

The Plow Woman

By ELEANOR GATES,
Author of "The Biography of a Prairie Girl."

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CHAPTER XXIII.

RIFLE in hand, forgetful of crutches, bewildered by sleep, the section boss came diving through the blanket partition to answer her call. "What's matter? What's matter?" he demanded thickly, rubbing hard at his eyes to unclog their sight.

Dallas leaned in the doorway, facing out. Her shoulders were bent forward heavily, as if she, too, were only half awake. Her head rested against a casing. She lifted it when she felt him beside her. "Well, dad," she answered grimly, "it's Indians this time, and—I reckon they got us stumped." She smiled a little, ruefully, and pointed.

Winking into the light Lancaster followed her pointing and saw the pole. Up jerked his chin, as if from a blow on the goatee. He started wildly. His jaw dropped. "W'y, Lawd!" he breathed perplexedly and his chest heaved beneath the gray flannel of his shirt. Slowly he hobbled forward in his bare feet, using his gun for a prop. Before the pole he halted and began tussling his grizzled crown with trembling fingers. Overhead the scalp weighted rag swung to and fro in the breeze, waving him its sinister salute.

Gradually his brain cleared and into it there trickled a hint of the pole's meaning and purpose. He stopped



Overhead the scalp weighted rag swung to and fro.

ruffling his hair and caught up the Sharps in both hands. Then, all at once, the trickle swelled to a foaming torrent of suspicion that carried him close to the truth. Maddened, cursing, he dropped the gun and fell upon the asplend, pried it furiously from the sod and smashed it into a dozen bits.

To Dallas, watching him in silence, the destruction of the pole was a sore reminder, for, better than ever before, she realized that her father could only accomplish the hasty, childish things; that beyond these he was powerless. Without a doubt she must ask elsewhere for aid.

As he came limping and raging back to her she hurried forward to relieve him of the rifle and to guide his crippled feet. "Dad, I think it's about time we had a understanding at the fort," she said quietly and took him by an arm.

He brought up short and wrung himself out of her grasp. "Th' fort! Th' fort! Th' fort!" he repeated in a frenzy. "Lawd-a-mighty, Dallas, y' make me sick!"

"It's Indians," she replied steadily. "They're coming too near to be comfortable. We got to have help."

He raised his fists and shook them. "Help an' fiddlesticks!" he blustered. "Thet ain't no Injuns. It's thet Shanty Town blackleg a-tryin' t' skeer us. Go look at th' groun—go look at th' groun! Ah say, see if they's moccasin tracks thearabout. Ah bet y' won't find any." He turned back at the scattered splinters, pulling Dallas after him.

Together they got down, examining with care. As he had said, there were no prints of an Indian shoe in the soft earth, but mingling with the round, faint marks of his own naked heel were those, more plainly stamped, of a large boot. They led up to the spot from the nearest point on the river and back upon themselves toward the same point.

"Wat'd Ah tell y'?" demanded the section boss almost triumphantly. His voice quavered, however, and he gulped. "It's thet scawag, an' he wanted us t' know it. Ain't ev'ry Injun in fifty mile shet up tight in you corral? Ev'ry one 'cept Charley, an' this ain't the job o' th' blamed fool. No, sirree! An', then, th' miles didn't make no row las' night. They'd shore snorted if it was Injuns."

"I guess that's so," agreed Dallas hastily and made him a warning sign. Marylyn was moving about inside and calling.

But he was beyond thought for another. "Bosh, bosh!" he cried. "She's

got t' stop bein' coddled an' know wat's wat. You got t' stop talkin' fort. Ah'm goin' t' ketch thet low down skunk 'bout no soldiers. An' Ah'll pepper his ugly hide. Ah'll make him spit blood like a broncho buster. Th' idee o' his havin' th' gall!" He rammed the Sharps into its rack and laughed immoderately.

"Oh, pa!" expostulated Marylyn in a startled whisper and flew to Dallas. Her face, still pink from slumber, paled a little. She laid it against her sister. Long ago she had seen her father roused to the same pitch. The sight had terrified her and blunted some earlier and tenderer memories.

"You git you clothes on," he ordered roughly, "an' rustle us some breakfasts."

She retreated, ready for tears.

