

STORIES OF CAMP AND WAR

A VETERAN'S STORY.

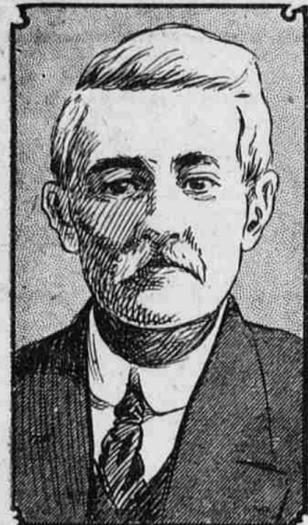
Recalls Civil War Disaster When 480 Perished in Burning Troop Ship.

"Only two of us are now living who made our escape from the fiery flames of the General Lyon, when 480 souls were hushed by the hand of death on March 31, 1865, and both reside in Illinois," said Michael S. Brockett, old soldier and farmer of Enfield, Ill., as he retold the harrowing incidents of the disaster that came as a capsheaf of cruelty to the last days of the civil war and was surpassed in horror only by the burning of the Sultana on the Mississippi in which 700 sick and wounded soldiers perished.

"The memory of that fatal Friday morning will never leave me," said Brockett, as he began the story, "and yet it seems fresh and as vivid as though it occurred but yesterday. It seems that I can see the blaze as it carries destruction in its path; hear the agonizing shrieks of the doomed and see hope vanishing with the network of flames driving death in a hideous form to hundreds on board the ill-starred ship.

"It was about ten o'clock Friday morning, March 31, that fire broke out. A barrel of kerosene oil in the porter's room was broken by the rough sea, and the contents soaked down on the two lower decks, saturating them. The sea was rough and when the stream of oil struck the furnace the flames quickly spread over the entire vessel. Within half an hour the whole ship was a burning mass.

"The sea was rolling mountain high and a scene of the greatest excitement and confusion ensued immediately



MICHAEL S. BROCKETT

after it was discovered that the vessel was on fire. Women and children (there were nearly 120 of them on board) ran shrieking about, imploring to be saved.

"On one side the fire was roaring them to death by degrees, and on the other the sea was opening and surging in hellish glee.

"Scores sprang from the burning vessel only to be swallowed by the maddened waves, which whipped the ship about like a toy and added to the horror of the morning. We had left Wilmington, N. C., only a few hours before, and many of the women and children and not a few of the men were violently seasick at the time of the fire.

"In the Fifty-sixth Illinois regiment, which had been picked up at Wilmington to be taken north and disbanded, were many sick soldiers. When the fire broke out, I was sleeping by the side of my brother. We were about 25 feet from the hatch. "The flames spread so quickly that no alarm was given, and I was badly burned before I was awakened. One boat was immediately launched by the captain of the General Lyon, but was instantly stove, the captain meeting death.

"Then I grabbed a boat and pitched it into the sea. I leaped in after it, and several fellow soldiers followed suit. Three more besides myself made fast to the boat. We drifted helplessly about at the mercy of the waves, expecting every minute to be our last.

"From the time the General Lyon started on her voyage the weather was rough and boisterous, and great numbers of the passengers were on the lower decks of the ship, to silence the roaring of the sea as best they could.

"The bulk of the sick were unable to reach deck and were suffocated and roasted, with all avenues of escape cut off. Alarm usurped the place of coolness and discipline among the mates on the upper deck, and the struggle that ensued was a mad endeavor for self-preservation, the natural instinct of man dispelling military training in an instant.

"A few of the mates ran to the hose and attempted to apply streams of water to the spreading flames, but their efforts were futile. The captain, seeing the turn of affairs, at this juncture shouted: 'The ship is gone; lower the boats!'

"A wild, disorderly rush to the few boats followed, the captain of the General Lyon being one of the most

eager to escape with his life. With him was Capt. Webber of the Fifty-sixth Illinois regiment, and both were killed when the boat in which they sought escape was sucked under the ship and crushed in the machinery.

"Pandemonium broke loose on the ship as the flames gradually neared and crowded the people closer and closer to the edge of the vessel, there to be confronted by a sea, the tumult of which sang the song of death.

"Maj. Fyles, in command of the Fifty-sixth Illinois regiment, made a heroic but fruitless attempt to quell the turmoil, and lost his life in attempting to help the women and children escape from the blistering flames. But all efforts to quiet the men and women were unheeded at that terrible moment of common danger to all, and every man worked to save his own life as best he could.

