

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## BRIDGEPORT SURVIVOR TELLS OF SINKING OF LUSITANIA; REGRET IS EXPRESSED BY BERNSTORFF OVER LOSS OF AMERICANS

### James H. Brooks, Bridgeport Salesman, Tells How He Found Safety in Collapsible Lifeboat—Isaac B. Trumbull's Body is Taken in Charge By State Department.

A collapsible boat, which was floating near where the Lusitania went down, was the means of saving the life of James H. Brooks of this city. He and three other men, swimming for their lives, came up on the boat, closed, and managed to use it to keep them afloat.

That he was sickened by the sight of women, children and men "glued to the side of the ship," as it took the final and sudden plunge beneath the surface, is the statement made by Mr. Brooks in London where he has gone from Queenstown.

Brooks stood serenely on the deck of the Lusitania, watching the boats half-lowered, filled with women and children, and overturning their occupants into the water when the gear caught. When he saw the ship was doomed, he dove headforemost into the water and swam far away from the sinking liner.

A tremendous roar like the collapse of a great building gutted by fire preceded the disappearance of the Lusitania, according to Mr. Brooks. Swimming around in the hope that he could last until some ship rescued him, Mr. Brooks gazed with horror while the great ship plunged beneath the sea, with the helpless and struggling passengers clinging to the sloping side. He saw them go down in the vortex caused by the suction.

Mr. Brooks said last night: "All the boats had been swung out the day before and the work of launching them was at once commenced.

The attempt was a tragic failure. Women and children were taken first, and the boat was filled with them, except for men to row. The boat was lowered until within its own length of the water, when the forward tackle jammed, and its occupants, with the exception of three, were thrown into the sea.

"I did not notice any concerted effort to distribute life belts, and I was unable to obtain one.

"The efforts to lower the boats had not apparently met with much success. Those on the port side had swung inward and could not be used, while the collapsible boats, lashed beneath them, could not be got at.

"Women were standing quite calmly waiting for an opportunity to enter the boats when they should be released by the men from the davits. I saw that the list was so great that the davits placed the gear, rendering it impossible for us to get away before the ship went down. So I dived into the water.

"I turned around to watch the

### COUNTRY'S FLAG WRAPS BODY OF ISAAC B. TRUMBULL AT MORGUE

State department officials at Washington, through the American agents in Ireland, are making arrangements for preparing the body of Isaac Trumbull for shipment to Bridgeport for burial.

It was the unpleasant duty of The Farmer this morning to inform the Trumbull family that the death of their relative had been confirmed. They had suspected the truth and had telegraphed to the state department to have the body searched for and prepared for shipment to this country. Frank S. Trumbull, vice-president of the American Cyclopaedia Co., was given

### PREPARES FOUR MONTHS FOR ARMY AND DIES IN WRECKAGE

John Thurston, who left the Bridgeport hospital to go back to fight for his country, has failed in his mission. No trace has been found of him and he has been placed in the list of dead. Thurston was a patriot. He was refused by the English army because he was weak from the ravages of an illness, so he came to America to get

### AWAIT NEWS FROM STRATFORD COUPLE SAVED FROM STEAMER

Except for the fact that they have learned that Mrs. J. N. MacFarquhar and her daughter, Grace, have been saved, relatives of the couple in this country know little of what is happening to them in Ireland. It is expected Mrs. MacFarquhar and her daughter will communicate as soon as possible with this city.

#### HELD FOR BURGLARY OF STRATFORD STATION

Robbery of the Stratford railroad station by a gang alleged by the railroad police to have committed similar depredations all the way from Mount Vernon to New Haven, resulted in the capture in the local freight yards of George R. Curtis, giving his address as New Haven, as a trespasser on Saturday night by railroad policeman, Herbert Teiler. Entrance to the station was made by tearing off the window bars and 44 cents in pennies and a quantity of chewing gum stolen.

### WEEPING WOMEN DEMAND "GRAND RAPIDS" MONEY

Lawyers Unable to Proceed With Hearing Until Quiet Is Restored.

#### PUBLIC SALE OF ASSETS IS PLANNED

Financial Affairs of Bankrupt Instalment House Nearing Settlement.

