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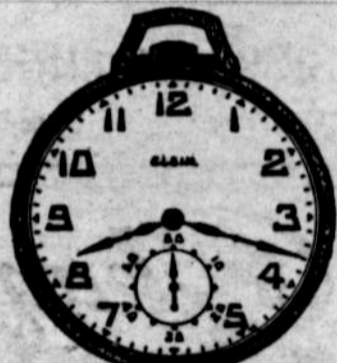
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HISTORY OF COL. RATH IS GIVEN

Judge Geo. B. Castner, commander of the department of Oregon, Grand Army of the Republic, the other day while going through some old papers, found a clipping from the Jackson, Mich., Citizen Patriot, giving the history of Col. Christian Rath, Civil War veteran, who was executioner of Mrs. Surratt and the conspirators who brought about the assassination of President Lincoln.

Judge Castner, who formerly resided in Jackson, was a close friend of Col. Rath for many years. He says:

"He was a railway mail clerk, and many a time I have ridden with him in his car. One occasion I was made grand marshal of a parade we held in Jackson on Memorial day. Col. Rath loaned me his gold sash and I wore it, mounted on a large black horse."

The clipping from the Michigan paper will interest many local readers. It follows:

Lieut. Col. Christian Rath, Jackson's most famous veteran of the Civil War because of the part he played in the punishment of the Lincoln conspirators, died Saturday. Col. Rath was 90 years of age, death being due to general debility owing to his age.

Col. Rath, or captain, as he liked best to be called, was a familiar figure to Jackson residents for many years as he rode on his white horse in different patriotic parades. His participation in the hanging of Mrs. Surratt and the conspirators who planned the wholesale murder of the Union leaders, including Abraham Lincoln, placed him in a position of prominence.

For 46 years Col. Rath kept the promise he had made not to divulge the particulars of the hanging until he should have the permission of the government. He was finally released from his promise and McClure's magazine for October, 1911, contained an illustrated account of this historic episode in American history so closely related to Jackson through the man who was proved marshal of the hanging at that time, Col. Christian Rath.

Christian Rath was born in Frelidenstadt, Germany, October 22, 1831. His early days were spent in an atmosphere of militarism and his earliest connection with the army was with the little band of revolutionists under Carl Schurz in 1848, who rebelled against the German government. For this, young Rath and his friends were compelled to flee the country, and he ran away to sea where he followed the adventurous life of a sailor for several years, finally ending his sea life at Detroit on a revenue cutter. It was here that he became a naturalized citizen of the country whose ideals of liberty he admired.

Having a sister living in Ann Arbor, he came to that city where he lived for a time, afterwards moving to Jackson with a friend of his, a sailor from the town of Mackinac. Todd was the champion rifle shot of the Pacific coast, and a great friend of Col. Rath.

A short time after his arrival in Jackson, Col. Rath opened a shoe store, and soon afterwards married Miss Evelyn Henry, the daughter of one of the pioneers of Jackson, who had moved here before there were any buildings in the city.

At the outbreak of the Civil war, the store became the center of activity, for Col. Rath's military inclinations were aroused and he took an active part in recruiting, enlisting with the 17th Michigan infantry at its organization, in Co. G. This was the famous Stonewall regiment, and with his outfit he was sent south, his first commission being issued by Gov. Austin Blair, June 17, 1862.

With his regiment he saw heavy fighting and was wounded September 17, 1862, in the battle of Antietam. He received his next commission, that of first lieutenant, from Gov. Austin Blair, December 6 of that year, and his third, that of captain, August 4, 1863, also from the war governor of Spottsylvania. Capt. Rath was taken prisoner by the Confederates but managed to fight his way out of their camp the same day, May 12, 1864, escaping to the Union lines under the greatest difficulty.

He was appointed on the staff of Gen. Wilcox, acting from October, 1864, to May, 1865, receiving his commission as major by brevet in April, 1865, from President Andrew Johnson, "for gallant and meritorious conduct before Petersburg." Other commissions followed swiftly and honors were poured upon the gallant soldier. He was made lieutenant colonel July 8, 1865, by the president, as his commission states "for special and efficient service during the confinement, trial and execution of the conspirators."

Col. Rath's connection with the execution of Mrs. Surratt and the other traitors who planned the death of the Union leader, is a matter of history. Washington was under martial law at the time of their trial and they were turned over to him. The conspiracy itself was one of the most terrible ever known and was planned by John Wilkes Booth.

A Selma, Ala., paper of December, 1864, opened a subscription fund to effect the assassination of Lincoln, Seward and Johnson, who were hated throughout the south. The feeling was so strong that a letter found in the archives from one Lieut. Alston shows the bitterness felt towards Abraham Lincoln better than anything else.

This Confederate officer wrote Jeff Davis after Lincoln's reelection, offering to "rid the country of some of her deadliest enemies by striking at the very heart's blood of some of those who seek to enchain her in slavery." This shameful proposal was referred to the secretary of war and finally sent to the confederate adjutant general endorsed "for attention."

