

FAMOUS CHARACTERS IN FRONTIER ANNALS

Romantic Story of Jim Bridger's Capture by Indians and His Release by Handsome Squaw Whom He Married

THIS is the romantic story of Jim Bridger, pioneer, drawn from old documents within the keeping of the Oregon Historical Society, and furnished by George H. James, secretary of that organization. Bridger died in '61 and recently a monument was unveiled over his grave at Kansas City, "as a mark to a typical and famous character in frontier annals."

Following is the inscription carved on the stone above a bas-relief portrait of the old trapper and scout:

JAMES BRIDGER
1796 1861
CELEBRATED AS A HUNTER, TRAPPER, FUR-TRADER AND GUIDE. DISCOVERED GREAT SALT LAKE 1824. THE FIRST TO VISIT YELLOWSTONE LAKES AND GYPSER 1826. FOUNDED POINT BRIDGER, 1828. OPENED OVERLAND ROUTE BY BRIDGER'S PASS TO GREAT SALT LAKE, WAS GUIDE FOR U. S. EXPLORING ARMY IN 1842, AND G. M. DODDGE IN U. S. SURVEYS AND INDIAN CAMPAIGNS 1846-55.
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED AS A TRIBUTE TO HIS FIDELITY AND WORK BY MAJ.-GEN. G. M. DODGE.



A peculiar romantic pathos attaches to the career of the famous frontiersman. It is expressed by Colonel Frank Triplett, another pioneer who wrote, "Conquering the Wilderness." The early borderer knew no fear, and always fought with a recklessness that suggests the idea that he was thus endeavoring to expiate some sin, or efface some stain from his soul. Not that he himself, had ever broken faith or deserted comrades—he was as true as steel, but the evil fate of his brother seemed constantly present to him, and he fought to blot out the memory of the deed. The brother had perished in a drunken brawl in a brothel of notorious notoriety, kept in an early day in St. Louis, by the infamous "Captain Jack."

company a party of trappers who were then fitting out for a trip to the Rocky Mountains. "Entirely devoid of even the rudiments of education, he crossed the then wholly unknown and trackless plains and plunged into the pathless mountains. Greatly attracted by the novelty of the sport, at that time quite profitable, he entered eagerly upon the business; being naturally shrewd and possessing a keen faculty for observation, he carefully studied the habits of the beaver, and profiting by knowledge obtained from the Indians—with whom he chiefly associated, and with whom he became a great fa-

vorite—he soon became one of the most expert trappers and hunters in the mountains. Eager to satisfy his curiosity, a natural fondness for mountain scenery, and a roving disposition, he traversed the country in every direction, sometimes in company with Indians, but oftentimes Bridger reached his camp in safety, and the Blackfeet, fearing the vengeance of the trappers for the breach of faith, abandoned his travels, packed up their goods and fled.

Released by Handsome Squaw. "It was afterward told that Bridger's visit to the village had been made for the

mountain peak, every gorge, every hill and every landmark in the country. He pursued his trapping expeditions north to the British possessions, south to Mexico and west to the Pacific Ocean. In this way he became acquainted with all the tribes of Indians in the country, and by long intercourse with them, learned their languages and became familiar with all their customs. He adopted their habits, conformed to their customs; became imbued with their superstitions, and at length excelled them in strategy."

Chastises Two Savages. Says Colonel Triplett: "During a truce with the Blackfeet who were camped within a few miles of the blockhouse, which the trappers had constructed, Bridger found it necessary to chastise the insolence of two of the savages, who, finding him alone in their village, proceeded to abuse him roundly. For a few minutes Bridger bore with them, but at last, becoming infuriated at their unbearable insults, he pitched into the two in regular rough-and-tumble style, and battered them up terribly. Selecting a number of their friends, they surrounded the trapper unawares and made him prisoner.

He was bound and conveyed to a lodge on the outside of the village, and left there, while a consultation was being held to decide his fate. Night came and still the discussion went on. Some argued Bridger's offense deserved death, and that he should be carried to the mountains and tortured; while others were for more pacific measures, and advised that he should be left to them from a continuation of their friendly relations with the trappers. "At last the faction for revenge triumphed, and a guard was sent to the lodge to bring the captive to the village, that he might hear his fate. Arriving at the impromptu prison, they were surprised to find it deserted. The bird had fled. A hurried alarm was given, and Bridger reached his camp in safety, and the Blackfeet, fearing the vengeance of the trappers for the breach of faith, abandoned his travels, packed up their goods and fled.

Builds Fort Bridger. Colonel Triplett recounts several other remarkable exploits of Jim Bridger, and concludes thus: "After the closing of the fur trade along the Missouri, Bridger built the post which has since borne his name. Here he has enjoyed a prosperous trade, and accumulated a large amount of property. The place became greatly noted as a halting-place for Salt Lake and California trains, and also for the pilgrims who crossed the plains to the distant territories or to the Pacific slope. "Bridger remained true to his Blackfoot wife and her people until she died, like most of the early trappers."