A crowd of 100 women from New Haven, Waterbury, Meriden and this city wept as they demanded their money back at a hearing of the Grand Rapids Furniture Co. creditors before Referee in Bankruptcy John W. Banks this morning. The women refused to be consoled when told they couldn't have their money. They will get a dividend when the stock of the Grand Rapids Co. is sold at public sale by Trustee A. L. DeLaney. Lawyers explained to the women that the notices stated it would not be necessary for them to come to today's hearing. The women continued to cry aloud and the hearing could not be resumed until they had been quieted.

The appraisers are still at work taking inventory of the stock. If they have the task completed by late this afternoon Referee Banks said he would order Trustee DeLaney to hold the public sale next Monday morning at 11 o'clock. If the inventory is not completed in time the sale will be May 16 or May 18. In any event, the sale will take place at the company's Fairfield avenue store. The appraisers are E. W. Dunning, Frank S. Cohen and John A. Spafford.

Referee Banks said notices will be sent to out of town firms who deal in large lots of furniture. They were unable to be present at the sale can send bids by mail, which must be accompanied by certified checks for one-tenth of the amount bid.

There was no objection to the motion allowing the trustee to sell the stock. Attorneys R. C. Mallett, representing merchandise creditors, and J. B. Klein, for Secretary Badesch of the company, were in court.

### MISS WHEELER TO CROSS CONTINENT WITH COWL PARTY

Fiancee of Millionaire Who Took His Life is Guest of His Parents.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Clarkson Cowl of Great Neck, L. I., and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur DeForest Wheeler of Academy Hill, Stratford, with Miss Emily Wheeler, left New York late yesterday for a transcontinental tour. They plan to visit the exposition at San Francisco, and to spend some time in the Yosemite valley. In the party, also, is Miss Lillian Eggleston, of New Jersey, a cousin of Miss Wheeler.

The trip was arranged by the Cows, hoping that through it they and the Wheelers will have an opportunity to forget the tragic circumstances of the death of their young son, Arthur Hearst Cowl, the millionaire suitor of Miss Wheeler, who, while suffering from nervous trouble, ended his life in sensational manner at the Wheeler doorstep. He was to have been Miss Wheeler's husband.

Coroner Phelan declared that Miss Wheeler could not have contributed to Cowl's death, though the latter gave her a ribbon connected to a trigger of a pistol with which he was shot. He instructed her to twitch the ribbon, and she, ignorant of the nature of the device, did so. On her second attempt a shot was fired, but when Coroner Phelan attempted to discharge the pistol in the same way, the ribbon snapped asunder.

### Favor Slawson For Deane's Place As Head of Our Schools

The committee which has been charged with the duty of recommending a superintendent of schools is expected to report to the Board of education to-night.

### WEATHER FORECAST

Fair tonight and Tuesday, warmer in interior. Moderate northwest winds, becoming variable.

### LUSITANIA CARRIED MORE THAN \$200,000 WORTH OF MUNITIONS.

One of the items of the Lusitania's cargo was ammunition, valued at \$200,024. The ship carried 5,471 cases of cartridges and ammunition, according to the ship's manifest. Such a passenger ship, it was explained, would not carry high explosives, for those articles are shipped on the British cargo ships.

The Lusitania had a cargo of 1,200 tons, which is practically all she could carry. Its value was put at \$850,000. Including in her manifest are the following items:

Sheet brass, 260,000 pounds, valued at \$48,585.

Copper, 11,762 pounds, valued at \$20,955.

Copper wire, 58,465 pounds, valued at \$11,000.

349 packages of furs, valued at \$119,220.

Military goods, 189 packages, value \$66,221.

89 cases of leather, valued at \$31,517.

342,165 pounds of beef, valued at \$30,995.

### ENGLISHMEN HEED NOTICE NOT TO SAIL

Military Agents, Working As Grinders in Locomobile Factory, Cancelled Passage on Lusitania—To Go Saturday.

England may have been robbed of some valuable information concerning what is going on in Bridgeport in the manufacture of war materials, had not the German Embassy's warning deterred two men here from sailing on the Lusitania.

James Hitchens and Fred Brown, Englishmen, well-bred, of military bearing and of forceful personality, are working in the grinding department of the Locomobile Co., and living at 615 Main street. They were going back to England on the Cunarder when they were startled by the German warning. They cancelled their passage booking the night before the Lusitania sailed.