A little band of malignant secessionists, consisting of John Wilkes Booth, an actor of a family of famous players; Louis Powell, alias Payne, a disbanded rebel soldier from Florida; George Atzerodt, a former coachman, spy and blockade runner of the Potomac; David E. Herold, a drug clerk; Samuel Arnold and Michael O'Laughlin, Maryland secessionist and Confederate soldiers, and John H. Surratt, met at the home of Mrs. Mary E. Surratt, 541 H street in Washington, D. C.

At this time Christian Rath was provost marshal of the city, and since Washington was under martial law, he was brought into intimate connection with the conspirators. Booth was the leader of the traitors. He was a young man of 26, strikingly handsome with his pale olive face, dark eyes and ease and grace of man-

ner inherited from his theatrical ancestors.

Booth was a fanatical secessionist. He had assisted at the capture and execution of John Brown, and had a furious spirit of resentment against Lincoln and the Union party. After Lincoln was reelected, Booth, stung by disappointment, went to Canada, where he consulted with Confederate leaders there and conceived the scheme of capturing the president and taking him to Richmond.

March 4 Booth created a disturbance at the capitol in a futile attempt to force himself into the passage where Lincoln would be seated in his apartments. After this the conspirators were rather frightened and some of them really wanted to back down, but they were more afraid of Booth than of anyone else, and he kept them together.

After Lee's surrender, in an excess of malice and rage akin to madness, he called them together and assigned to each his part in the new and terrible crime, plans for which had arisen suddenly out of the ruins of the abandoned abduction scheme. It was brief, simple and horrible. Powell, or Payne, was to murder Seward; Atzerodt was assigned to remove Andrew Johnson, and Booth was to murder President Lincoln.

Herold was to aid him as a page and minor parts were given stage carpenters and hangers on at the theater, many of whom did not understand in the least what it was all about. On the noon of April 14, 1865, Booth learned that the president was to attend a performance of "Our American Cousin," at Ford's theater that evening, and immediately plans were rushed.

All the afternoon, it was Good Friday, by the way, conspirators were seen riding madly about Washington and this was remembered afterwards. Booth worked swiftly. He arranged a bar whose door of the president's box, he hired a swift horse and had everything ready for his escape, and a few minutes before 10 o'clock that evening he called a boy to hold the horse at the stage door, took a drink of brandy and made his way swiftly through the crowded house to the passage leading to the president's box.

At the door of the box, he gave his card to the sentry, and as he was a well known person and favorite in Washington, he readily obtained permission to enter.

The president's attention as well as that of Mrs. Lincoln and Maj. Rathbone, who sat beside him in the flag draped box, was directed towards the play, and Booth's entrance into the box was not observed. Noiselessly he closed the door behind him, fastening it from the inside by means of the bar, and arranged so carefully earlier in the day when the house was deserted.

As the president's box was a proscenium box, it was right upon the stage, although at rather too high a distance for the ordinary person to jump down. Booth had this all planned; in fact he had planned every movement long in advance and did not hesitate a moment. Advancing into the box with a revolver in one hand and a dagger in the other, he shot the president through the back, stabbed Maj. Rathbone, who had jumped to his feet in a vain attempt to frustrate the assassin, and leaped from the box to the stage below. As he jumped, his spur caught in the American flag which hung over the edge of the box, and he fell heavily to the stage, breaking a leg. No one saw or heard of his accident, however, for he leaped to his feet, shouted: "Sic Semper Tyrannis!" the state motto of Virginia, and ran back of the scenes to the door where his horse waited for him.

The audience was stupefied with surprise. For a moment no one could move, but as the news flashed over them that the president had been shot, probably fatally, they were wild with excitement and horror. Maj. Rathbone, who sat beside the president in the box dripping with blood: "Stop him! He has shot the president!" Two or three men jumped upon the stage and attempted to follow Booth, but his escape had been planned so carefully that stage carpenters unwittingly got in the way and he managed to avoid capture.

President Lincoln was carried across the street, as history has recorded, where he died the following morning, never regaining consciousness, surrounded by his family and heartbroken friends, while the streets for blocks were filled with a solid mass of people, stricken and anxious to hear of their loved president's recovery.

The story of the conspirators, up to the time when Col. Rath took them into custody, is one of historic interest and has been included in every document bearing on the case. Payne had gone to Seward's home at the same time that Booth had shot the president. Secretary Seward was ill and Payne made a slaughter house of his residence without fatally injuring anyone.

Booth and Herold escaped across the bridge to Mrs. Surratt's home, and from there wandered and hid for many days, afterwards being caught, due no doubt to Booth's broken leg, at a farm of a man named Garrett, near Bowling Green, where the murderer was shot by Boston Corbett, dying soon afterwards.

All the conspirators were captured and brought back to Washington where they were turned over to Col. Christian Rath. He also had charge of Booth's body, which was buried under a slab in the arsenal where the others were hung. His own story of the hanging of Mrs. Surratt is as follows:

"I was detailed by Gen. Hancock, head of the department of the District of Columbia, to take charge of the slayers. When they had been captured they were turned over to the civil authorities, because Washington at that time was under martial law. A prison was established at the arsenal and Gen. John Hartranf was given charge of the prisoners, turning them over to me.

