three years. After leaving this school he lived with his mother on the little farm which was their home, and assisted her in such duties as a boy of his age could perform, being often seen on his way to a neighboring mill with a bag of grain; wherefore his popular title later in political campaigns of "The Mill Boy of the Slashes."

The story of Henry Clay is one of the romances of American history. Almost in a night he rose to fame and power. The rapid rise shows the wonderful chances the poor boy had in his day. For poor he was and when hardly tall enough to reach the handles of the plough he was compelled, in order to assist in the support of his widowed mother, to walk barefooted along the furrows. Again, from time to time, whenever the meal barrel was low, he would take a turn of meal to Mrs. Darricott's mill on the Pamunkey river, joggling along on the family pony with a grist bag for a saddle and rope for a bridle.

"The Mill Boy of the Slashes" kindled, at the time, much sentiment in the bosoms of the American people, and constituted a part of every popular political pageant of the Whig party in the presidential campaigns of 1844. It continues to be poetic since the generation which first felt its power has passed away. It will never cease to be so while poetry is natural to man.

The humble beginning of Garfield on the tow-path, and Lincoln splitting rails is duplicated in Clay's homely mill trips, and while the former two attained the greatest of their ambitions, the presidency, Clay was no less a prominent figure, even if he failed to reach the goal after three unsuccessful attempts.

At the age of 14 Clay was placed behind the counter in a retail store in Richmond, whither the family had moved when his mother married a second time. His talent was early recognized, and he was given a clerkship in the Virginia high court of chancery. Here he acquired considerable experience in the copying of legal documents, and after a certain time he determined to become a lawyer.

After Clay was admitted to the bar he felt that Richmond did not offer the opportunity for which he was searching, and he set out, with his practitioner's license in his pocket, for the newly opened country of Kentucky, where his mother and father had preceded him. The "Mill Boy of the Slashes" was now to become the leading lawyer of Lexington.

Clay was barely 21 when he reached Lexington. In early years, finding his voice defective, he had set about steadfastly to improve it. Day by day he declaimed to the empty fields or to audiences of farm animals until, by dint of long practice, he had perfected the rich, silvery tones that charmed all hearers, and with which he could play at will as on the stops of an organ.

Clay's success as a lawyer was unparalleled, and as a natural corollary of the law he came into politics, and here, too, he made rapid progress. His first position was a seat in the legislature of his State, which he acquired in 1803. There he soon became recognized as the remarkable man of the State, and it is told that when "The Mill Boy of the Slashes" spoke in the house the balconies of the senate were emptied.

From the Kentucky house to the United States senate by appointment shows the remarkable rise of this young man. Back again at the expiration of the term, he again was sent to his State's legislature. While there, as an illustration of how thorough an American he was, the following example will suffice: He offered the recommendation that the members should wear only clothes that were the product of domestic manu-

facture.

Clay said: "Earlier it was thought that a gentleman's head could not withstand the influence of Sol's heat unless covered with a London hat, that his feet could not bear the pebbles or frost unless protected by London shoes; and the comfort or ornament of his person was not satisfactory unless his coat was cut out by the shears of a tailor just from London." There was pleasure and pride, he thought, in being clad in the productions of our own families, and with youthful ardor he exclaimed: "Others may prefer the clothes of Leeds and of London, but give me those of Humphreysville."

In 1808 Clay was again in the United States senate by appointment, and at the conclusion of the war of 1812 he was selected as one of the American commission to negotiate the peace of Ghent.

From this on his political career was varied. He was the most prominent figure in the Missouri compromise controversy, and when Mr. Preston, of Kentucky, told him that the compromise measure, which he advocated as a means of preserving the Union, would hinder his chances for the presidency, it was then he made the famous reply: "I would rather be right than be president."

Another of Clay's familiar sayings at this time was: "I know no north, no south, no east, no west. If Kentucky should to-morrow unfurl the banner of resistance unjustly I will never fight under that banner. I owe a paramount allegiance to the whole United States; a subordinate one to my own State. The senator speaks of Virginia being my country. The Union, sir, is my country."

Three times Clay was made the candidate of his party for the highest office in the gift of the people, but the "Mill Boy of the Slashes" was not to attain this honor. Each time he came near winning, and upon the second occasion, when he was defeated by "Old Hickory," he was not a very great loser, and at his last defeat, in 1884, he received only a few thousand votes less than James K. Polk.

In all these campaigns the nickname of Clay, "The Mill Boy of the Slashes," was used conspicuously at all the political gatherings very much the same way as "Old Tippecanoe" and "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" were used during the presidential campaigns of Harrison and Tyler.

