

# A Soldier's Grave

Decorated for Half a Century on Memorial Day  
By F. A. MITCHEL

During the civil war there was a good deal of irregular fighting—that is, the southern forces were made up of enlisted troops, aided by partisan bands and citizens who occasionally take up arms for the southern cause. No quarrelsome troops came within the province of civilized warfare, and during the struggle between the north and the south the question was constantly coming up as to the treatment of these partisans and citizens—whether they should be treated as prisoners of war or shot as illegitimate combatants.

Usually when a citizen was taken in arms, being brought before the officer in command, after a few words as to the case, he would say: "Take him away. I don't ever wish to see him again." This was understood as an order to take the prisoner away and shoot him. On one occasion when a citizen was captured and thus executed the Confederate commander on the other side of the line, taking the ground that the man who had been shot had recently been enlisted, resolved on retaliation by shooting one of his own prisoners of war.

"Take one of those two men captured this morning," he said, "and shoot him."

"Which one, general?"

"Whichever you please. I have no time to attend to trifles."

This sounds harsh, but in wartime human life is very cheap, and the re-



"ONE OF YOU IS TO BE SHOT."

responsibilities often resting upon the shoulders of a commander are a great strain upon him. The officer, not wishing to decide in haste, he approached the two men, undecided as to what to do. He was not preoccupied, as was the general, by other duties. It was too cold blooded for one in his soldier's senses.

Then he thought himself that he had only a verbal order for what he was about to do, and, turning, he went to the chief of staff and asked him to write out an order to shoot a prisoner in retaliation. The chief of staff rather than trouble the general with the matter consented, asking what name to insert in the order.

"Leave it blank," said the other. "I was ordered to shoot one of two men, and I shall decide which is to die by lot."

Having received the paper, Captain Claybourne, the officer who bore it, approached the men it concerned. They were sitting on the ground just outside the guard tent walling away the time playing cards. Soldiers usually carried cards with them during campaigns as a preventive against homesickness or ennui when unoccupied.

"I am sorry to announce to you two men," said the captain, "that one of you is to be shot in retaliation for one of our men, accused of illegitimate warfare and shot by your people on the other side."

The two men looked up, for a moment not realizing what the speaker meant. When they did a slight shudder passed over both. They were Walter Treadway and Sergeant Knowlton. They had lived in the same town before the war and had enlisted in the same company, though Knowlton was ten years Treadway's senior.

"Which?" was the laconic reply of Knowlton, who first found his voice.

"That is to be decided by lot. I will put a white and a dark stone in a hat. One of you, blindfolded, may draw. If he draws the dark stone he loses. If he draws the white he wins."

Treadway was unable to speak, though he tried to say something. His companion said:

"If you will permit we will play a game of seven up, the loser to die, the winner to live."

"As you please," said Captain Claybourne.

Knowlton took up the cards and dealt them. Treadway took up his hand, trembling as he did so. It required a great effort to control himself sufficiently to sort them. Claybourne stood looking on. As Treadway lost nerve Knowlton seemed to gain it. They were to play five games, the loser of three to be the loser in the game of life. While Knowlton had the self control to play the games fairly well, it was soon evident to the Confederate looking on that he was playing to lose. Once when the sergeant purposely played the wrong card Claybourne essayed to stop him, but a look from Knowlton deterred him. Knowlton won the first game; Treadway won the second.

# MR. HENRY PECK AND HIS FAMILY AFFAIRS

By Gross

HENRY JR. SAYS



AN' JUST BECAUSE I TRY TO BE FRIENDLY WHEN THEY'S COMPANY AROUND THIS HAPPENS

HENRY PECK JR.

## LAST SHOT IN CIVIL WAR.

It Was Fired in Texas After Lee Had Surrendered.

It is a generally accepted tradition in Texas at least that Captain S. H. Barton, in later years editor and owner of the *Del Rio Record*, fired the last shot in the civil war. When the troops were leaving the battle ground at Palo Alto a soldier was shot at the captain's side. The captain turned quickly and fired at a disappearing blue object.

It is a strange coincidence, too, that a soldier named Ney, who claimed to be a descendant of Marshal Ney, who fired the last shot at the Cossacks in the war between France and Russia, was a witness to this incident.

The story of that last battle, which was fought on the 13th day of May, 1865, after the war was ended and peace declared, has escaped the attention that it merits, for it was an affair of no little importance.

General Ezzert Brown, who died at West Plains, Mo., many years later, was in command of the Federal troops in southern Texas, and he was doubtless well informed concerning the termination of hostilities. General J. E. Slaughter, who commanded the Confederate troops encamped at Brazos Santiago, had heard rumors of the surrender of the armies commanded by Lee, Johnston and other generals, but he had received no official notice of these facts from the war department.

