

AN OLD, OLD STORY

The Heroine and Hero of Gettysburg

JENNIE WADE AND JOHN BURNS

The Old-told Tale of Heroism Ever New to the Patriotic and the Brave—The Beautiful Devotion of Jennie Wade Sealed with Her Death and the Heroism of Burns—Another of Those Affecting Scenes of Love and War.

Tardy recognition of unique fame is about to be given in enduring form by the erection of monuments to the memory of Jennie Wade and John Burns. Neither Jennie Wade nor John Burns was connected with the army in any recognized capacity, but the former lost her life and the latter was wounded while engaged in a line of duty voluntarily undertaken, and each evinced a Spartan heroism worthy to be commemorated in monumental stone or time-defying bronze.

The credit for the Jennie Wade monument belongs to the Woman's Relief corps of Iowa, which has given an order for the immediate erection of a monument at Gettysburg. It is expected that the monument will be ready for unveiling in September. It was hoped that the unveiling ceremonies could be held in July, on the anniversary of Jennie Wade's death, but unavoidable delays disappointed the hope.

The story of Jennie Wade is short and simple, but has a tragic pathos which gives immortality to her name. Jennie was a young woman who chanced to be visiting at the home of her sister in Gettysburg when the battle commenced. The marshaling of the hosts, the explosion of shells, and the whistle of bullets terrified nearly all the residents of the pretty Pennsylvania town, and the engagement of the first day had hardly commenced when the inhabitants fled en masse to places of safety. A few intrepid souls remained. Among them were Jennie Wade and her sister. The two women were in a large brick house almost within the Union lines, and as the tide of fortune shifted during the three awful days of the decisive battle of the war, the house was frequently brought within musket range of the firing lines. For two days the women remained quietly in the house, undisturbed by the hell that raged around them; but on the third day, when the battle raged with unexampled fury, and both sides put forth a supreme effort for the mastery, word came to the house that many soldiers were suffering for want of food. For two days the women had been inactive in the midst of scenes which were shaping the destiny of nations. Here was a chance to do something, and with the calm fortitude which characterizes American women in the midst of peril, Jennie and her sister coolly set about baking biscuits for the soldiers. Bullets were whizzing on every side, and the ground shook under the roaring artillery; but the sisters went about their self-imposed task with unblinking faces and steady nerves.

Jennie's fiancé had been fighting in the Union ranks, but his body lay stiff and stark on the slope where the tide of war had momentarily ebbed. This circumstance gives an air of romantic fatality to the story. We do not know whether or not Jennie was cognizant of the death of her fiancé, but we may assume that the knowledge that he was with the embattled hosts strengthened her fortitude and made her heart more stoutly responsive to the cry of need from the suffering heroes. But whether or not Jennie was cognizant of the death of her fiancé, but we may assume that the knowledge that he was with the embattled hosts strengthened her fortitude and made her heart more stoutly responsive to the cry of need from the suffering heroes. But whether or not Jennie was cognizant of the death of her fiancé, but we may assume that the knowledge that he was with the embattled hosts strengthened her fortitude and made her heart more stoutly responsive to the cry of need from the suffering heroes.

It is meet that at this season, when a united country celebrates the anniversary of the nation's natal day, the story of Jennie Wade, who was killed on July 3, 1863, should be retold, in order that the courage of American women may be exalted.

Bret Harte has immortalized old John Burns, of Gettysburg, in a poem, of which the following is an extract from the first stanza:

Brief is the glory that hero earns
Briefer the story of poor John Burns;
He was the fellow who won renown,
The only man who didn't back down
When the rebels rode through his native town.

But held his own in the fight next day,
When all his townfolk ran away.

John Burns died Feb. 4, 1872, at the age of 89, and he sleeps in Evergreen cemetery, Gettysburg, within sight of the field where his exploit won for him enduring fame.