Time has not lessened the American regard for Henry Clay, but rather each year the memory of the wonderful accomplishments of the poor "Boy of the Slashes" is becoming permanently stamped upon the people of the United States and upon the pages of history.

KILLED BY POLICEMAN.

Race Trouble Feared for Awhile from Pomaria Tragedy.

Newberry, May 18.—News reached Newberry to-night of the killing of a negro, Will Erchelberger, at Pomaria, in the lower section of this county, late this afternoon by Policeman Henry Richardson. Messages from Pomaria stated that further trouble was expected with the negroes to-night, but from later messages it is judged the situation is now quiet. Sheriff Buford went to the scene.

Pomaria has been the scene of a good many disturbances by the negroes in the past several years.

Posses After Bandits.

New Orleans, May 17.—Two posses are scouring the country along the Gulf and Ship Island railroad to-day between Gulfport and Ralston, Miss., in search of the two bandits who robbed the express car on the New Orleans and Northeastern train near Hattiesburg early Wednesday morning. The robbers were traced yesterday to a point below Ralston and detectives believe they planned to make their "get-away" in a gasoline launch hidden in some of the small streams in that section.

The Southern Express company officials continue to deny that the sum taken from the safe by the robbers was large, declaring it "only amounts to a few thousand dollars."

However, out of a total of about 40 packages which the express officials admit were in the safe, positive evidence has been obtained that four of these contained a total of \$53,000. One shipment, containing the monthly payroll of the New Orleans and Northeastern railroad at Meridian, contained \$51,000.

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RICHESON TO DIE.

Gov. Foss Withholds Clemency from Former Preacher.

Boston, Mass., May 16.—Clarence V. T. Richeson's last hope of escaping the death chair next week for the murder of Avis Linnell, of Hyannis, expired to-night when Gov. Foss announced that he would not refer Richeson's petition for commutation of sentence to the executive council.

The statement from the governor followed closely the filing of the reports of the special insanity commission which declared the condemned man sane, although subject to fits of hysterical insanity. The commission found that Richeson was sane at the time of the murder and that he is sane at present.

In the death chamber at Charlestown the prisoner has borne himself calmly since he was transferred from the Charles street jail Tuesday. It was apparent that he still hoped that clemency would be extended to him, and it was believed to-day this alone was keeping up his spirits.

Is a Neurotic.

The statement issued by Gov. Foss shows that the alienists found that Richeson's family was afflicted very generally with insanity and that the condemned man himself is a neurotic, a somnambulist, and a neurasthenic and subject to hysterical insanity. The statement follows:

"Executive clemency will not be extended in the case of Clarence V. T. Richeson. The prisoner was sentenced upon his own confession for a crime which it appears impossible that any normal man could commit."

"After his confession and sentence a plea of insanity was set up by his counsel and strongly supported by affidavits extending over his life. The character of these affidavits left no other course for the governor than to submit these and the prisoner himself to an examination by our leading alienists, in order to protect the commonwealth from the charges that the man was actually insane when the deed was committed as well as at the present time."

Of Emotional Nature.

"The evidence shows that Richeson's family is heavily afflicted with insanity; that he himself is a neurotic, a somnambulist and a neurasthenic; that he is subject to extreme emotional disturbances, marked by loss of memory, which two alienists have diagnosed as hysterical insanity, one physician adding the alternative as hysterical delirium and the majority opinion indicating that the attacks are hysterical attacks marked by emotional disturbances of brief duration, with loss of memory during the attack and for a varying period following it.

"The evidence, however, while clearly revealing these attacks, indicates that his crime was not committed by him during such an attack.

Accountable for Crime.

"Therefore, while there is some divergence of opinion among the alienists as to whether these attacks indicate actual insanity, there is sufficient ground for the conclusion that he is accountable for his crime and that the exercise of executive clemency in this instance would be contrary to the public good.

"The affidavits and medical advices as to Richeson's unfavorable heredity, his lapses of consciousness and his attacks of delirium are too voluminous to include in this statement and are not suited for publication.

"The alienists referred to are Dr. Edw. B. Lane and Dr. Isador Coritrat, acting for the defense; Dr. L. Vernon Briggs, acting at the personal request of the governor; and Drs. Henry R. Steedman, George T. Tuttle and Henry P. Frost, acting as a commission for the commonwealth."

Richeson was not informed of the governor's decision to-night. His spiritual adviser, the Rev. Herbert S. Johnson, and the prison chaplain, the Rev. Herbert W. Stebbins, visited the prisoner at 8 o'clock and remained with him for an hour.

