

TRAGIC STORY IS RECALLED

Death of Woman Opens
History at Page of Don-
ner Lake Tragedy.

(By Associated Press)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 14. —

The recent death at Byron Califor-
nia, of Mrs. Frances E. Wilder, a
daughter of Captain George Donner,
has recalled the tragic story of the
Donner party, 42 of whom perished
in deserts and mountains in the win-
ter of 1846-47, while en route to
California. Only a half-dozen sur-
vivors remain today to tell the tale
of that disastrous of all migra-
tions of the Argonauts, in which they
perished as children.

Among these half-dozen are three
sisters of Mrs. Wilder, children of
the captain from whom the party
took its name. They are Eliza P.
Houghton of Los Angeles, 78; Mrs.
Leana App of Jamestown, Califor-
nia, 86; and Mrs. Eliza C. Wilder of
Braceville, California, 89. A daugh-
ter of James F. Reed, a member of
the party, who forced his way over
the snow-capped Sierra mountains
and then returned with relief for his
dying companions, is living at Cap-
itola, California. Her name is Mrs.
Mattie Lewis and she is a bright-
eyed lady, 77 years young.

Of all the companies that made
their way by ox wagons on the Over-
land Trail across desert and moun-
tain to California before the railroad
linked east and west, the exper-
iences of the Donner party were the
worst. Theirs was the greatest loss
of life, and it was attended by a
slow starvation during the six months
they were held in the high Sierras
that finally drove the stronger mem-
bers of the party to that last expedi-
ent of man—feeding upon his own
kind.

Of the 88 men, women and chil-
dren that started with or joined the
Donner party, 42 perished. Six died
in the deserts of Utah and Nevada,
and 36 succumbed to the horrors of
the mountain camps.

All the suffering and loss of life
may be ascribed to the primary mis-
take in taking a southerly course
around the Great Salt Lake from
Fort Bridger, Wyoming, instead of
the usual course around the north-
ern end. The rocky passes in the
Wasatch mountains of Utah delayed
them one month; the sands of the
Great American Desert and the Hum-
boldt Sink stalled their wagons and
starved their cattle.

The party was in starving con-
dition when it reached Truckee Mead-
ows, site of the present city of
Reno, Nevada, October 19, 1846. The
emigrants were met there by Charles
T. Stanton, who had preceded them
to California, and returned with
two Indians, Luis and Salvador,
bringing five mule loads of provi-
sions. After some delay the party
pushed on, but October 23 found
themselves stalled in snow at the
foot of precipices at an elevation of
6000 feet from which the trail rose
in one mile and a half 1200 feet to
the summit, where two to five feet
of snow lay. They were in a pocket
of the mountains. A snowfall began
that in a week placed 10 feet of
snow about them.

Some were at Prosser Creek, some
at Alder Creek and some at Donner
Lake. They erected tents and brush-
wood huts, about which they wrapped
rubber coats and quilts. There
were at this time 81 persons in the
camps, 24 men, 15 women and 43
children. In the subsequent happen-
ings the women showed the greater
courage and endurance. Of the fif-
teen only five died, and four of these
gave their lives to aid or comfort
their children or companions.

On December 16, the "forlorn
hope" started over the snow on foot.
It consisted of nine men, five women
and a boy. Six days later Stan-
ton, the rescuer, gave out and was
abandoned. A storm that began on
Christmas day halted them a week.
Three men died and were eaten.
January 4, another man succumbed
and was eaten. William Foster pur-
sued and shot the Indians, Luis and
Salvador, who were eaten. The party
came out of the snow January 11,
were aided by Indians who gave
them acorn bread and helped them
to Johnson's ranch. They had been
32 days coming from Donner's Lake,
and eight had died. Two men sur-
vived and all the five women.

The experiences of the four relief
parties, from the first that left Stan-
ton's Fort, February 5, to the last,
April 13, were similar to those of the
"forlorn hope" party. Going in on
snowshoes, the rescuers carried provi-
sions to be used on their return
trips. In several instances these
caches were destroyed by wild ani-
mals, so that the return trips with
the emaciated, weakened Donner
people became struggles with death,
in which many died and were eaten
by their starving companions.