When the battle of Gettysburg was fought John Burns was 74 years of age. He was an old-fashioned man, who dressed in a simple, somewhat out of date, his wide rolling collar and broad-skirted coat recalling a generation that had passed. But old John had a rugged face, denoting determination, and his eye had a steadiness and penetration which attested that age had not abated his natural fires. When Lee's splendid heroes poured through the gap and Meade's veterans hastened forward to meet them, the good people of Gettysburg—who had been educated in the arts of peace and rightly judged that battles should be fought by men bred to war—sought safety in flight. John Burns remained. Like an old war horse he snuffed the battle, and his martial ardor was aroused. His native State, even his native town was being invaded, and when the Confederate advanced on the first day Burns took down his old flintlock rifle from the wall and went out to meet them. When the quaint figure appeared the troops laughed and passed ironical remarks, but Burns was not disturbed. He intended to fight and was not to be ruffled out of his purpose. He hunted up the command of the first regiment, who happened to be Colonel Wister, of the 150th Pennsylvania, and asked to be assigned a place in the ranks. Wister tried to dissuade the old fellow, but Burns was firm and declared that with the boys he would fight on his own hook. The grim commander delighted in Burns' spirit, and told him that he could go with the regiment, but advised him to take his place with the main body in

the woods, where he would be sheltered. But fighting behind shelter did not suit the old man at all. He wanted a danger and insisted upon joining the line of skirmishers in the open field. He had his way, and all day peeped away with his flintlock, never drenching or betraying either fatigue or fear. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the first day a Confederate bullet found a target in the old hero, and when the Federal troops with whom he had been engaged were driven back, Burns was left on the field. His wound was not mortal, however, and when the tide turned and the Federals again swept over the field, the old man was found and cared for. He recovered and continued to live in Gettysburg until death came to him naturally nine years later.

Old John Burns was a picturesque figure, and though 38 years have elapsed since he shouldered his flintlock, it is fitting that a memorial stone should be erected by his native State to commemorate his valor. General Doubleday, in his official report of the fight, said of John Burns: "My thanks are especially due to a citizen of Gettysburg, named John Burns, who, although over 70 years of age, shouldered his musket and offered his services to Colonel Wister, of the 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Colonel Wister advised him to fight in the woods, as there was more shelter there, but he preferred to join our line of skirmishers in the open fields. When the troops retired, he fought with the Iron Brigade."

Husband and Wife in Office.

Last Monday Attorney E. A. Paul, who has an office in the Pacific Building, was notified by the police department

that two warrants had been sworn out against him, and that he was wanted at the station house. Upon his calling at the sixth precinct station he was informed by Sergeant Goss that Arthur W. McCord had procured from Magistrate O'Neal two warrants for his arrest, charging him with threats and assault, and was instructed by Lieut. Moore to be on hand at the Police Court the next morning. Upon arriving at the Police Court the next morning Mr. Paul found that the prosecuting witness had been there early, but being busily engaged with his wife in holding down two lucrative jobs in the Government service, which required them to be present at 9 a. m., he had not tarried for long at the temple of justice. The matter being called to the attention of Mr. Givon, who was acting as prosecutor, he declined to have anything to do with the case, as the man who brought the charges had seen fit to leave the court without permission.

It is learned that the trouble grew out of Mr. Paul trying to enforce the payment of a debt of \$16, which had been due Dr. O. H. Cumber from Arthur W. McCord for a little more than two years past for medical services. In response to a letter the gentleman called to see him, whereupon a dispute arose, and Mr. McCord was promptly ordered from the office, and sought the services of a magistrate for an opiate to counteract the feeling incident to being ejected in the form of a warrant. He then called upon the doctor, paid \$3 on account, and made good promises for the balance.

It appears that some years ago Mr. McCord married a Miss Blanche B. Taft, and that besides the husband and wife holding positions at good salaries in the Government service, Mr. McCord has a sister in the Geological Survey, and Mrs. McCord's father is holding down a job at the G. P. O.

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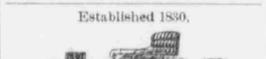
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