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The War Fifty Years Ago

First Naval Battle of the Rebellion—Commodore Stringham's Vessels Attack Forts at Hatteras Inlet—Fort Clark and Fort Hatteras Surrender With Guns and Men After Heavy Bombardment and Heroic Defense. Victory a Blow to Blockade Running in That Section. Fremont Assigns Grant to Southeast Missouri Command—Confederates Attack Garrison at Lexington, Mo.—General Lyon's Body Reaches New York.

By Captain GEORGE L. KILMER, Late U. S. V. (Copyright by American Press Association, 1911.)

WHENEVER the United States navy set to work to smash things in the civil war the fight was to the finish, and it made no difference that wooden ships were sent against land forts. Even in those times of armor plate ship commanders are not in a hurry to tackle forts. The sailors in 1861 took great chances, and boldness carried the day. Commodore Stringham's battle at Hatteras inlet the 28th and 29th of August, 1861, proved that the navy was equal to the work of breaking roads for the army when a coast position was to be attacked. North Carolina put herself upon the defensive even before joining the Southern Confederacy. The steamboat Winslow was armed and sent out cruising in the waters adjoining the sounds, and all her prizes were turned into ships of war. In August there were four vessels in all ready to defend sounds and to make war upon the commerce of the north whenever a rich ship could be run down. Stringham was sent

from the fort. The vessels moved steadily on, passing and repassing the guns at varying distances so that the southerners could not fix the range. Their guns had moving targets and seldom landed a shot, while shells from the ships speedily made the fort too hot for the Confederate gunners. Soon past noon a shot carried away the flag on the fort, and afterward the garrison left the works, some taking flight in boats and others running along shore toward Fort Hatteras.

Seeing the flight of the Confederates from Fort Clark, the detachment of Butler's soldiers on the beach moved down and took possession, but the shells of the fleet aimed at Fort Hatteras passed over that work into Fort Clark. Driven from shelter by their own fire, the troops returned to the beach and passed the night in a rain on the wet beach, with no food but what they picked up on their march to the fort. During the night a Confederate regiment from Newbern came to the beach to help the garrison beat off the enemy, but they were too busy repairing the parapets and chambers injured by the bombardment to look for outside trouble.

Barron Takes Command. Seeing great confusion on land after the Confederate flag fell from Fort Clark, Flag Officer Stringham supposed that both forts had given up the fight. Fort Hatteras ceased firing. The former commander of Fort Clark, Colonel W. F. Martin of the Seventh North Carolina, went into Fort Hatteras, reporting his little garrison of 100 men worn out by fighting. About that time Flag Officer Barron of the Confederate navy entered the fort and at the request of the commandant took charge of the defense. All the guns in the fort were of naval pattern, and it was thought that a naval officer could handle the force with best execution. There were three guns in Fort Hatteras bearing upon Fort Clark, and another was put in position to keep the enemy out of the abandoned work.



GENERAL THOMAS A. MORRIS, PROMINENT UNION OFFICER IN CAMPAIGN IN WESTERN VIRGINIA FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Meanwhile the steamer Monticello had an exciting time trying to run through the inlet. When it seemed evident that the Confederates had abandoned both forts the Monticello made her way with difficulty in the shallow water to the mouth of the inlet. She often grounded, and Hatteras guns paid no attention, but finally when she was caught in shallow water the guns opened, landing five shells in her with in a few minutes. One shot went completely through the ship from starboard to port and landed in a coal bunker. Under cover of the fleet the steamer got out from under the Confederate guns, and the ships soon anchored for the night. During this day's fight the Confederate war steamers lay idle in the sound. After the abandonment of Fort Clark the fleet carried troops and ammunition to Fort Hatteras, passing and repassing under fire. She took Flag Officer Barron and others into the fort during the afternoon. It was said that some of the officers of the little flotilla wished to put troops ashore to recover Fort Clark and hold it at the point of the bayonet if need be, but their counsel was overruled.

Twenty-eight Shells a Minute. Very early on the 29th the large ships of Stringham's fleet moved up and were saluted by the stars and stripes on Fort Clark. About 8 o'clock a. m. the Watch opened fire, according to the Confederate narrative, and immediately a rain of shells began dropping in and around the fort. The combined armament of the fleet was seventy-three guns. A Confederate counted twenty-eight shells falling in one minute. A rifle battery in the sand on the shore as well as the guns of Fort Morgan added to the fire. The guns of Hatteras started in bravely to respond, but soon found that it was useless. Their shots could not reach the ships.