"Within half an hour the vessel was wrapped in flames and those on deck had in most instances disappeared in the engulfing waves, very few escaping in the limited number of boats. Many who had gotten safely into boats were later drowned by the high waves or pulled down to their death by scores of hands that held onto the small crafts with the crazed determination of a drowning person. The waves were running mountain high, and many of the bodies were washed ashore.

"As the boat in which we had escaped, with a party of four, washed farther and farther away four more unfortunates were rescued and taken aboard. They were weak from their battle with the waves and nearly dead when taken in. For more than nine hours we were in the boat, and before our rescue the four men last taken in died.

"Only at intervals, when the waves receded, could we see the burning ship as she drifted helplessly about at the mercy of the breakers. The steam had not been turned off, and, thus impelled by wind, water and steam, the doomed vessel, one broad sheet of flame, rushed to twofold destruction.

"The screams and imploring cries for help, shouted out in vain, came more and more faintly over the waters and were finally stilled as the last one met death by fire or buried himself in the still of the deep.

"George W. Williams, a member of the Forty-sixth Illinois regiment, and also on the boat on which I had escaped, at the risk of his own life attempted to rescue a woman who had drifted near our boat. The poor woman died just as he reached her.

"There were 26 men of the Tenth Missouri regiment who went down in a boat, and not one escaped death. The boat had been overloaded.

"After having spent nine hours on the sea we were sighted by the steamer General Sedgwick. A rope was thrown to our boat and I fastened it to my body. The other men were tossed ropes and the work of rescue was begun.

"The rough condition of the sea and the suction of the vessel carried me under and to the other side of the boat. In drawing me back the crew used so much force that seven of my ribs were broken and I was otherwise injured. I was in an unconscious condition when taken aboard. The four of us, all members of the Fifty-sixth Illinois, were given the best of care and soon recovered.

"The others escaping were Isaac Wilhite of Franklin county, Illinois, who is still living; George Williams and Jasper Fitzgerald, both of whom are dead, and myself.

"I never heard from my brother, and, of course, the poor fellow had met death with thousands of others. There were two more persons reported to have escaped from the General Lyon other than us four, but they have been lost sight of long ago, and are probably dead."

WORDS WORTH \$100 EACH.

While Telephoning for a Cat Girl Saved \$5,500 Worth of Jewels.

Miss Eleanor Casey is a young woman of golden speech, according to the Chicago Inter Ocean. Her words are sometimes worth as high as \$100 each. They were on last Saturday night, when she spoke 55 of them and thereby saved \$5,500 worth of jewels to Miss Sarah Fooks, her guest from Baltimore.

For when she said that she was telephoning from her room in the second story of the home, and burglars who had entered via the porch thinking that the family was at dinner heard her and fled without getting Miss Fooks' jewels, which were on the dresser in her room.

What she said was enough to frighten anyone under similar circumstances. This is what it was:

"Oh, bring him over right away, please do. They are in my room now. What? Well, I don't care if it will muss things up. I am going to get rid of them. What's that? I don't care, and I don't care if he kills a couple of them. We can wash the floor. Hurry up."

But what she meant was perfectly harmless. She was telephoning a friend of hers who has a cat that is death on mice, and she wanted the friend to bring the cat over to catch some rodents that she thought were in her room. She had heard them gnawing around the night before.

On the way up to her room she heard a slight noise, but thought it was the mice. Her mother a few minutes later went to her apartment on the second floor and found the doors all locked on the inside. Alarmed at this discovery, she called her husband, who after investigation sent for the police, but before their arrival the robbers had made good their escape.

Washington Gossip

Interesting Bits of News Picked Up Here and There at the National Capital

Pure Water for Soldier in the Field



WASHINGTON.—Uncle Sam has adopted a water wagon for army use, which, even when it draws its contents from a much polluted stream, provides his soldiers with fine fluid with which to quench their thirst. The secret of this is that the wagon in question is nothing more or less than a complete filtering and sterilizing plant on wheels. This sterilizing plant is equipped with a boiler for making steam to operate the pump and the sterilizer, a complete set of bone-black filters and a reservoir for storing the sterile water. Along each side are seven faucets, so arranged that 14 men can conveniently fill their canteens at one time. Only a few minutes are required for an entire regiment to obtain its water supply.