Dallas walked up to him, gave him his crutches and put a hand on his shoulder. "Dad," she said firmly, "don't take out your mad on Marylyn. Keep it all for—him." She nodded south toward Brannon. "That's where it belongs."

"Dallas, you plumb disgus' me," he retorted. "Talkin' soldier when y' know Matthews could buy th' hull kit an' boodle with a swig o' whiskey!" He arraigned the fort with a crutch.

"What do you think of doing, dad?" "Ah'll fin' out where thet cuss was las' night—Charley 'll help me, y' see."

"And then?" "Ah'll see thet—thet Oliver knows o' this, thet he keeps a eye on thet dog-goned—"

"But it'll be easier just to go straight to the captain—not I, but you!" "Yea, do, pa," urged Marylyn. "Oh, Dallas, what's happened?"

The elder girl told of the pole and the bootmarks, treating them lightly. Then she came back to her father, to find that her argument of a moment before, for all its short cut logic, had set him utterly against the plan he had himself proposed. And now he was for no man's help, but for a vengeance wreaked with his own gun. Hurling a final defy toward Shanty Town, he disappeared behind the partition.

No breakfast was eaten that morning. The section boss was too angry to taste of food, Marylyn was too frightened and Dallas had no time, for she was busy with the mules, currying them and putting them before the wagon. "Can't help what you think about it this time," she said when her father asked her where she was going. "I've made up my mind that if you won't say the fort, why then I'll have to drive to Clark's for Mr. Lounsbury. We don't know for sure what that pole meant. We must ask."

"Aw, you ain't got a smitch o' pride," he taunted jealously. "Goin' t' Lounsbury. Waal, waal! You think a heap o' him, don't y'?" More 'n you do o' you father! Thet sticks out like a sore finger."

"No," she answered simply. "I'm putting my pride in my pocket, dad. I'm going to Mr. Lounsbury because I care so much for you and for Marylyn. And I want to say something—I hate to say it—you've almost discouraged me about Brannon lately. We came here to raise stuff to sell over there. But I can't see how we can sell over there if we won't even speak to a soul. It looks as if we're going to give all that up—as if a lot of my work is for nothing."

It was a new thought for the section boss. And while Dallas disappeared behind Betty he pondered it with hanging head. She came around soon to hitch Ben's tugs, when her father looked up shamefacedly. "Ah'll tell y', Dallas," he said by way of compromise, "ef Lounsbury don't come back with y'."

"He will," assured Dallas stoutly.

"W'y, we'll go t' th' fort, as you say."

"All right, dad," she replied, giving his back a pat.

He began to hobble up and down. "You ain't scaf't t' go?" he ventured at last. "Ain't afeerd o' nothin'?"

"No, and I'm going on my own hook, remember. It's not your fault."

"Y' kain't think o' no other way?" She paused in front of him. "Can you?" she asked.

He could have sworn, but there was something in her face that forbade it. "No-no," he said explosively and so matched her determination with his hot stubbornness.

He left her and, taking the rifle and all the ammunition there was, seated himself on a bench placed just outside the door. There he was—a pitiful sentinel—as she circled the shack and reined.

And now another question was presented: Should Marylyn stay or go? Dallas was for her remaining, so that in case of need help could be summoned—from somewhere. Marylyn sided with her. And it was long afterward, when many things were made clear, before the elder girl understood her sister's action—one that seemed so contrary to what the younger one felt. But their father opposed them both and vehemently.

Dallas upon the wagon seat, prepared for her long drive, had softened and touched him. She bore herself so bravely. She was so respectful and concerned.

"You take Marylyn," he insisted, "an' the pistol. Ah c'n git along fine by myself. Charley 'll be comin' an' Ah'll hang on t' him. Ah reckon between us we'll be O. K." "Sides, y' know, Ah got a weasel's tail."

The mention of Charley won Dallas to her father's view. He would not be alone all day, for the outcast would surely appear. On the other hand, she longed to have Marylyn with her, where she could shield her from cross words and possible harm. "We'll have Mr. Lounsbury with us coming home," she said.

At that Marylyn waxed still more eager to remain. And it took some pleading to overcome her reluctance and to bring about her consent. Finally, however, the two girls drove away.