At the time they entered the death chamber they were not aware, however, of the governor's findings.

When asked if he would notify the prisoner of his fate in the morning, Mr. Johnson said he could not tell.

Uses Referendum in Court.

Athen, Ga., May 16.—Judge C. H. Brand, of the Clark county superior court, to-day employed the referendum method in fixing the penalty of Will Barrett, charged with assault to rob and assault to kill.

Several leading society and church women appeared in behalf of the 19-year-old defendant, who had entered a plea of guilty. After speeches had been made requesting that a light sentence be imposed Judge Brand polled the jury and spectators. By a rising vote a majority favored a penitentiary sentence in lieu of a fine, and the former will be imposed.

Barrett stabbed and attempted to rob a horse trader several weeks ago. He was captured after an exciting three days' chase with bloodhounds.

COTTON ACREAGE AND YIELD.

Revised Figures for 1911 Given by Agricultural Department.

Washington, May 15.—A revision by the department of agriculture of its preliminary estimate of the areas planted to cotton last year, based on the result of a special investigation and the census bureau's report of the quantity of cotton ginned that season, places the 1911 acreage at 36,681,000 instead of 35,004,000 acres, as estimated by the department last June. On these revised figures the department will base its estimate of the acreage planted to cotton this year. The report is scheduled for issuance Tuesday, June 4, at noon.

The yield of cotton per acre in 1911 is estimated at 207.7 pounds, the largest on record since 1867 with one exception, 1898, compared with 170.7 pounds in 1910, and 154.3 pounds in 1909. The area picked last year was about 36,045,000 acres, about 1.7 per cent of the planted area having been abandoned.

Gosnell Sent to Jail.

Campobello, May 16.—Allendar Gosnell, the young white man who was arrested yesterday near Landrum by Constable J. O. Caldwell on a warrant sworn out by B. A. Wharton, deputy insurance commissioner, on the charge of having burned the residence and four children of W. J. Gibson, of this place, January 28, was carried to Spartanburg last night for safekeeping until the witnesses might be summoned for the preliminary, which was held this afternoon by Magistrate J. L. Poole.

The prisoner was brought here yesterday morning about 11 o'clock and placed in the local "lockup" pending preliminary which was to have been held yesterday afternoon. He was brought in and locked up so quietly that not more than four or five of the citizens were aware of his having been arrested or even so much as suspected, and was kept confined all day without more than a score of people having knowledge of his arrest, and the greater part of these merely guessed at the cause of the arrest. It was deemed more expedient that it should not be known generally why he had been arrested, owing to the high feeling of the neighborhood in regard to it, and should it have become known there is no doubt that there would have been trouble here yesterday afternoon or early last night.

At the preliminary held this afternoon before Magistrate Poole only enough evidence was taken to send the case up to the court of general sessions and to prevent the prisoner from securing bail. The testimony of only three witnesses was taken in which were threats of burning and expressions of satisfaction of the dwelling and children having been burned formed the testimony. The chief witnesses for the State were not put up, but Deputy Wharton says that there are a number whose testimony collectively will undoubtedly convict.

A great crowd has been in town all day in hopes of hearing the investigation. The hearing was secretly held, there being only 12 in the room in order to avoid any display of feeling.

Sheriff White, who accompanied Constable Caldwell and Gosnell from the jail at Spartanburg this morning, removed the prisoner again to the county jail this afternoon.

White Men Convicted.

Union, May 18.—Imprisonment for life was the sentence imposed upon John Henry May and Clyde May late yesterday afternoon by Judge Thos. S. Sease after the jury had returned a verdict of guilty with recommendation to mercy of the court for the killing of Henry Bocha on Main street one evening last October. Bocha was a stranger in town, having come here from Columbia. He was attacked on Main street by Clyde May with a knife and retreated for nearly a block begging for his life but after being slashed by Clyde May he fell and then was shot to death by John Henry May. Clyde surrendered immediately after the killing and John Henry May was captured several days later. Both have been in jail since then. The defense was that Bocha had made an insulting proposal to Mrs. John Henry May when her husband was away from home, but the State introduced evidence in rebuttal to show that John Henry May had not shot Bocha on sight as would have been natural under the circumstances, and that Mrs. May told a witness shortly after the killing that she did not understand why her husband had committed the crime. In passing the sentence Judge Sease took occasion to severely arraign the two prisoners whose ages are respectively 22 and 17 years, telling them that this crime was one of the most horrible ever committed in Union county and that he would have preferred sentencing them to the electric chair, which they deserved.

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