

## AN EPISODE OF WAR.

### Capt. W. G. Watkins Has His Own Death Warrant.

SENTENCED TO BE SHOT.

Harvey Salmon, Jr., writes in the Kansas City Times of "Uncle" George Watkins' Peril.

Clinton Democrat.  
On the streets of Clinton, Mo., walks daily a man who thirty years ago was condemned to death by the United States Government. He was never pardoned and yet is as safe to-day as before his capture. Nevertheless, but for a lucky escape Capt. W. G. Watkins would have been shot on September 23, 1863.

The story as revealed by the documents in the Department of War at Washington, and supplemented unwillingly by the modest captain, reads like pure invention. Captain Watkins, one of the bravest and coolest soldiers in the Confederacy, was born near what is now Point Pleasant, West Virginia, but never lived in the State, for he removed to Henry county, Mo., in 1853, nine years before the northwest corner of Virginia was detached by the Federal government and erected into a Union State.

With the outbreak of the civil war in 1861, young William Watkins at once joined the Southern army. In the next year he was commissioned captain and given what came near being his last orders. He was directed to recruit a company for the Confederacy and while so engaged he was captured near Marshall, Saline county, in January, 1863.

Capt. Watkins was taken to St. Louis, where he was confined in the Gratiot street military prison, better known as "McDowell's Col. lego." His case, with that of the Kirby brothers, was taken before a military commission, as stated in order No. 249 from the adjutant general's office, August 13, 1863:

"Third: Was arranged and tried before the same commission W. G. Watkins, a captain of the so-called Confederate States of America, charged with violation of the laws and customs of war, being a captain in the Confederate army and a rebel against the authority of the government of the United States, on or about the 28th day of January, 1863, was found in arms in the county of Saline, in Missouri, and within the lines of the regularly authorized and organized forces of the United States, and having in his possession and person commissions and pretended authority to recruit for the armies of the so-called Confederate States, of which commission the following are copies:

"Camp Hindman, Missouri, September 9, 1862—Captain W. G. Watkins is hereby authorized to recruit a company of cavalry for three years or during the war, to consist of eighty able bodied and well mounted men, and to furnish transportation and subsistence for the same, and to report to these headquarters whenever required.  
(Signed) J. V. COCKRELL,  
Col. Commanding, C. S. A.

"Headquarters Jackman's Partisane, November 24, 1862.—Captain Watkins—Sir: In pursuance of an order from Major-General Hindman, commanding the Trans-Missouri district, and Colonel Waldo P. Johnson, recruiting officer for the State of Missouri, you are hereby authorized to enlist and swear into the service of the Confederate States for three years, or the war, one company of men to serve as cavalry and compose a part of my independent regiment now being raised to operate in the State of Missouri, and to report to these headquarters as soon as practicable.  
(Signed) S. D. JACKMAN,  
Colonel Commanding.

"To the above charges and specifications the accused pleaded not guilty, but the commission having maturely considered the evidence in the case, sentenced the prisoner to be shot to death at such time and place as the general commanding the department may direct.

"The proceedings, findings and sentences of the commission in the above cases of James R. Kirby, Muse Kirby and William G. Watkins were approved by the proper com-

manders and the records forwarded for action of the president of the United States.

"The sentences in each case have been approved and will be carried into effect Sept. 23, at St. Louis, under the direction of provost marshal general."

The sentence was not carried out at that time, but was postponed. Captain Watkins, however, was apparently doomed, though his desperate courage never faltered and he still hoped to make his way out somehow. Meanwhile his general, Sidney G. Jackman, of Bates county, Missouri, was straining every nerve to rescue the captain, whom he considered one of the most courageous and devoted men in the service. Such was his anxiety that on learning of the verdict of death passed upon the prisoner, General Jackman considered a bold plan to effect Captain Watkins' release at the risk of his own life.

General Thomas Bartholow of Howard county was then camping, as a Union commander, on his own estate. His headquarters were in his own mansion. Around him lay his soldiers, guarding the approaches to the residence on all sides except where a natural defense seemed presented by a swamp supposed to be impassable. General Jackman, however, believed the lake could be forded. With a single companion, Major Rucker, he came to it one dark, dismal night and rode in.