Hitchens was asked this afternoon why he wanted to go back. He said his father is dead. Brown said his mother is dead.

A reporter visited the apartments of the couple this afternoon under the impression that they are agents of the British government, officers in the English army and very intelligent men. He found nothing about them or their actions to disprove the assumption.

Brown was asked if he was here getting information for the British War Department. He only smiled and didn't answer. Hitchens walked away.

No grinder in the Locomobile Co. has a wardrobe like the Englishmen have. It was too extensive and expensive. It is safe to say no grinder in the firm's employ is as highly educated as they are. In short, they didn't look like grinders.

Brown walked about the yard of the house with the 36-inch military step, which is unmistakable. He has seen service under the colors.

Both men have the unmistakable military bearing and precision about their actions. They haven't been working long on grinding machines. Brown and Hitchens have been in this country several months, they said. They came here to "see what America looks like," so they took the first train from New York to Bridgeport and got a job in the Locomobile factory. No, they never worked anywhere in this country before.

"Why did you cancel your passage bookings," they were asked.

"Oh, we just did, that's all," one replied.

"Why were you going back?"

"My mother's dead," said Brown.

"My father's dead," said the other.

Both will sail on the St. Louis Saturday, May 15, they intimated. They will work tonight, they said, as they are on the night shift.

### DR. WORDIN, WHO WROTE GRANT'S ORDERS, IS DEAD

Bridgeport Physician Widely Known Succumbs To Shock of Paralysis.

#### HAD ROMANTIC AND EVENTFUL CAREER

Served With Distinction In Civil War—Came of Old Family Here.

Dr. Nathaniel E. Wordin, the man who penned General Grant's order concerning disposition of troops and occupation by the Federal forces of Richmond, Va., at the close of the Civil War, and who for many years has been one of the foremost practitioners of medicine in Connecticut, died today at his home, 213 Courtland street.

His death was rather unexpected and followed a second shock of paralysis, the first of which he suffered several years ago. The death of Dr. Wordin removes one of Bridgeport's foremost citizens, a man widely known for his kindly nature and interest in the public welfare, beloved by all who knew him. Dr. Wordin was of that serene temperament which drew respect for his opinions from even those who differed with him. Like many of the old school physicians he gave much of his time and service to alleviating pain and suffering, with no hope of recompense.

The early days of his life were eventful and romantic. Born in Bridgeport as were his fathers to the third generation, he was the son of Nathaniel S. Wordin and August Leavenworth. He attended school in this city until 1860 when he went to Petersburg, Va., to attend the school conducted by Rev. Abram Leavenworth, a Presbyterian clergyman. The latter was his uncle. He was at the school when the Civil War began. He boarded the steamer Northern Star the last to run the blockade from Richmond, Va., which the Confederates had established for all ships going north.

As he was one of the last northerners to leave Petersburg he was also one of the first to enter it at the close of the war for he went into the city with the victorious Army of the Potomac when the shifting fortunes of Grant's vigorous campaign broke the back of the Confederate resistance.

Returning to his home in Bridgeport in 1861, Dr. Wordin then a young man of 18, decided that his country required his services so he enlisted in the 6th Connecticut Infantry, which the Confederates had established for all ships going north.

He soon was detailed as clerk and orderly to Col. Chatfield, the commandant of the regiment and served in that capacity with the color-bearer until the war for him came home to die at Waterbury of his wounds. Dr. Wordin was with the colonel until close to the hour of his death.

He returned to the service and remained until his regiment was mustered out in 1865. During the closing hours of the war he drew many papers and orders in connection with the occupation of Petersburg and Richmond, Va. Judge A. B. Eers was a captain in his regiment and the late Maj. Thomas Boudren also was an officer in it.

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### ZEPPELINS AGAIN RAID ENGLAND

London, May 10.—Two Zeppelin airships are reported to have dropped bombs on Westcliff-On-Sea, near South End, but no fatalities have been reported.

Warning of the approach of hostile air craft was given South End at 2:52 o'clock this morning. Several machines took part in the raid but whether they were Zeppelins or aeroplanes the residents were unable to state as the weather was cloudy.