New York Patronizes Light Dramas

Theater-Goers of Metropolis Seek Amusement, Not Instruction.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—(Special Correspondence).—We are fairly in the middle of the dramatic season and we are beginning to realize that with the exception of Mrs. Pat Campbell's season, there has been nothing that could possibly be regarded as a sensational success in the dramatic line. It was distinctly proved that Helene was not accepted in the same spirit that Sarah Bernhardt is, and that even nearly the interest outside of the French-speaking people as does the other great woman who is of keenest interest to everybody, whether understanding the language or not. This does not mean that New York is suffering for good plays, since all of the popular theaters offer enough entertainment to pass the evening agreeably, if that is all that theatergoers seek, and, unfortunately, it is all they seem to care for.

you forget that she cannot sing. Julius Steger can sing and very well. Of this fact, however, no one is so fully persuaded as Mr. Steger himself, but he must be forgiven in point of the fact that those who seek may labor under a similar delusion for which there are no grounds. Other members in the cast of Mr. Fields' company are: Lew Fields, Harry Davenport, Joseph Herbert, Harry Fisher, Joseph Carroll, May Robson, Beads Clayton, Charles Gotthold, "Billie" Morton, William Burress, Rosemary Gloss, Frank O'Neill and Pauline Frederick.

being his masterful musicianship and his wonderful tone. More noble playing than that of Ysaye on these occasions has not been heard in New York in a decade, perhaps never. It is well at this moment to say calmly and deliberately that there were many technical slips and there were several times when his intonation was far from perfect, but when everything was so supremely artistic such shortcomings cannot be regarded in any other light except as the flaws inherent to everything done by the hand of man or created by Nature. The sooner people are able to recognize this fact, the greater enjoyment they will get out of art, because no one looks for perfection except those who do not know that they will never find it. The orchestral numbers included the Brahms Symphony No. 3, which was a masterpiece of orchestra work, as well as of orchestral writing, Berlioz' overture to King Lear and Liszt's "Sermon of St. Francis of Assisi to the Birds," orchestrated by Felix Mottl, rounded out this superb program.

Society's Eyes on Congress

Washington Interested in New Legislators and Their Entrance into Capital's Society Life

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(Special Correspondence).—The assembling of the second session of the 38th Congress was the event around which all social and official affairs of the week revolved. Reunions, with congratulations or condolences as the chief topic of conversation, were the order of the day, with a wedding or debutante reception to relieve the monotony. Echoes of the recent election are perhaps more frequently heard here than in the States, for the success or failure of the husband in politics usually measures the success or failure of the wife in official society at the National capital.

What Little Saul Got Christmas.

James Whitcomb Riley, in Christmas Cosmopolitan.

Us parents mostly think our own's The smartest children out— But, Widgeon Shelton's little Saul Beats all I know about! He's weaky-like—in d'nt o' health, But strong in word and deed And heart and head, and snap and spunk, And sits in the lead!

the great trouble is that people and cities go New York and New Yorkers far beyond the point where it is healthy. The fact should always be borne in mind that New York is unique and stands alone. The great distances, the enormity of its population and the cosmopolitanism of this metropolis all serve to make it that which it is and which no other city could be near should hope to be, for it is very self-contained, narrow where it should be broad and wide where it should be narrow, and it is circumspet; too busy to be anything but superficial, too superficial to be anything but busy.

Nance O'Neil in New York is always a person of interest to the Western constituency of this city, where she is not accorded the recognition that she receives in the East where it is healthy. The fact, however, must be conceded to this ambitious actress and it is that her selections always compel interest, notwithstanding the fact that they are usually of too intellectual an order to attract large audiences.

On Saturday afternoon the soloist was Miss Olive Fremstad, who, by the way, has risen into more than ordinary prominence through her characterization of Carmen. Mrs. Fremstad sang a recitative and rondo from Mozart's Titus and also three Scotch songs by Beethoven. The orchestral numbers were Schumann's Symphony No. 3, Goldmark's overture to Sappho and Tschalkowsky's Italian Caprice.

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Senator Francis M. Cockrell, the veteran Senator from Missouri, much in the public eye because of his recent defeat for reelection after seven years' service, 20 years in the Senate, and his probable appointment by the President to a distinguished Commission, has returned to his home in E. street, Washington, D. C. He is accompanied by his young daughter, Miss Anna Ewing Cockrell, who will spend the winter in Paris with Miss Wilton, the daughter of the Secretary of Agriculture, and Miss Walsh, the daughter of Thomas F. Waller, President of the National Junior Republic, who is the largest and best equipped room of the kind south of New York and makes a charming setting for the dancers.

"THE USURPER," BY MRS. HELEN F. GATCH, ONE OF THE PICTURES ACCEPTED BY NEW YORK SALON.

Washington Star. Missouri's gone Republican. There ain't much more to say. I'm wane to see the world turn 'round the other way. Considering what has happened, 'twon't surprise me in the least. To see the sun rise in the west instead of in the east. I had expect to see the sky come down and rain accord— There really ain't no tellin' where the thing is goin' to end. I can't find proper language for expressin' my dismay; Missouri's gone Republican. There ain't much more to say. It 'twon't wonder that my course kind o' falls. 'Twas said when West Virginia went a-wavin' in the scales, 'Twas even worse to realize the want of the hand. 'Twas on a special meanin' when it played 'My Maryland.' But when you start a-tumblin', why, there ain't no way to tell. Jus' when you finally have reached the bottom of the well, Ol' 'em Tennessee an' Texas to increase the storm's fury. Missouri's gone Republican. There ain't much more to say.

A Poster Boy Says: "My goodness me!" said Willie Boer, "what 'ol' our sister there!" "A painter man, with violet paint, has put it on her hair!"