The way was difficult. At times the horses sank to their shoulders in the mud and the water ran over their backs. But pressing on, General Jackman and Major Rucker emerged from the swamp. They penetrated the Union lines and rode boldly to the front door of the residence.

At their hurried knocking General Bartholow came down in his sleeping clothes. Through the glass at the side of the door it was perceived that he was carrying a candle in one hand and a revolver in the other.

"Who's there?" called General Bartholow gruffly.

"A messenger from General Guitart at Fayette," answered General Jackman.

"Hand in your message, then."  
"It is verbal," said Jackman, who thereupon recounted a fanciful story to the effect that General Guitart wanted General Bartholow's assistance in capturing General Jackman himself.

"Of course I'll help catch the scoundrel," shouted General Bartholow, opening the door a trifle in his excitement.

Thereupon General Jackman, whose knee had been resting lightly on the door, suddenly forced it open and bounded into the hall. In a moment General Bartholow was the prisoner of the "scoundrel."

General Jackman led his captive silently back through the swamp without detection, and proceeded to the top of a high hill not far away. There he kept his prisoner three days, arguing, threatening and appealing by turns to secure his influence to save Captain Watkins. Finally, as the price of freedom and immunity, General Bartholow consented to go to Washington and do his utmost to secure the release of Captain Watkins. In the event of failure he was to resign from the United States army.

As agreed, General Bartholow went to Washington, where he requested President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton to pardon Captain Watkins, if not for the sake of justice, at least to secure his (Bartholow's) exchange. Upon their refusal to reconsider the sentence, General Bartholow, as an honorable man, completed the terms of his agreement. In spite of their efforts to convince him that he was not bound to keep his promise, he resigned his commission in the United States army and went to Mazatlan, in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico, where he remained until the close of the war.

Captain Watkins, meanwhile, was fast approaching the fatal day, though he had no thought of submitting to his fate. He was continually trying to escape. One day in October he thought the time had come. Being in the hospital, he managed to get out through the skylight, and closely pursued, dashed into the Christian Brothers' college, which was adjacent. There he was

immediately recaptured. On his return he was thrown into close confinement, with handcuffs on his wrists and a ball and chain on his leg. Thus weighted down he almost abandoned hope.

But his guards were deceived by his apparent resignation. They finally gave him his old quarters, with the freedom of the yard in the day time. He was still closely guarded. Then, after several ineffectual attempts to escape, a more elaborate plan was formed.

There was then in prison several Confederate cooks, who had access to the cellar, and in fact slept there. From this cellar they began to dig a passage to the outer world. Having nothing but butcher knives and working only by night and at odd times, their progress was slow. Yet in six weeks of hard labor they had completed a tunnel from the cellar of the prison to the cellar of a private dwelling house eighty feet distant.

The arrangements were completed. Eight men were to go, Captain Watkins, the Kirby brothers and the four cooks. At the appointed time the men crept stealthily by the guards and entered the cellar without being detected. But catching sight of some barrels of apples stored there, the daring men stopped to fill their pockets. In rummaging around they made so much noise that they alarmed the guard who was stationed near. Into the tunnel they dived. First the cooks, who knew the way, with Captain Watkins and another soldier bringing up the rear.

As he entered in his turn Captain Watkins heard the guard running to and fro, and shouting wildly. The fugitives pressed on as fast as they could. At first the tunnel was high enough to permit them to proceed on their hands and knees. Further on it narrowed until they had to lie flat on their breasts and worm themselves along through the dark, damp holes.

Finally they came out in the cellar of the private house. The tunnel they immediately blocked, to prevent recapture. Thanks to their precautions, they were not discovered, but left the house quietly that night and scattered. Captain Watkins soon returned to the Confederate army, where, under General Marmaduke and his old commander, General Jackman, he distinguished himself by his hairbreadth escapes and his invincible courage. Returning to Clinton after the war, he engaged in business, and was elected to many city and county offices, fulfilling the duties of all with great credit. Such is his modesty that he never refers voluntarily to his exploits, though speaking of when questioned, in a calm, matter-of-fact way, which gives the key to his cool but desperate courage on the field.

Moberly, Mo., July 1—Edwin Baker, aged 32 years, who was injured in the Wabash wreck Saturday evening, at Missouri City, is dead. His home was in Curryville, Ill. This makes the total number of deaths as a result of the wreck eight.