Bombs struck houses in various parts of the town but no deaths have been reported. One man and his wife were badly burned in a fire started by an incendiary bomb. One resident told of three bombs dropping near his home, none of which caused damage.

It is reported that several shops were burned at Leigh, a town near South End. Four Zeppelins are said to have dropped 40 or 50 bombs there.

London, May 10.—Incoming passenger trains from South End, a seaside resort in Essex, reported an air raid there, in which serious property damage was done and which caused some loss of life.

### German Ambassador Has Conference With Secretary Bryan and Tells of Sorrow Over Loss of American Lives—Refuses to Answer Reporters Seeking Interviews.

Washington, May 10—Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador, called on Secretary Bryan today and expressed "deep regrets that the events of the war had led to the loss of so many American lives."

After a half hour's conference between the Ambassador and Secretary Bryan this statement was, by mutual agreement, given out by the secretary:

"The Ambassador called at the state department and expressed his deep regret that the events of the war had led to the loss of so many American lives."

While neither the ambassador nor Secretary Bryan's statement mentioned the Lusitania disaster by name, it was known that the two officials talked of it specifically. It was the ambassador's first visit to the department since the disaster. The secretary received him immediately and greeted him cordially.

When Ambassador Bernstorff came into a hasty decision, he realizes that officials reiterated that the President would not allow himself to be hurried public sentiment favors a prompt indication of what the United States will do.

Messages from all parts of the country continued to pour into the White House counselling various courses. Some advocated war, but the majority of them counselled peace although expressing horror over the great loss of life.

Chairman Stone, of the Senate foreign relations committee, was at the White House to-day and saw Secretary Tumulty but did not see the President. Explaining that he expressed his own views and not those of any officials, Senator Stone said he questioned whether there was any reason for calling an extra session of Congress at present. He said he did not know what the President was planning to do.

The President had no engagements for to-day before his departure at 4 o'clock for Philadelphia.

### CORONER'S JURY HOLDS KAISER GUILTY OF "WHOLESALE MURDER"

Kinsale, Ireland, May 10.—The coroner's jury which has been investigating the deaths attendant upon the loss of the Lusitania, returned the following verdict today:

"The jury find that this appalling crime was contrary to international law and the conventions of all civilized nations and we therefore charge the officers of the submarine, and the German Emperor and the government of Germany, under whose orders they acted, with the crime of wilful and

wholesale murder."

Cornelius Horrigan, a waiter aboard the Lusitania, testifying at the opening of the inquest, said it was impossible to launch boats on the starboard side owing to the steamer list. He went down with the ship but came up and was rescued.

Vernon Livermore, the ship's bugler, gave evidence that the water-tight compartments were closed, but thought the explosion must have burst them open. The inquest then was adjourned until Monday.

### ADMIRALTY WARNED LUSITANIA OF DANGER AHEAD, SAYS CHURCHILL

London, May 10.—The first lord of the admiralty, Winston Spencer Churchill, stated in the House of Commons this afternoon, that Captain Turner, of the Lusitania had acknowledged receipt of messages from the Admiralty giving him warning and directions for the course he was to take.

Mr. Churchill said that a board of trade inquiry will be held to determine the circumstances attending the loss of the Lusitania.

"I must make it plain," he said, "that in no circumstances will it be possible to make the usual dispositions for patrolling our coast. Our resources do not enable us to provide destroyer escorts for mail and passenger ships."

The Tuscania's passenger list was made up of 36 in the first class cabin, 130 in the second and 175 in the steerage.

### ENGLISH RELATIVES WILL CARE FOR MRS. ANDERSON AND CHILD

The mother and father of Mrs. Roule Anderson of 142 Wheeler avenue, this city, will go to Queenstown from Darlington, England, either to-night or tomorrow to care for Mrs. Anderson and her two-year-old daughter, Barbara, who were saved from the wreck of the Lusitania.

All the survivors' lists from abroad contain the names of Mrs. Anderson and her daughter. Her husband and other relatives here are jubilant.

Communication was held with the State Department officials at Washington today by representatives of Mr. Anderson and as a result, a cable message has been sent to Darlington, England, instructing the mother and father of Mrs. Anderson that she is saved and to do what they can for her. It is expected that they will go to Queenstown immediately, on receipt of the message.