The fourth and last relief party
started from Johnson's ranch, April
13. They had been promised by the
abashed half of the fortune of sev-
eral thousand dollars in money and
goods which George Donner was sup-
posed to possess.

The seven men of the party, un-
der William O. Patton, reached Don-
ner Lake in four days. Lewis Kese-
berg was the only one alive of the
many who had not been able to ac-
company the relief parties who had
preceded them. Of Keseberg, the
relief demanded money, accusing him
of having robbed, killed and eaten
George Donner and his wife, Tam-
men. Keseberg finally gave them
\$500 which he said Mrs. Donner had

requested him to give to her chil-
dren should he reach California.

The fourth relief started back next
day, Keseberg following them as well
as he could with an injured leg. Each
night he managed to make camp, and
finally reached civilization. To the
end of his life he was an object of
accusation and aversion, although
most survivors and historians agree
that he was innocent.

The brightest part of the story was
the heroism of the women. Of the
five who died, Mrs. George Donner
gave her life to be with her hus-
band at his death; Mrs. Jacob Don-
ner remained with her four children;
Mrs. Graves stayed for the sake of
four little ones; and Mrs. Murphy
cared for her son and three grand-
children until too ill to accompany
the rescuers.

To the zeal of Mrs. Patrick Breen
was mainly due the rescue of her
husband and 11 children who had
been left in the snow while the re-
lief party went forward for help
when they discovered a cache had
been destroyed. Mrs. Breen kept
fires burning, nursed children with
a little sugar and water and kept
them alive until rescue came. She
would not feed upon the bodies of
some who had died, nor did the chil-
dren with her knowledge.

The efforts of James F. Reed un-
doubtedly saved many lives. Banish-
ed to the desert in Nevada for hav-
ing stabbed James Snyder when Snyder
struck Mrs. Reed with a whip
while the two men were fighting,
Reed made his way by horseback over
the mountains to California ahead of
the Donner party. Although he did
not fully realize the seriousness of
their condition, he caused the first
relief party to be dispatched, and
himself led the second expedition.

HUGE SWINDLE

(By Associated Press)

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 15. —

A swindle of large proportions has been
perpetrated on the Argentine Post
Office Department by the printing
and sale of false five cent stamps.
The sale of these stamps apparently
has been going on possibly for years,
but it was only recently discovered.
The Department has ordered the with-
drawal of the issue in question.

The Post Office Department admit-
ted that the fraudulent stamps were
practically identical with the author-
ized ones and that it was not possible
to trace the source of the questionable
supply.

Five cent stamps bearing the por-
trait of General San Martin no longer
are accepted in payment for postage.

COMMUNISTS ORGANIZE.

(By Associated Press)

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 15. — Swedish
farmhands have organized by Com-
munists for the purpose of emigra-
ting to Russia. This has been brought
about by the constantly falling prices
of wheat and the fact farmers all
over the country have made agree-
ments with their workers at lower
wages.

Do not use new Telephone Direc-
tories until Sunday morning. 12-14-21

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COBLENZ FLATS VERY EXCLUSIVE

(By Associated Press)

COBLENZ, Dec. 15. — Apartment
houses built by the municipality of
Coblenz, aided by the German gov-
ernment, were opened recently for
accommodation exclusively of officers
of the American Forces in Germany
and their families. The purpose of
the house is to relieve the crowded
condition of the city which has been
a problem ever since the Allied troops
reached the Rhine.

There are 82 apartments of five
rooms each and all modern conven-
iences, in new buildings now being
taken over by the American families.
Work on these apartments was started
about two years ago to alleviate, as
the Germans put it, "an unbearable
situation," as "no roof is large enough
to cover two families." Additional
quarters for non-commissioned of-
ficers and their families are also un-
der construction.

Allied army officers say that the
population of Coblenz perhaps has
been harder pressed by the army re-
quisition of quarters than any other
occupied city. All available space for
offices and billets has been under
requisition for nearly three years.
German officials hope the new
apartment houses will considerably
improve the present crowded con-
dition of the city.

In Coblenz there are about 3,000
rooms under requisition by the Ameri-
can army, the general policy of bil-
leting being the similar in all the
zones as occupied by the French.