**MOTHER!** There is no word so full of meaning and about which such tender and holy recollections cluster as that of "MOTHER"—she who watched over our helpless infancy and guided our first tottering step. Yet the life of every Expectant Mother is beset with danger and all effort should be made to avoid it.

**Mother's Friend** so assists nature in the change-taking place that the Expectant Mother is enabled to look forward without dread, suffering or gloomy forebodings, to the hour when she experiences the joy of Motherhood. Its use insures safety to the lives of both Mother and Child, and she is found stronger after than before confinement—in short, it "makes Childbirth natural and easy," as so many have said. Don't be persuaded to use anything but

**MOTHER'S FRIEND**

"My wife suffered more in ten minutes with either of her other two children than she did altogether with her last, having previously used four bottles of 'Mother's Friend.' It is a blessing to any one expecting to become a MOTHER," says a customer.  
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OF DRUGGISTS AT \$1.00, or sent by mail on receipt of price. Write for book containing testimonials and valuable information for all Mothers, free.  
The Bradford Regulator Co., Atlanta, Ga.

# The Bates Co. Elevator Company

AT THE BUTLER DEPOT.

## BINDER TWINE.

We handle the celebrated McCormick, pure sisal Binder Twine. Every ball is guaranteed to run smooth and be free from knots. 50 pound of McCormicks pure sisal twine will go as 60 pounds of the much inferior twine.



## McCormick Mower.

If you need a mower, buy a McCormick new four shaft, it is the slickest mowing machine on the market. No chains to get loose, no steel pitman to break. Call and see these machines at the Bates county Elevator Company, at the Butler depot.

### ON THE RAILS.

#### Three Tramps Struck by a Passenger Train.

Wellsville, Mo., June 30—The fast mail train on the Wabash railroad struck three men at this place at 12:01 o'clock. One was dead when picked up, the other two are badly injured and will probably die. One is able to converse and says that they were thrown from a freight by the brakeman.

The man killed is between 18 and 20 years old, light complexioned, dark hair and eyes. His head is mashed almost to a jelly. On his person was a note signed Edna White, directing the Santa Fe agent at La Plats, Mo., to deliver a trunk to bearer. Doran White, an operator at that place and here on a visit, said at the inquest that he knew of the White girl, but did not know any of the men.

The man who talks says his name is Billy Moore, of 2200 Vine street, Philadelphia. He did not know the names of the others.

A complete outfit of burglar tools was found with the men. A pistol was picked up by the porter of the train and taken away. Circumstances point to a probable murder of the one dead and the whole tragedy is mysterious. Three other tramps seemed to know the injured men, called at the building where they were carried and asked one how the others were.

#### Half a Million.

Louisville, Ky., June 30.—The Commercial Building Trust, doing a building and loan business, assigned this afternoon. The liabilities are about \$500,000, with the assets estimated at the same. The assignment is attributed to the recent decision of the Appellate Court on building and loan associations.

#### Ballard's Snow Liniment. 3

Mrs. Hamilton, Cambridge, Ill., says: I had the rheumatism so bad I could not raise my hand to my head. Ballard's Snow Liniment has entirely cured me. I take pleasure in informing my neighbors and friends what it has done for me. Chas. Handier, clerk for Lay & Lyman, Kewanee, Ill., advises us Snow Liniment cured him of rheumatism. Why not try it? It will surely do you good. It cures all inflammation, wounds, sores, cuts, prains, etc. Sold by H. L. Tucker.

Dunkirk, O., June 30—Burglars who blew up the safe in Woodruff's bank yesterday have not been captured, although every clew has been followed. A part of the big steel vault in the bank was blown through a window and crashed into a store show window across the street.

Twelve thousand dollars were in the safe, but the robbers failed to get the money. They fired several shots at citizens.

### ABJOURNED

Chairman Dingley Now Fixes the Date at July 15.

