

# TWENTY-FOUR IS TOLL OF BRIDGE ACCIDENT

Rust Had Eaten Away Gusset Plate of Bridge that Gave Way as People Crowded on Watching Rescue of Boy.

Chester, Pa., Sept. 11.—Twenty-four persons were drowned and five seriously injured in the collapse last night of the bridge spanning the Chester river at Third street, in the heart of the city's business district. The police made this announcement tonight after divers had definitely determined no more bodies remained in the water. A small wrought iron gusset plate, part of the support for a foot path along the side of the structure which had been half eaten by rust, gave away under the weight of nearly a hundred persons who were attracted to the spot by the cries of a drowning boy, and precipitated the victims into the river.

The last body to be dragged from the deep mud at the bottom of the river was that of eight-year-old Charles Apostolus, the child whose death was the inadvertent cause of the accident. It was recovered shortly before noon today and placed at the end of the row of twenty-four victims whose bodies reposed in White's morgue awaiting removal to their former homes.

All the dead were residents of Chester, most of whom had just reached the business district on their way to theaters or stores. Little Charles Apostolus was in a group of children on the river bank in the rear of a theater watching the antics of a bear which was to appear in the show. He was knocked into the river by one of his

excited playmates and his cries for help attracted the crowd on Third street.

Several hundred persons dashed for the small bridge and others were trying to push on to it when, without warning, one end of the foot-way buckled. The heavy walk dropped like a trap door and in an instant 50 persons were struggling in the muddy water. A score more clung to the bent hand rail and iron water pipes fighting to reach safety before their fragile perches gave way.

The victims were caught in a veritable death trap. At the point of the accident the water is 16 feet deep. The river is scarcely more than 25 feet wide and factory and store walls are built to its very edge. Those who could swim found it impossible to scale the slippery walls and there was no floating debris to which they might cling. The foot path had simply dropped and hung to twisted supports.

A minute after the accident occurred half a dozen men dove and pulled half drowned men, women and children out of the tangled mass of humanity. Several boatmen hurried to the scene and aided in the work of rescue. Policemen and firemen dragged the river's bottom for bodies.

As the first shock of the accident wore off today there was a general demand through the city for a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident. Charges and counter charges were made by and against the board of commissioners of Delaware county, which is responsible for the condition of the bridge.

## Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

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OLD ROUGH AND READY

- 1784—November 24, Zachary Taylor born in Orange county, Va.
- 1785—Removed to Kentucky.
- 1808—Lieutenant in the regular army.
- 1812—Fighting Indians in Indiana.
- 1832—In the Black Hawk war in Illinois.
- 1836-7—In the Seminole war in Florida.
- 1840-6—In command of the department of the southwest.
- 1846—May 8, opening engagement with Mexico at Palo Alto. May 9, Battle of Resaca de la Palma. September 24, capture of Monterey.
- 1847—February 22, 23, 24, Battle of Buena Vista.
- 1848—Nominated for president by the Whigs.
- 1849—March 5, inaugurated twelfth president, aged sixty-four.
- 1850—July 9, died in the White house, aged sixty-five.

ZACHARY TAYLOR was the first army man to be president, the second being General Grant. A dozen presidents, from Washington to Roosevelt, had seen war service, but only as citizen soldiers. At twenty-three he entered the army as a lieutenant, and he remained in it 40 years, until he was inaugurated president. Yet he had seen only a little fighting with the Indians before his campaign in Mexico, where he commanded perhaps not many more than 6,000 men and fought half a dozen engagements, ranging from the opening skirmish at Palo Alto to the battle of Buena Vista. In this last, his little



Zachary Taylor.

army of raw troops was outnumbered four to one. But he spurned Santa Anna's demand for his surrender, and, "with a little more grape" from Captain Bragg's battery, he defeated the Mexicans.

The commanders in the two Mexican campaigns, Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott, were as unlike as their popular nicknames would indicate—"Old Rough and Ready" and "Old Fuss and Feathers." "Old Rough and Ready" remained throughout his army service a simple American soldier, a capable officer in peace and a resourceful one in war.

Obedient always to the civil authority, he retained a truly American dislike of military ceremonial and manners.

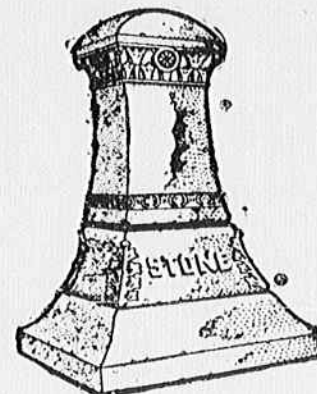
He was as plain in his private life and with a wife as unaffected as himself. This devoted companion made her home with him in military stockade and tents, sending her children as they came along back to the care of relatives, but refusing to be parted from her husband.

Like every man who has heard the seductive suggestion of his name for the presidency, Taylor was not long in yielding to it. Revising his own poor opinion of his qualifications in the light of their higher appraisal by others, he came to regard himself as the people's candidate and he announced that he would run as such even if no party should nominate him.

The party preference of the old soldier was in doubt, with no other clue to it except his brother's illuminating remark that Zachary liked Henry Clay and American-made clothes. The Whigs nominated him without knowing where he stood on any question and they made no platform for him to stand on. It was a merry game with the great problems that confronted the nation.

After they had nominated Taylor, the Whigs became fearful for a time that the joke was on them. While they waited and no word came from their nominee at Baton Rouge, they took alarm lest he would not accept the honor from their party. But he had not received their letter of notification. For they had neglected to prepay the postage on it, and "Old Rough and Ready" was refusing to receive all unpaid mail.

**FINAL SETTLEMENT**  
Take notice that on the 17th day of September, 1921, I will render a final account of my acts and doings as Administrator of the estate of B. F. Shields deceased, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Laurens county, at 11 o'clock, a. m., and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as Administrator. Any person indebted to said estate is notified and required to make payment on that date; and all persons having claims against said estate will present them on or before said date, duly proven or be forever barred.  
J. M. DeSHIELDS, Administrator  
August 17, 1921. 5-51-A



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