Before she started the team Dallas climbed down to say goodbye. In all their lives few caresses had ever passed between father and daughter, and those had been during her babyhood. But now, moved by a common impulse, each reached out at parting to clasp the other. And there were tears in the eyes of both.

As the wagon trundled out of earshot that one of the trio least consulted in the affairs of the shack was hard beset by a temptation—to tell Dallas about Lieutenant Fraser and his earnest, oft repeated promise of protection. But Marylyn hesitated, afraid to speak—no less afraid of her sister than of her father. She realized that if she mentioned the officer she would have to admit their meetings. And such a confession would undoubtedly result in an end to those meetings and perhaps in severe blaming. Yet—it would also cut short the drive to Clark's. And what might not be awaiting them on that journey? Still there were only two likely dangers—Indians and the interpreter. "But Mr. Fraser says this upper side of the river's safe," she remembered. As to Matthews, he would not be lingering beside the road to waylay them. Her fears for her own safety were thus argued down.

There was yet her father's safety to consider. Well, her gallant new friend would look to that. "He'll be across again this afternoon," she thought, "and he'll watch the house careful. He couldn't do any more if he knew about the pole." So, her conscience satisfied, she decided to keep her own counsel. That decision cost her abundant grief and penitence in the months to come.

While Marylyn was busy with her troublesome problem a similar one was running in Dallas' brain, where it called for calculation. Would Matthews threaten the shack that day? It was scarcely probable. Night offered the best hours for an attack. Therefore the wagon must return before night. But could Ben and Betty make Clark's and the return trip before then? So far they had never done it. The previous summer the drive was begun at dawn, when dawn was at 3 o'clock. "We'll just have to hike along," she said aloud to Marylyn.

Into the coulee slid the wagon, its long tongue in the air, the loose tugs hitting the mules in the back. When the team had scrambled up the farther side Dallas put them to a trot by a flick of the blacksnake. Then she bent forward over the dashboard, her eyes fixed eagerly on that distant brown blotch at the eastern ridge top. But Marylyn as they drew away looked regretfully backward to where a clump of tall cottonwoods, shaking their heart shaggy leaves in the wind, dappled a flower studded stretch below the coulee mouth.

(To Be Continued.)

ANCIENT LAW WELL APPLIED

FATHER AND DAUGHTER IN NEW JERSEY ARRESTED AND WILL BE PROSECUTED AS COMMON SCOLDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—John Pfeiffer and his daughter, Margaret, were arrested in Jersey City under indictments charging them with the somewhat unusual offense of being "common scolds."

Pfeiffer is 55 years old and his daughter 30. A score or more of their neighbors testified before the grand jury, and the indictments were found under an ancient law of this commonwealth. Pfeiffer is a widower and he and his daughter are accused of disturbing the neighborhood by their continual caustic remarks regarding their neighbors or anyone who happened to pass their house.

The statute under which they are indicted provides for a penalty of not more than three years' imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$1000 for any person convicted of being a "common scold," continually scolding and disturbing the peace of the neighborhood and of all good and quiet people, to the common nuisance of all the people therein inhabiting, residing or passing."

We have no confidence in the theory that a man is smart simply because he comes from Chicago or New York.

Try The Teller Want Ads.

Yellow pine timber location, recently withdrawn from government reserve, cruise 1 1/2 to 2 million. Fee, \$150. Address immediately, Washington Trust Co., 16 Washington block, Portland, Ore.

Shareholders' Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the shareholders of the Lewiston National bank of Lewiston, Idaho, will be held in the directors room of said bank on Tuesday, the 14th day of January, 1908, at 10 o'clock a. m.

EDWARD C. SMITH, Cashier.
Dated at Lewiston, Idaho, December 6, 1907.

Stockholders' Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Lewiston Publishing Co., of Lewiston, Idaho, will be held at their office in the Temple Theatre building on Monday the 13th day of January, 1908, at 3 p. m. for the purpose of electing officers and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

C. H. EDWARDS, Sec.
Dated at Lewiston, Idaho, December 28, 1907.

Order to Show Cause.

In the probate court of Nez Perce county, Idaho.

Order to show cause why order of sale of real estate should not be made.

In the matter of the estate and guardianship of Eva D. Nichols, Lois C. Nichols, Fred E. Nichols, Charles J. Nichols and Ralph E. Nichols, minors, deceased.