From four to six miles are required to draw this wagon. Its steam pump will suck water from any stream or well, and no matter how muddy or full of disease germs it may be it will automatically pass through the system

and not only issue perfectly clear and pleasing to the eye, but absolutely safe as well. Through a most ingenious arrangement it is discharged almost as cold as when it entered.

Clear, sparkling water, by the way, is in the majority of instances far from being pure and safe. For example, the best filter working under good conditions will allow from one to five per cent. of bacteria or more to escape, and only one per cent. may mean that tens of thousands of these health destroyers are contained in a single glass of water. Sterilization is the only proper precaution, and this feature is recognized to such an extent that the sterilizer described has been adopted by the United States government and placed in universal use in the army, marine corps, coast and geodetic survey, isthmian canal commission, etc. The sterilizer banishes typhoid fever and all of the multitude of water-borne ailments, including dysentery, cholera, and the minor, though quite important, complaints which induce a state of lassitude or indisposition or lack of snap and energy disappear almost altogether. Government statistics show that even under the most sanitary conditions it has repeatedly reduced the average sickness from six to five per cent.

Duck Hawks Return to Postal Tower



Every winter for years a pair of duck hawks has used the tower of the postoffice department building on Pennsylvania avenue as a place of refuge. The birds are in their winter quarters again this year, and from their safe retreat high above the street they make daily trips to the Potomac, where they pick up many a luckless coot and grebe which are forthwith sacrificed to appease the seemingly never completely satisfied hawk hunger.

The duck hawk is a cosmopolitan bird. It appears in slightly varied form in most parts of the world. The extent of its range has given it the name of the wandering falcon.

Three or four years ago some of the postoffice authorities sought permission to shoot the hawks, for they were in the habit of carrying their quarry into the tower, there to devour at their leisure. Some pipes became ob-

structed with the remnants, feathers, bones and feet of the hawks' victims, and so the death of the marauders was decreed.

The duck hawk is none too common a bird, and ornithologists and bird lovers generally do not think a species so interesting should be forced to extinction even though it does kill a few game birds. The bird lovers argued that if killing game were to be made a capital offense a good many men would suffer. There was a protest against the killing of the hawks and they were spared.

The postoffice department building is situated at one of the busiest corners in Washington, but the fact that the building is in the city has been a protection to the birds. It is not unusual to see them shoot by the windows of the higher office structures as they go their way to the hunting grounds.

The first assistant postmaster general is an ornithologist, and the chances are that if any suggestion is made that it would be a good thing to kill the hawks they will find a ready champion in Frank H. Hitchcock. The biological survey also is interested in the hawks.

Head Was Taken for Hat Trimming



Only a few days before the recent operation on Mrs. Nicholas Longworth and her husband were at the theater here as guests of Mrs. Roosevelt. The party occupied the box which the president's wife always takes—the stage box at the left of the auditorium. Mrs. Roosevelt always takes the chair in the front of the box in the corner furthest from the stage.

She seems to do her utmost to forget the attention which is always given to the president's box by even a Washington audience accustomed to the sight of official personages. She rarely looks toward the audience.

But to go back to Mrs. Longworth—or rather to her husband. It was a strictly family party in the box that day—Mrs. Roosevelt, the Longworths, Miss Ethel Roosevelt, Miss Hagner, who is Mrs. Roosevelt's private secretary, and, in the back of the box but evidently being well entertained, the new governess.

Mrs. Roosevelt was in her customary place in the corner. Mrs. Long-

worth sat next her but further back in the box. Miss Hagner, at Mrs. Roosevelt's request, was in the middle front seat, and Mr. Longworth was just behind the private secretary. Miss Hagner wore a large black hat, with broad, flat brim and dark trimming.

During the performance a woman sitting in the balcony happened to glance toward the Roosevelt box, and as she idly watched the occupants it suddenly occurred to her that Miss Hagner's hat was adorned with a bit of trimming she had not noticed in her earlier inspection.

"Why," she said to her companion, "look at that immense pink rose on Miss Hagner's hat! I didn't notice that before, did you?"

Her companion peered at the hat in question.

"No," she said. "Isn't it huge?"

"Perfectly immense. Seems to be out in the brim of the hat, doesn't it?"

And just then—the rose moved!