General Brown, under a flag of truce, informed the Confederates of the state of affairs about Washington and Richmond, at the same time inviting them to come in and lay down their arms, as the war was entirely over.

General Slaughter refused to act in an affair of such importance until he was better informed. Thorough Colonel Barrett, at the head of a considerable force, was dispatched to break up the rebel camp. A hot battle ensued, and, curiously enough, most of the fighting was done on the old field of Palo Alto, where Taylor achieved a victory over the Mexicans nearly twenty years before. The French soldiers encamped on the southern shore of the Rio Grande were apparently with the southerners, and they kept General Slaughter and Colonel Rip Ford posted as to the movements of the Federal troops. Several spirited engagements occurred, and the loss sustained by some of the negro regiments must have been severe. While the battle raged the Confederates were frequently informed by some bold cavalrymen in blue that the war was over. One daring fellow shouted: "Lee surrendered a month ago! The war is ended. Why don't you go home?"

When the engagement was hottest general Slaughter received dispatches and the French sent him a bundle of newspapers. Fully satisfied that the cause for which they were fighting was forever lost, he ordered the firing to cease. At that particular moment neither side could have claimed any advantage over the other, but both armies began to retire from the field at the same time.

As Captain S. H. Barton, in command of the rear guard, was slowly riding away a stray ball struck a young man by his side, and he fell from his saddle. That was certainly the last man killed in the long war.

"I thought that was hard luck," said the old soldier. "The young man had served four years and never got a scratch. The last bullet that came our way killed him. Prompted more by spite at fate than bitterness toward the enemy, I turned in my saddle and fired toward a dark blue line which I hope was out of range. That was certainly the last shot of the great war."

## BRAVEST ACT IN BATTLE.

General Wilder Tells of the Conduct of an Indiana Soldier While Dying.

"The bravest acts in war often go unnoticed. In battle all men who do their duty are brave. But down at Hoovers gap, beyond Chattanooga, I witnessed an act which I regard as the bravest which ever came within my observation."

General John T. Wilder of Knoxville was speaking to a number of Indiana veterans who were looking upon the staid form of the valiant brigade commander with admiration.

"It was at Hoovers gap," reiterated the general, "and my old regiment, the Seventeenth Indiana, was fighting with the then modern weapons—Spencer rifles. One could fire about eight shots with these when the old rifle, which most of the soldiers were armed with, would fire hardly more than one shot. That made it possible for my brigade to beat Longstreet back when he loomed up through the woods and struck us at Chickamauga on the second day and to do it with comparatively small loss. Those rifles had a screw used in the mechanism, without which the rifle was valueless."

"This soldier of the Seventeenth Indiana regiment had been mortally wounded. Although in death agonies, he deliberately took the screw from his rifle and threw it away where no Confederate could find it. Then he drew his revolver and discharged it at the enemy, falling back lifeless as soon as the shots were speeding toward the enemy."

On the famous field at Chickamauga one of the most impressive of the numerous monuments is to General Wilder's brigade of Indiana and Illinois regiments.

## CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT.

W. G. Vassall Advanced to Vice Presidency of the Dallas City Bank.

At a meeting of the directors of the Dallas City bank yesterday afternoon several changes were made in the directorate of the company. For sometime the bank has been without a resident high official, the president, R. E. Williams, being a resident of Portland to all intents and purposes, and Mr. R. C. Craven, being compelled to make his home in Los Angeles for the better portion of the year. The directors have thought best that all the work of the bank be placed on the shoulders of the cashier, as has been the case lately, and Mr. Craven looking at the matter in the same light, his resignation as vice president was yesterday accepted, and the present cashier, Mr. Walter Vassall, elected to the position. Mr. Vassall has been for quite a number of years the cashier, and has by his safe and conservative methods of business done much to place the bank on the solid and safe foundation that it occupies in banking circles, besides having to a full extent the confidence of its patrons. His elevation to the vice presidency comes but as a fitting recognition of his ability, and will be hailed by his many friends in Dallas and vicinity with pleasure.

Mr. Vassall will now occupy the position as manager of the business here, and it certainly could not be placed in better hands.

The elevation of Mr. Vassall placed P. J. Craven in line for the cashiership, and he was unanimously elected to the position. Although a young man, comparatively, Mr. Craven has fully established his value to the constituents, and it is certain that under his charge the work of the bank will proceed with the accuracy that it has long been noted for.

A change was also at this time made in the list of directors, Mr. J. W. Crider being elected to the board. Mr. Crider is too well known to all of us to need an introduction. We consider it a feather in the cap of the Dallas City bank that they are able to include him in their directorate. His large holdings in this city, in California and elsewhere give to the bank a prestige that it could hardly obtain otherwise, which coupled with his well known business ability, his great desire for the advancement of the town and his perfect willingness to always and in every particular help to that end are several reasons for congratulating by all that he is now one of us in that respect. Several years ago the board of directors consisted of seven gentlemen, but on the death of M. M. Ellis the list was reduced to six, and now goes back to the original number.