F. W. Nichols, the guardian of the estate of all of the above named minors, having filed in this court his petition duly verified, praying for an order of sale of all of the real estate of said minors for the purposes therein set forth.

It is therefore ordered that all persons interested in said estate of said Eva D. Nichols, et al., above named, appear before this said probate court on the 5th day of January, 1908, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at the courtroom of said court at the courthouse in the City of Lewiston, County of Nez Perce, State of Idaho, to show cause why an order should not be granted to the said F. W. Nichols, guardian to sell all of the real estate of the said Eva D. Nichols, et al., minors above named, and that a copy of this order be published at least four successive weeks in The Evening Teller, a newspaper printed and published in said city and county.

Dated this 4th day of December, 1907.

T. O. HANLON,

Probate Judge

Filed this 4th day of December, 1907.

(SEAL) T. O. HANLON,
Probate Judge

Notice for Publication

Timber Land Act June 3, 1878. United States Land Office, Lewiston, Idaho, December 18, 1907.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of Aug. 4, 1892, Benjamin F. Aytch of Forest, county of Nez Perce, state of Idaho, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3298, for the purchase of the W 1/4 SW 1/4 of section No. 27, in township No. 32 N. range No. 3 W., B. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the register and receiver of this office at Lewiston, Idaho, on Friday, the 7th day of March, 1908.

He names as witnesses: Malley Farley, Clifford Staples, Carter Robinson, William E. Aytch, all of Forest, Idaho.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 7th day of March, 1908.

T. H. BARTLETT, Register.

Notice of Time Appointed for Proving of Will, Etc.

In the Probate Court in and for Nez Perce County, State of Idaho.

In the matter of the estate of Loretta K. Stirling, deceased.

Pursuant to an order of said probate court made on the 11th day of December, 1907, notice is hereby given that Monday, the 23d day of December, 1907, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at the court room of said court, at the courthouse in Lewiston, county of Nez Perce, has been appointed as the time and place for proving the will of said Loretta K. Stirling, deceased, and for hearing the application of Frank S. Stirling

for the issuance to S. Leslie Thompson of letters testamentary, when and where any person interested may appear and contest the same.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1907.
T. O. HANLON,
Clerk.

Notice for Publication

Timber Land Act June 3, 1878. United States Land Office, Lewiston, Idaho, September 26, 1907.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the state of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, Guy Mounce, of Lewiston, county of Nez Perce, state of Idaho, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3285, for the purchase of the S 1/4 SW 1/4 of section No. 11, in township No. 32 N. range No. 4 W. B. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Register and Receiver at Lewiston, Idaho, on Thursday, the 6th day of February, 1908.

He names the following witnesses:

Henry L. Benton, Isaac Deschamps, Lafayette Mounce, Elizabeth S. Benton, all of Forest, Idaho.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before the 6th day of February, 1908.

T. H. BARTLETT, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Department of the Interior, Land Office at Lewiston, Idaho, September 25, 1907.

Notice is hereby given that Steven D. Taylor of Fairburn, Idaho, has filed notice of his intention to make final five year proof in support of his claim, viz.: Homestead Entry No. 8734, made November 9, 1901, for NE 1/4 Section 32, Township 34 N. Range 3 W., B. M., and that said proof will be made before register and receiver at Lewiston, Idaho, on January 7, 1908.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, the land, viz.:

Andrew J. Johnson, Willie E. Kern, William F. Brown, all of Fairburn, Idaho; John H. Zee of Sweetwater, Idaho.

T. H. BARTLETT, Register.

Notice of Publication

Notice is hereby given that at 3 p. m., on the 10th day of February, 1908, at Lapwai, county of Nez Perce, state of Idaho, before James McGrath, J. P., proof will be submitted of the completion of works for the diversion of one-half cubic foot per second of the water of Lewis creek and springs, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a certain permit heretofore issued by the state engineer of the state of Idaho.