Do not use new Telephone Direc-
tories until Sunday morning. 12-14-21

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One acre tract, 7-room house with
city water and electric lights. The
place has a good chicken house and
park, young fruit trees and the soil
is excellent. Price \$3200. Terms
\$500 cash and the balance at \$25 per
month.

Three acre tract, 5-room house
with city water and electric lights.
Place is equipped with gas engine,
3 good wells, excellent barn full of
hay, wagon, plow, cultivator, cow,
chickens. 1 1/2 acre of place in at-
tains. If you are looking for a small
tract close in investigate this. Price
\$4000.

Two acre tract, 6-room house with
city water and electric lights, good
barn, fruit trees and the soil is ex-
cellent. Price \$3500. Terms \$500
cash and the balance at \$25 per mo.

I have one good home on a paved
street, heating plant, house just re-
furnished inside, three lots. The owner
will take an automobile for part
of first payment. If you have a car
and want to trade it for a home
price it right and come in and investi-
gate this.

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British and Belgians. In houses or
apartments with German families, the
Allied families occupying a separate
part of the house so far as practicable
and using the kitchen and bath in
common with the German occupant.

As a consequence, disputes have
arisen and the town major or bil-
leting officer in often called upon to set-
tle them. These disagreements al-
most invariably have their origin
due to the use of the kitchen. Be-
cause of this difficulty, the policy has
universally been adopted of installing
wherever possible, a separate kitchen
for the Allied family.

Generally, when a house or apart-
ment has been taken over, the Ger-
mans have been permitted to take
their furniture and personal belong-
ings with them. In the American
area it is stated, however, that only
in exceptional cases have Germans
been required to vacate their homes or
apartments entirely. One eight room
school building in Coblenz was re-
quisitioned exclusively for children of
American officers.

The lumber mill at Buxton, which
has been idle for some time, will re-
sume operations upon completion of
the new railroad into the timber belt.
The mill has a capacity of 100,000
feet a day.

Buy a Home

Nine room house, lot 80x120, on
Second street. Location suitable for
rooming house. Price \$2250. \$500
cash, balance terms.

Timber claim, Wallawa county on
the Grande Ronde river. Price \$500.
Will trade for property in La Grande.

Five room house on Jackson street,
close to railroad shops, lot 65x120,
six large bearing cherry trees, bath,
house is in good repair. This is a
real proposition. Price \$1850. \$100
down and \$25.00 per month. The
property has an inebriance of
\$1,000 which the purchaser must as-
sume.

Two lots on Cedar street, fine lo-
cation for residence. Price \$600 per
lot.

One lot on Adams avenue, 55x85
in the best residence district of La
Grande. Price \$1200 cash payment,
balance terms.

One lot Oak and Adams, 40x110.
Price \$600 cash payment, balance
terms.

Corner lot, on Oak street, 40x120.
Price \$500, \$150 cash, balance terms.
Inside lot joining 40x120, \$400, \$100
cash, balance terms.

One lot Adams avenue, 50x120,
cement sidewalk. Price \$850, \$300
cash, balance terms. Good location
for residence.

Farm 6 1/2 miles from La Grande,
525 acres, 400 acres under cultiva-
tion, good house and barn, produces
a good crop of wheat every year,
short haul to railroad. A fine place
for extensive farming. Terms upon
application.

Three very desirable propositions
on the Minidoka Project, Idaho. This
section of Idaho is under a govern-
ment irrigation project. Description
and prices on application.

I have bargains on practically all
valuable land in Pine Valley, Oregon.
This valley is ten miles from a rail-
road and one of the best watered
sections of Oregon. Descriptions,
prices and all information on appli-
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relieving Catarrh. It is a valued house-
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American homes. Better than cam-
phorated oil for children.

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millions of Americans. If Kondon's doesn't
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home, a happy family, a few luxuries,
freedom from debt.

Such a man usually attains his enviable
position through his own industry and
thrift.

Like Napoleon, he can exclaim "Circum-
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I MAKE Circumstances.

That such men always have savings ac-
counts is not a happen-stance but a self-
create circumstance.

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irrigate with, wood orchard, all
fenced and in first-class culti-
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one. Price \$3000.00. Some cash
and assume a mortgage.

A good restaurant and room-
ing house building on Fir
street. This property is bring-
ing in good rents, and can be
bought right. Come in and let
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party selling has left here and
wants to sell.

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