## COMMERCIAL CLUB

A communication from the chamber of commerce, U. S. A., setting forth the advantages of membership in the association was referred to the financial secretary with instructions to fill in the enclosed application blank and to draw a warrant for \$10 in favor of the chamber of commerce for membership in the association. Other minor communications were read and referred to committees.

- Bills allowed:
- W. V. Fuller ..... \$ 7.50
  - John Embree ..... 5.50
  - Fueller Pharmacy ..... 5.25
  - U. S. Laughary ..... 5.40
  - J. C. Hayter ..... 1.25
  - Overstons Bros. .... 1.25
  - W. L. Toome ..... 31.90
  - Itemizer ..... 9.25
- The bill of F. E. Kersey for \$2.40 was referred back to the finance committee.
- Edgar Miles reported that about \$1400 had been subscribed for stock in the Polk County Fair association by Dallas residents, but the subscriptions among the farmers so far had been smaller than had been expected.

## Officers Installed.

The following officers were installed yesterday evening for Admira Rebekah Lodge No. 25 by District Deputy President Sadie Lynn:

Past Noble Grand, Edna Morrison.

Noble Grand, Ella J. Metzger.

Vice Grand, Belle L. Snyder.

Secretary, Ora L. Cosper.

Chaplain, Emma Coad.

Warden, Sadie Lynn.

Conductor, Libbie Holmes.

Inside Guardian, Ava Coad.

Outside Guardian, Claudia Coad.

R. S. N. G., Nora Robertson.

L. S. N. G., Rachel Hawkins.

R. S. V. G., Bertha Rich.

L. S. V. G., Jennie R. Coad.

Organist, Ada Longnecker.

After installation refreshments were served.

## Bayse Secures Acquittal.

Since Tuesday afternoon the court was occupied until yesterday afternoon on the trial of Alexander Bayse, charged with forced rape on the person of a girl who was under his guardianship. L. D. Brown and B. F. Swope originally appeared for the defense, but John Bayne was at the trial substituted for

## Guardian's Sale.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue and in pursuance of a license and order of sale, duly made and entered in the county court of the state of Oregon, for Polk county, on Friday, August 1, 1913, in the matter of the guardianship of Marie Holman, a minor, L. J. F. Holman, as guardian of the said minor, will on and after Saturday, September 6, 1913, at the house of Tom O'Leary, as of said day at the office of Brown & Sibley, attorneys at law, 410 Mill street, Dallas, Polk County, Oregon, sell at private sale to the highest bidder for cash in hand, on day of sale, subject to confirmation by said court, all the real estate belonging to said minor, which is described as follows:

Lot No. 2, in block No. 2 in Fairview addition to Dallas, in Polk county, state of Oregon.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto in anywise appertaining, and the county court of said county, Oregon, this 7th day of August, 1913.

J. F. HOLMAN, Guardian ad litem.

Brown & Sibley, attorneys for guardian.

## Final Settlement.

In the county court of the State of Oregon for the county of Polk.

In the matter of the estate of W. L. Gilson, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Mary E. Gilson, has filed her final account in the matter of the estate of W. L. Gilson, deceased, and that the county court of Polk County, Oregon, has by its order dated August 5, 1913, fixed the 13th day of September, 1913, as a day, a. m., thereof no later, and the county court room in the county courthouse at Dallas, Oregon, as the place for hearing said final account and any objections thereto. All persons having objections to said final account should file them before said time.

This notice is published pursuant to said order of court, and the first publication thereof is made on the 7th day of August, A. D. 1913, of the Polk County Register.

MARY E. GILSON, Executrix.

## Mr. Loop, who is to install the new central heating plant, was up from Portland yesterday and closed the contract for the work with the bank directors. He at once sublet the work to Mr. G. W. Vaughn, who this morning began the tearing up of the roadways necessary to the laying of the pipes. A trench is now being dug across Court street in the cement, and it will be possible to get in before the asphalt is on. On Mill street the paving will have to be dug up to get across.

The celebrated Ford car, 5 passenger, for \$675. For sale by I. V. Lynch.

# STAR THEATRE

## TONIGHT

DIRECT FROM BLIGH'S THEATRE

### ENGAGEMENT EXTRAORDINARY!

# PHYLE and PHYLE

IN

## Comedy Singing and Musical Sketch

IF YOU DON'T LOVE MUSIC AND DON'T LIKE TO LAUGH

# STAY AT HOME

ALSO

## 3000 FEET OF PICTURES

A Kee Bee 2 reel Feature and a Thanouser COMEDY

# Admission 10 and 15c