1. The names of the persons holding said permit are Martin L. Goldsmith and Samuel Lewis.

2. The postoffice address of such persons is Spalding, county of Nez Perce, state of Idaho.

3. The number of such permit is 1097, and the date set for the completion of such work is February 13, 1908.

4. Said water to be used for irrigation and domestic purposes.

5. Said works of diversion will be fully completed on the date set for such completion, and the amount of water which said works are capable of conducting to the place of intended use, in accordance with the plans accompanying the application for such permit, is one-half cubic feet per second.

6. The amount of lands for which said water is available is 25 acres, particularly described as follows: NW 1/4 NE 1/4 and SW 1/4 NE 1/4 section 21, township 36 N. range 4 W., B. M.

JAMES STEPHENSON, JR.,
State Engineer.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Timber Land Act June 3, 1878. United States Land Office, Lewiston, Idaho, November 4, 1907.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892, Anna Mounce, of Lewiston, county of Nez Perce, state of Idaho, has this day filed in this office her sworn statement No. 3260, for the purchase of the NE 1/4 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, and SE 1/4 NE 1/4, of Section No. 3, in Township No. 32 N. Range No. 4 W., B. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Register and Receiver at Lewiston, Idaho, on Wednesday, the 15th day of January, 1908.

He names as witnesses: George

H. Clark, of Lewiston, Idaho; Harry L. Benton, Guy Mounce, Isaac Deschamps, all of Forest, Idaho.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 15th day of January, 1908.

T. H. BARTLETT, Register.

Notice to Creditors.

In the Probate Court of Nez Perce County, Idaho.

In the matter of the estate of Eva D. Nichols, Lois C. Nichols, Fred E. Nichols, Charles J. Nichols and Ralph E. Nichols, minors.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, F. W. Nichols, guardian of the estate of Eva D. Nichols, Lois C. Nichols, Fred E. Nichols, Charles J. Nichols and Ralph E. Nichols, minors, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said minors, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said guardian at the law office of Anderson & Elliott, No. 317 Means block, Lewiston, Idaho, the same being the place for the transaction of the business of said estate, in Lewiston, county of Nez Perce, state of Idaho.

Signed and dated at Lewiston, Idaho, this 27th day of November, A. D., 1907.

F. W. NICHOLS,
Guardian, Eva D. Nichols, et al.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Timber Land Act June 3, 1878. United States Land Office, Lewiston, Idaho, September 26, 1907.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, Elizabeth S. Benton of Lewiston, county of Nez Perce, State of Idaho, has this day filed in this office her sworn statement No. 3282, for the purchase of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section No. 10, in Township No. 32 N. Range No. 4 W., B. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish her claim to said land before Register and Receiver at Lewiston, Idaho, on Thursday, the 6th day of February, 1908.

She names the following witnesses:

Henry L. Benton, Isaac Deschamps, Lafayette Mounce, all of Forest, Idaho; Guy Mounce of Lewiston, Idaho.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 6th day of February, 1908.

T. H. BARTLETT, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Timber Land Act June 3, 1878. United States Land Office, Lewiston, Idaho, November 23, 1907.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, Henry L. Benton of Forest, county of Nez Perce, state of Idaho, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 3271, for the purchase of the S 1/4 NE 1/4 and E 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section No. 15, in Township No. 32 N. Range No. 4 W., B. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Register and Receiver at Lewiston, Idaho, on Thursday, the 6th day of February, 1908.

He names as witnesses, Lafayette Mounce of Forest, Idaho, Guy Mounce of Lewiston, Idaho, Isaac Deschamps of Forest, Idaho, and Noel Munden of Forest, Idaho.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 6th day of February, 1908.

T. H. BARTLETT, Register.

Contest Notice. Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Lewiston, Idaho, December 19, 1907.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Charles C. Phillips, contestant, against Thomas H. Davis, Entry No. 10018, made July 6, 1903, for N 1/2 NW 1/4, N 1/2 NE 1/4, section 13, township 38 N. range 1 E., B. M., by Thomas H. Davis, contestee, in which it is alleged that said Thomas H. Davis has wholly abandoned said tract and changed his residence therefrom for more than six months next preceding the date hereof, and that said tract is not settled upon or cultivated by said party as required by law or at all, and that contestant is informed and believes that said entryman never established a residence thereupon.

Said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on February 3, 1908, before Register and Receiver, at the United States Land Office in Lewiston, Idaho.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed December 20, 1907, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

T. H. BARTLETT, Register.