It was Mr. Longworth's bald head. The relative positions of head and hat made it seem from the balcony that the crown of the former was on the brim of the latter.

Of course an ordinary head would have shown for what it was, but a fine, pink bald head made one of the most startling pink roses even in this year of startling hat trimmings.

District Committee Opposes Dry Town



Prohibition at the national capital is a dead issue, at least during the present congress, and, notwithstanding the vigorous campaign the temperance advocates will wage this winter, there will be no legislation which will make Washington a "dry" city.

In appointing the committee on the District of Columbia, which formulates legislation for Washington, Speaker Cannon selected a large majority of members who live in the large cities so as to secure men with liberal ideas, and whose experience in the government of municipalities will be beneficial to this city.

When the speaker selected this committee it was done without regard to the temperance question, but the members were chosen solely for their qualifications.

But a canvass of the committee discloses the fact that if the question of prohibition is presented it will be pigeonholed by a large majority. There are 19 members, 11 of whom are from the large cities and eight from the small towns, three of them being opposed to prohibition.

A large lobby is maintained here by the prohibition forces, and immediately after the holiday recess its members will begin to bombard the members of the house, and particularly the District of Columbia committee, with a view to forcing some legislation. But the anti-prohibitionists have 13 votes out of 19 of the District of Columbia committee, and, unless all signs fail, Washington will be "wet" for two years longer.

Our Pattern Department

PRETTY GOWN FOR A YOUNG GIRL.



Patterns Nos. 214 and 218.—Over-waist effects are the smartest of models just now and a charming gown in that style is here shown that will prove a most desirable acquisition to the young girl's wardrobe. It is in pale blue voile worn over an under blouse of dotted mousseline. Broadcloth serge, cashmere, taffeta and linen are all appropriate for the making. The 16-year size will require 1 1/2 yards of 44 inch material for the waist and 3 1/2 yards for the skirt. Misses' Surplice Over-Blouse, No. 214. Sizes for 15, 16 and 17 years. Misses' Pleated Skirt, No. 218. Sizes for 15, 16 and 17 years.

This illustration calls for two separate patterns, a waist and a skirt, which will be mailed to any address on the receipt of 10 cents for each in silver or stamps.

This pattern will be sent to you on receipt of 10 cents. Address all orders to the Pattern Department of this paper. Be sure to give size and number of pattern wanted. For convenience, write your order on the following coupon:

No 214 and 218. SIZE..... NAME..... ADDRESS.....

SMART SURPLICE WAIST.



Pattern No. 5651.—Box-plaits are introduced in the make-up of this pretty blouse waist, shown in a development of pongee silk. The surplice front discloses a chemisette topped by a high standing collar of all-over lace. The sleeves are in elbow length, finished by fancy turn-back cuffs. The mode will develop well in Brussels lace, embroidered batiste, crepe de chine, louisine, organdy and chiffon taffeta. For a woman of 36-inch bust measure, 3 1/2 yards of 27-inch or 2 1/2 yards of 36-inch material will be required. Sizes for 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure.

This pattern will be sent to you on receipt of 10 cents. Address all orders to the Pattern Department of this paper. Be sure to give size and number of pattern wanted. For convenience, write your order on the following coupon:

No 5651. SIZE..... NAME..... ADDRESS.....

His Decision.

"I done said I wuz gwine fer de heathen ez a missionary, but I come ter de conclusion dat home is de place fer me. De heathen b'iled an' eat up de las' missionary we sent 'um, an' I ain't ready to go dat way—ect yit!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Riches and Happiness.

"Riches," says one of our contemporaries, "do not bring happiness." However, they are more effective than salt if you are looking for something to sprinkle on the tail of happiness.

PICKED UP IN BUCKEYEDOM

NEWS CULLED ESPECIALLY FOR OHIO READERS.

Happenings of Importance in Nearly Every City and Town in the State Chronicled.

Forakerites Call a Convention.

Cleveland, Jan. 11.—The gauntlet was thrown down to the Taft people Friday when a call was issued for a mass convention in accordance with the plans announced a few days since. This begins the expected contest between the Taft and Foraker forces in this county. The call is signed by James W. Stewart, M. W. Harvey, Louis Smithright, John L. Rice and H. Q. Sargent, and the republicans are asked to meet at Grays' armory at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The alleged purpose of the mass convention is to choose a "legal executive or controlling committee of the republican party in this county." As a means of checking this move the Taft forces yesterday held a rump convention of their own in Acme hall. It was a move to force the board of elections into recognizing the regular Taft delegation when it is chosen.