"It was the charge of Mrs. Surratt, Payne, Herold, O'Laughlin, Spangler, Dr. Mudd, Arnold and Atzerodt. I never expected to hang Mrs. Surratt. Gen. Hancock came down on the evening before she was hung and told me to get ready to hang four, but seemed to think she would not be executed. Thursday evening, the day before the hanging, Payne wanted to see me, so I went down to his cell. He told me he had heard that Mrs. Surratt had been sentenced to be hung and it worried him for he had been found in her cellar, although she had denied knowing him.

"I was proved at the trial that he had been boarding there. After he assaulted Seward he lay hidden in a trench until, cold and hungry, he returned to her house and hid in the

cellar. He had turned his overcoat inside out to change his appearance. Payne told me if he had two lives to live he would give one to Mrs. Surratt, so with this, I judged she might go free.

"But I was mistaken, for there were four after all. Mrs. Surratt was the first to die on the gallows that had been erected, and then the traps were sprung beneath Payne, Herold and Atzerodt. A soldier accompanied each of the prisoners into the arsenal grounds except in the case of Mrs. Surratt, and she was brought to the gallows by a colonel."

After the war Col. Rath returned to Jackson, where he lived on a small farm outside the city for some time and later was appointed mail clerk on the Michigan-Central railroad, working many years between Jackson and Grand Rapids. Besides being prominent in the G. A. R., he was a member of the Masonic orders, the Odd Fellows, and the Loyal Legion of America. Col. Rath is survived by two sons, John A. and H. R. Rath, a granddaughter, Miss Hazel Rath, and a grandson, Trouis Rath.

Oregon Lumber Co. To Build Dam

Crews are being assembled at Deer where work will be started soon on construction of a new concrete dam by the Oregon Lumber Co. The dam, replacing an old wooden structure, will be utilized in backing up the waters of the East Fork of Hood river for a long pond and to furnish water power for a hydro-electric system furnishing energy for the company's big sawmill. The cost of the dam, which it is anticipated will be ready by the time the snow is off the highland forests above Lost Lake, where the company is logging, will reach \$40,000.

Notice of Administratrix Sale of Real Property

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Hood River. In the matter of the Estate of Daniel E. Stanton, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order of the above entitled court made on the 24th day of January, 1924, the undersigned, as administratrix of the above entitled estate, will offer for sale at public auction for cash to the highest bidder therefor, at the court house in Hood River County, Oregon, on Saturday, March 1, 1924, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock a. m., the following described real property located in the County of Hood River, State of Oregon, to-wit: Lots 45, 46, 47, 48, 57, 58, 59 and 60 of Block 12 of Stranahan's Third Addition to the City of Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon, according to the duly recorded plat thereof. Dated at Hood River, Oregon, January 23, 1924.

J. Leona Stanton, Administratrix of the estate of Daniel E. Stanton, Deceased. 312121

Summons

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Hood River County.

Tum-A-Lum Lumber Company, A Corporation, Plaintiff, vs. E. M. White and Addie White, husband and wife, Defendants.

To E. M. White and Addie White, the above named defendants: In the Name of the State of Oregon: You and each of you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court and cause on or before six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit: on or before six weeks from the 17th day of January, 1924, and if you fail so to appear and answer, the plaintiff will take judgment against you and each of you for the sum of \$396.08, with interest thereon at the rate of ten per cent per annum since the 1st day of March, 1922, and for its costs and disbursements made and expended herein.

This summons is served upon you pursuant to an order of the Hon. H. L. Hasbrouck, Judge of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Hood River County, duly made and entered on the 17th day of January, 1924, whereby you are required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court and cause on or before six weeks from the 17th day of January, 1924, and this summons is dated and first published on said 17th day of January, 1924.

A. J. Derby, Attorney for Plaintiff, Hood River, Oregon. 312728

Notice to Creditors

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Hood River. In the matter of the estate of Julius L. Johnson, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed Administrator of the Estate of Julius L. Johnson, deceased, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Hood River and has qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified as by law required, to the undersigned at the Sheriff's Office, Court House, Hood River, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof. Dated and first published January 17th, 1924.

Last publication February 14, 1924. Thomas F. Johnson, Administrator of the Estate of Julius L. Johnson, Deceased. J. K. Carson, Jr., Attorney. 317114

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PACIFIC STUMPING POWDER

A Pacific Northwest Product

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HEAR WITHOUT FAIL

Mary L. Mallett

State President W. C. T. U.

SUBJECT:

"HUMANITY'S CALL AND ITS ANSWER"

At Baptist Church, 11:00 a. m. and

Christian Church, 7:30 p. m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 3RD

Mrs. Mallett has given thirty years of her life to social reform, specializing in child welfare work. Her experience as Probation Officer in the Juvenile Court of Portland enables her to give a true picture of conditions as they exist today, touching both the moral and physical welfare of children and young people. Her long service enables her to speak with authority upon the prohibition question and its enforcement. Everybody Welcome.

S. E. BARTMESS

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