The Confederates on the warships were amazed at seeing the shots from Hatteras fall short of the Yankee ships. Sometimes the fort would cease firing and then open with a round or two simply to show fight. The guns of the fleet sometimes dropped a shot among the Confederate ships, but none of them was struck. Finally the Confederate gunners abandoned their stations and took refuge in the bombproof. When this was packed with about 300 men a Yankee shell went in through the ventilator and landed in the crowd. Fortunately the shell didn't explode, but it resulted in a terrible panic, which hastened the fall of the fort. The men rushed from the place and found cover elsewhere. The magazine lay next to the bombproof, and the thought of what might have happened had the shell traveled through the thin partition separating the compartments or even exploded in the bombproof was too much for green fighting men to endure. The fuse of this shell went out, but soon another exploded directly over the magazine. Fortunately this shell did not set fire to the roof, but it was clear that the enemy had the range of the vitals of the work, and there wasn't a gun on hand strong enough to land a single shot in the fleet.

Confederates Surrender. Captain Barron called a council of

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war, and at 10:45 a. m. less than two hours after the firing of the first shot, Hatteras was flying the white flag, and the first naval battle of the war was ended. This was not alone the first naval battle and naval victory of the war, but the first unqualified victory on land or sea. The surrender was unconditional, and more than 600 soldiers, with their officers, and the armament of two forts fell into Stringham's hands. The Confederate warships sailed away into the sound for a brief respite of liberty. The Hatteras victory was the beginning of the conquest of all the North Carolina coast and was a blow to blockade running from that region. The Confederates fought tenaciously for the control of those waters even to the end of the war, but with the fall of Hatteras went the key to the region. Stringham's work was quickly and thoroughly done.

Beginning of War Heavy. On Aug. 29, the day on which this action closed, the New York Tribune announced that the United States then had a naval force of fifty-nine vessels, 697 guns and 9,212 men in the Atlantic and Gulf squadrons; twenty-five vessels in the Potomac and eight on the Pacific coast; twenty ordered home from abroad, thirty-one build-up, thirty-five fitting out and more than seventy-five purchased. This was the beginning of the navy that played so great a part in winning the war for the north. The south had fewer vessels, and her navy remained numerically inferior throughout the struggle. Many of the naval battles were fought between the Union frigates and Confederate frigates, as was the case at Hatteras.

There were but few other stirring events during the week ending Sept. 2. On Aug. 23 General Fremont assigned General Ellyses S. Grant to command in southeastern Missouri. McClellan's outpost about Washington had a few skirmishes during the week, but none of them of moment. On the 29th a large Confederate force attracted about 300 home guards and United States regular troops at Lexington, Mo., but were beaten off with considerable loss. It was this action which caused Fremont to send Colonel Mulligan to Lexington, who afterward immortalized himself in the siege of that city.

There were two rather stirring actions on Sept. 1. At Bennett's Mills, Mo., thirty-eight Union troops were attacked by 350 Confederates, but secured such good account of themselves that they drove their assailants



GENERAL DANIEL E. SICKLES, AUTHORIZED TO ORGANIZE ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY REGIMENTS IN AUGUST, 1861. GENERAL SICKLES IS HERE LIVING IN BRIGGS & CO'S CONDOMINIUM AND LAST HIS LIGHT WAS AT GETTYSBURG.

far enough back to escape up a ravine. The Federal loss was three killed and the Confederate somewhat larger. The other action occurred at Boone Court House, in western Virginia. Here the Union forces attacked, killing thirty of the enemy, capturing forty, wounding many more and burning the town. There were no Federals killed. On Sept. 2 the body of General Nathaniel Lyon reached New York after having received tokens of honor and respect everywhere in its journey

across the continent. Washington was now entirely out of danger. On Aug. 31 General McClellan wrote: "Our defenses are becoming very strong now, and the army is increasing in efficiency and numbers quite rapidly. I think Beauregard has abandoned the idea of crossing the river above us, and I learned today again that my movements had entirely disconcerted their plans. I do not think they will dare to attack. We are now ready for them. The news from every quarter tonight is favorable. All goes well."

WIDOW SAYS "NO"

Mrs. Wiggs Turns Down an Offer of Marriage. SHE TELLS GRIGGS ABOUT IT.

Neighbor Advises Her to Learn Intentions of Man Who Drinks Her Ginger Tea, but She Will Never Throw Herself at Any Man's Head.

By M. QUAD. (Copyright, 1911, by Associated Literary Press.)

THE Widow Wiggs was in her tomato patch filling a dish with ripe fruit when she saw the widower Griggs sauntering down from his house. She hastened in and met him at the front steps with a cup of hot ginger tea in her hand and the words: "Silas, it's been a hot day." "It has, widow," he replied. "Is it too hot for ginger tea?" "Not at all. Ginger tea is a balmy drink. It soothes and restores. Its principal effect is on the brain and nerve centers. It was very kind of you, widow, to think of me." "But there hasn't been a day in the last twelve years, Silas, that I haven't thought of you. Only an hour ago, as I was driving a hog out of the garden, I says to myself, says I: "Now, Sarah Wiggs, there's Silas Griggs. He's a widower and a lone man. If a piece of your custard pie or



ADMIT SHE IS A POOR LONE WOMAN.

a cup of your ginger tea can bring happiness to his bosom it's for you to see that he gets 'em. You know how it is yourself to be alone and lonely, but it's far worse for a man. That's what I says to myself, Silas."