Washington, D. C., June 26—Congress will adjourn sine die by July 15, said Chairman Dingley of the House Ways and Means Committee to-day. This statement as to the final adjournment seems to tally with the predictions of most of the leaders on both sides. There are yet many knotty problems to solve before the bill can be sent to conference, however, the opinion is general that very little time will be required to reach an agreement. The house will agree to the duty of 1/2 of a cent per pound on hides, which the senate finance committee has agreed to Mr. Dingley, who will lead the house conferees, will insist upon substituting the house sugar schedule for the senate figures. After a fight the senate will probably yield. It is practically certain that there will be no backsliding from the senate figures in the schedule. The miners have won a victory over the smelters and refiners and while the lobby is hard at work the schedule will doubtless stand.

#### What's the Use of Talking

About colds and coughs in the summer time. You may have a tickling cough or a little cold or baby may have the croup and when it comes you ought to know that Parks cough Syrup is the best cure for it. Sold by H. L. Tucker

#### Hanged Twice.

Wharton, Tex., June 26—The execution of James Williamson here for complicity in the murder of the Cooker family, was bungled.

After he had been dropped through the trap the first time and the doctors pronounced him dead, the corpse showed signs of reviving. A new rope was procured and the body hoisted up, the noose slipped over his head, and a second drop was given it. The body was suspended the second time for twenty-two minutes, the physicians making sure the second time that life was passed before they would order the rope severed.

#### Opposed to Annexation.

Washington, D. C., June 26—Congressman Crumpacker of Indiana is opposed to the annexation of Hawaii. He announced to-day that next week he would introduce in the House a resolution providing that any proposition for the acquisition of territory shall be ratified by two thirds of both Houses and three quarters of the Legislators of the different States. The resolution will be in the form of an amendment to the Constitution. In support of his plan Mr. Crumpacker cites the fact that, under present laws, the President and one House may add territory which will cost to maintain more money than it is worth. Mr. Crumpacker is a Republican.

"There is nothing under the sun," but there are ways of combining familiar things that produce entirely radical results. The ingredients of Dr. Arthur's Febrimel are as old as the hills, yet they were never put together in one medicine until modern medical science discovered their valuable properties. In its completed form Febrimel is the perfection of tasteless chill remedies. Quick acting, mildly laxative, pleasant to taste and guaranteed to cure. Price 50c. Sold by McClelland & Co.

27,000 to be Idle.

Anderson, Ind., June 28.—The National Tin Plate Co. to-day posted notice of a shut-down on Thursday morning as per contract of the readjustment of the wage scale. At the same time the union tin plate factories in the country will close.

The conferences of manufacturers and workmen wage committees will begin at Pittsburgh next Saturday. All the union window glass factories are preparing to close down on Wednesday of this week for a readjustment of the wage scale.

On account of the factional fight between the blowers and gatherers on one side and the cutters and flatteners on the other some delay in settlement is anticipated.

Among the union flint-bottle manufacturers there will be no shut-down as usual, the information being given out that the union men will sacrifice their vacation in order to fight the non union plants which do not close.

The window glass shut-down will cause 15,000 men to lie idle, while the tin plate closing lays off about 12,000 men.

#### Married on a Dead Run.

Lamar, Mo., June 30.—A marriage was performed here at an early hour this morning under novel circumstances. C. C. Horn, a local bartender, procured a marriage license last night and took the evening train for Nevada, where he met Miss Cora Wallace of Paris, Mo., and returned on the next train, arriving here at 12:13 o'clock this morning. They were met at the depot by a party of young people, who followed the pair to the residence of Esquire James M. Dye. Mr. Dye was roused from his slumbers and consented to perform the ceremony, but as Horn did not enjoy so much publicity he took the justice into the carriage, and with the bride drove away down the street. After going a little way, and with the horses on a dead run, the knot was tied. The 'squire says it is fully as strong as if the job had been done under the most favorable auspices.

#### When You Take Your Vacation

The most necessary article to have with you (except your pocket book) is a bottle of Foley's Colic Cure. It is an absolute prevention or cure of all derangements of the bowels, caused by a change of water. J. A. Trimble, druggist, Butler, Mo.

#### Foot Hills Ablaze.

Lodi, Cal., June 30.—A destructive field fire is raging in the hills around Burson, east of here. Back firing has been indulged in to save the town of Burson from destruction. Several buildings are reported to have been burned in the hills.

A railroad train was delayed to fight the flames, which attacked the track and trestle last night. Great damage will doubtless be done.