Re-endorsed Taft.

Sandusky, O., Jan. 14.—Following the visit here Monday of Representative Grant E. Mouser, of the Thirtieth congressional district, Erie county republican central committee members who remained away from the meeting on December 6, with several who supported the resolution rescinding a Taft endorsement, met and re-elected Carl B. Clark, deposed as chairman. New Taft resolutions, embodying an out and out declaration for Secretary Taft on behalf of the committee as a whole, on the ground that the sentiments of the people of the county were for Taft, were adopted.

Farmer's Wife Stabbed Her Assailant.

Coshocton, O., Jan. 14.—A butcher knife saved Mrs. Elmer Wolfe, wife of a farmer near Isleta, from an assault by George Sergeant, a bachelor and neighbor, Sunday evening. Mrs. Wolfe's husband and daughter were away from home when Sergeant entered and attacked Mrs. Wolfe. She succeeded in getting a butcher knife, with which she stabbed her assailant, then fled from the house. Sergeant was found Monday at the residence of a physician, too weak from loss of blood to escape. A warrant for his arrest for attempt at criminal assault was sworn out.

Will Be a Test Case.

Columbus, Jan. 11.—The supreme court on Friday refused to permit Albert Sartain, who was recently appointed sheriff of Franklin county, to file an oyster suit to secure the office from George J. Karb, who refuses to vacate, and Sartain will have to begin his case in the circuit court. It is to be a test case as to whether, where second-term sheriffs' regular terms ended January 6 this year, they are continued in office for one year under the biennial election amendment and subsequent legislation, or there is a vacancy to which the commissioners may appoint.

\$15,000 Fire Loss.

Mt. Vernon, O., Jan. 11.—The Jones block was practically destroyed by fire Friday. The blaze originated in Card & Work's restaurant. Five business houses sustained losses. In the office of Murphy & Daniels were lost records of Joe Hooker post, G. A. R., which cannot be replaced. A box of Remington cartridges in the office exploded and many spectators had narrow escapes from flying bullets. The total loss is \$15,000.

Suicided at the Door of His Home.

Cleveland, Jan. 14.—Refused admission to his home at 3024 East Seventy-third street, William Kelly, aged 59, a machinist, drank carbolic acid Monday and died on the sidewalk in front of the house. His wife, who had barricaded the door against him, saw him lift a bottle to his lips, saw him stagger against a tree, and fall to the ground.

Growth of State Institutions.

Columbus, O., Jan. 11.—Ohio's 18 state institutions are growing and with them the expenses of maintaining them are growing. In 1907 the total cost of maintaining them was \$3,626,817, which is an increase over that for 1906 of \$32,930. The total number of persons maintained in them in 1907 was 18,878, an increase of 249 over 1906.

Receiver for a Telephone Company.

Cincinnati, Jan. 14.—The Citizens Telephone Co., of Bavaria, O., went into the hands of a receiver Monday. The capital stock of the company is \$150,000. In the application for a receivership made by Guy Johns, a stockholder, it was alleged that the company was \$21,000 in debt.

A Firebug at Work in Lorain.

Lorain, O., Jan. 11.—An incendiary fire which started Friday in the hay-mow of the Sam Beal livery stable destroyed the barn and for a time threatened Lorain's \$40,000 Y. M. C. A. building and a fire station adjoining. Seventeen horses were scorched slightly, but were rescued alive.

Patterson Is Re-elected President.

Columbus, O., Jan. 14.—The trustees of the Ohio Anti-Saloon league met here Monday and re-elected Rev. James Patterson, of Columbus, president for another year.

Fifty Students Exposed to Smallpox.

Alliance, O., Jan. 14.—Fred Plim, a student at the Friends' academy at Damascus, eight miles east of here, was stricken with smallpox Saturday and his death is expected. He attended school on Friday. All the 50 students have been exposed. The authorities closed the school Monday.

Sues Railroad for \$25,000 Damages.

Marion, O., Jan. 14.—A \$25,000 damage suit was filed against the Hocking Valley railroad Monday by Frank P. Blue, whose 7-year-old son lost both legs in crossing the company's tracks on December 16.