Should Be in White House. "Which was very kind of you, widow," he replied as he sipped at his tea.

"And then when the hog was out I says some more, says I: "Sarah Wiggs, Silas Griggs is a great man, but too modest to let the world know it. If he had a little more assurance—if he had come to know his real worth—he'd be in the White House instead of a cooper shop. He is wise. He is profound. He is deep. You had lived for forty years without knowing what vacuum was, but the minute you ask Silas he up and says 'It's the burzhole in a barrel!'" "That's what I says, and now I asks you, Silas, if the world at large hadn't order know you and deposit its praise and fame at your feet, shouldn't I know that not even Shakespeare or Napoleon could have answered that question as you did? It's your modesty, Silas. You must get rid of it. You must come out in the open. Didn't George Washington come out in the open and cross the Delaware?"

Tears and Sighs Mingled. "You speak feelingly, Widow Wiggs," said Mr. Griggs as he finished his ginger and smacked his lips over it. "Because I feels that way, Silas. Haven't we lived side by side nearly all our lives? Didn't you help to bury Wiggs? Didn't I help to bury Mrs. Griggs? Didn't our tears and sighs mingle over them? Ain't you alone in your lonely house, and ain't I alone in mine? Don't I know what great thoughts fit through your brain as you cooper away at the barrels? Silas, can President Taft make a elder barrel?" "He can't, widow."

"Can Mr. Roosevelt rehoop a wash-tub?" "Num."

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ago. When the elder and talked about the weather for a few minutes and asked me if I ever dreamed about Wiggs coming back to earth he said: "Widow, you are a poor, lone woman." "I am, elder." "You are lonely by day and by night." "It's the truth." "For more than twelve long years you have been a widow, though you might have married six times over. You are not so old, you are not so plain, and you are a noble cook. Take them alone and them sausages you make and try in the fall and winter, make be enough to get you your pick. Widow, John Hastings has seen and fallen in love with you." "It'll do him no good, Elder Hopkins."

"But he's a man of substance. He is looked up to. He stands well. What woman could ask for a better husband?" "There is a better man, elder, but I won't name him—yes, a better man—and he has my heart in his keeping. Thanks to John Hastings, but I'm not for him."

Widow Will Not Hint. "Is the better man the old bung-hole maker?" asks the elder. "I'm not saying," says I, "but no living man can abuse Silas Griggs in my presence. He's a man of brains. He's a man of character. He's a man for any intelligent wife to be proud of."

"But does he love you, widow?" "I'm not saying."

"But other folks are. It is being said that he's no marrying man and is making a fool of you. Widow Griggs, bring him to time. Ask him right out what his intentions are."

"Never will I do it, elder—never in this world! If Silas Griggs has anything on his mind he will speak out in time."

"He should have spoken eleven years ago, when your year of mourning was up."

"That's as it may be. Never will I throw myself at any man's head. If he wants me he must win me."

"But why don't you give you a hint of his intentions?" "That's his own business. Some men make up their minds in five minutes, and it takes some thirteen years. I'm thanking you, elder, for your call, but you've thrown your time away."

Helped to Bury Wiggs. "That's what I said to him, Silas," continued the widow, "and I don't think he will come again."

"Mebbe not," granted Mr. Griggs. "If he does it will be the same answer."

"Yes?" "Silas, you helped to lay Wiggs in his grave." "I did, and it was well done." "You and I have been friends." "We have."

"And I make no doubt you are right. If you haven't spoken, Silas—if you haven't considered the time had come—"

"Spoken of what, widow?" "Silas, if it has seemed to you too soon."

"Too soon for what?" "Silas, I have refused six different offers of marriage."

"You shouldn't have done it, widow—you shouldn't have done it. No woman should. It's a waste of material. Ho, hum, I think I'll be going home to feed the hog and make my bed."

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SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS. The School examiners of Marion county, Ohio, will meet for the examination of teachers at Central school building, Saturday, Oct. 7. Nov. 4. Examinations commence at 8:30 a. m., and no application will be received after 10 a. m. All examinations will be written and positively no private examinations will be granted. A fee of 50c will be charged on admission to the examination, and each applicant will furnish an envelope stamped and addressed to him or herself, in which a certificate or notice of failure will be forwarded. Applicants will be graded on a scale of 100. No certificate will be granted when the grade in any branch falls below 70. An average of 75, with a minimum of 70 secures a certificate for one year, 85 with a minimum of 80 and 12 months experience secures a certificate of two years, 90 with a minimum of 85 and 24 months experience secures a certificate for three years, 95 with a minimum of 90 and 36 months experience secures a certificate for 5 years, 98 with a minimum of 95 and 60 months experience secures a certificate for 8 years. Success in the school room will also be taken into consideration in determining the class of the certificate. G. W. Altendinger, Clerk. W. P. Moloney, Pres. Ber. R. Bell, Vice-Prest.

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