

Lady Haw Haw' of Germany Once Lived In Blacksburg

Has Been Identified As Foster Anderson, Daughter of Ellen Luckey Anderson, "Woman in The Case" in Famous Reese and Luckey Murder Trial At York Court House Back In The Nineties.

Editor's Note The article published below is taken from the April 20, 1942, edition of The Yorkville Enquirer, which was secured by Mr. Charles S. Williams, who issued it to The Herald. The article, which was so interestingly written by James D. Grist is being reprinted in full because a number of our readers remember the characters mentioned in the article.

Two weeks ago there came over short wave radio from Germany to the United States a bitter, caustic, and somewhat deplorable denunciation of the United States for its attitude toward the German people, a denunciation which was signed by a number of the leaders of this country's war effort. The communique was signed by the United States and the world has ever known that her armies are invincible; and that the matter of Germany will be prostrate at her feet.

That is old stuff to the friends of Democracy and the American way of life; but the manifestations of this particular weekly broadsheet are of particular interest in South Carolina and the south by reason of the fact that the broadcaster, a woman known in Germany as "Lady Haw Haw," is a native of America. Her maiden name was Foster Anderson, daughter of Ellen Luckey Anderson and as a little girl she lived in Blacksburg, then part of York county back in the nineties. Her mother, Mrs. Anderson, a milliner at Blacksburg after she ran away from her husband was the "woman in the case" in the famous Reese and Luckey murder trial at York court house, which resulted in the conviction of M. R. Reese and Foster Luckey, brother of the beautiful mother of Lady Haw Haw for the murder of one Williams.

Foster Anderson as a little girl was with her mother at that trial at York; and although perhaps too young to remember much about it, she has doubtless read and heard much about the sordid mess as she grew to maturity of womanhood and despite hardships and hardships carved for herself quite a name in journalism in this country before she fled to Germany opposed the cause of Nazism and became notorious as Lady Haw Haw in denouncing the country that gave her birth; its aspirations, politics and principles.

It was Time Magazine which identified the German girl, Lady Haw Haw as Foster Anderson, native born American and divorced wife of James Taylor, although most copies of its article carried a picture of the Anderson, mentioned the fact that she was born in Atlanta; had

worked for American newspapers; covered General Franco's campaigns in Spain for English newspapers; and then when World War I cracked, she suddenly fled to Germany and has since developed into one of the most powerful and subtle and shrewd propagandists on the staff of the German propaganda office at Berlin.

HAS RELATIVES IN ATLANTA.
An Atlanta newspaper some months ago carried a sketch of Foster Anderson, dug up a couple of her kinsmen who live in the Georgia capital, but who gave the newspaper no hint of the terrible tragedy in which her mother figured when fled from the child's father and came to Blacksburg, now a part of Cherokee; but the western extremity of York county back in the nineties, and there it is alleged became the paramour of M. R. Reese, wealthy real estate operator and merchant of Blacksburg.

No one-man woman Ellen Luckey Anderson mother of the future Lady Haw Haw of Germany has many lovers, according to court records among them one Williams, a railroad man for whose alleged murder Reese was convicted along with Daniel Luckey, brother of Ellen Luckey Anderson on purely circumstantial evidence and both were sentenced to hang.

The trial of Reese and Luckey, the verdict and their sensational escape from the York county jail back in the late nineties is one of the classics in the criminal annals of the Palmetto state. Finding of the body of Williams in a lot near the home of Mrs. Ellen Luckey Anderson which house she rented from M. R. Reese; arrest of Reese and Luckey; the trial of the two defendants by the best lawyers money could hire; the prosecution by Solicitor Henry now former Judge J. K. Henry of Chester; the guilty verdict against both men the sensational escape of Reese to run after sentence of death was passed and his being shot by Deputy Sheriff Bob Scroggins who dropped the fleeing man in front of the First Presbyterian church of York although he was not seriously wounded; and the final escape of the two men from York jail by sliding from the jail top with a blanket rope, has been the subject of hundreds of newspaper columns, story magazines and elsewhere.

On wonders how much of it all the present notorious Lady Haw Haw knows and how much her mother's sordid shame had to do with embittering her and causing her to desert her native country and to cast her lot and give her talents to the powerful enemies of her country.

Some time ago this writer was in communication with a brilliant lady now well over 70, who spent many years of her life in York county who knew Ellen Luckey Anderson and her little daughter, Foster Luckey Anderson (Lady Haw) and who knew all about the Reese and Luckey affair; and perhaps much that never got in the court testimony in York.

This lady who now lives in another state and who insists that her name be not mentioned in connection with the identification of Lady Haw Haw and the strange and sordid story of her mother observed:

NEW ANGLE TO REESE-LUCKEY TRIAL.
"There is an angle to the Reese and Luckey trial no one has ever brought out. Neither of the men committed the murder; and, as far

as I know, the evidence points to the fact that the murder was committed by the man who was shot.

"When Lady Anderson came to the trial, she was the only woman in the courtroom. She was dressed in a simple, plain dress, and she looked very much like a woman who had been through a great deal of trouble. She was very quiet and reserved, and she did not say a word during the trial.

"She formed a friendship with the attractive Williams when she thought could forward her interest. To wrong doing she gave no thought. Coming to the little town of Blacksburg, she won friends through her devotion as a mother and her willingness to work for a living. She did not exploit her beauty. She was charming to all alike; her conduct was above reproach. Many women loved her for her fine pride and spirit, even though they knew she often went hungry.

"Strange things were said about her when her husband, Mr. Anderson, showed up at Blacksburg. She told her friends a divorce from him. Divorcees could not advance in the millinery business in South Carolina. Mr. Anderson told her that and so she remarried him. He left soon afterward for Oklahoma where he became sheriff and died there.

"Mrs. Anderson's millinery business became profitable. She rented a small cottage from M. R. Reese. He was wealthy and rented much real estate, besides his banking business. Mrs. Anderson had business competitors. Gossip began to connect her with Reese. Young Luckey came to live with his sister as a protection for her and her little daughter, Foster, the now Lady Haw Haw since Mrs. Anderson had her own home.

"At one time I knew several women in Blacksburg. One of them lived next door to Mrs. Anderson and she was called as a witness at the trial. She never saw any company at the cottage. On the murder night she was alone with her small children, anxious on account of a storm raging. Mrs. Anderson's little daughter, Foster, was sick that night.

"My theory is that Williams, her former lover having heard of the gossip stories connecting her with the wealthy Mr. Reese came to her home that night in an attempt to make her get money for him from Reese. She told him to leave for fear of being killed, perhaps to scare him off. As she said in her confession at the trial, he demanded of her to let him in her home and tried to force her to see him. In her anger and hatred of this man Williams whom she knew could ruin her, she went to the street with him and there shot him dead.

"But for the note found in the dead Williams' pocket next morning, she might never have been connected with him. She figured if she confessed at the time her husband would be ruined although she knew the law of South Carolina or either a South Carolina jury would be mighty lenient on a beautiful woman in a case like that.

"Then came the trial in York and Mrs. Anderson's confession to a liaison with Reese. On that the jury convicted him and her brother Daniel Luckey; but I have never believed anything other than that killed Williams.

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Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust given by Jethro Grigg, Walter Patrick, and Lora Barkley, Trustees for the Archdale Baptist Church to the undersigned, as trustee for the Home Building and Loan Association, on January 1st, 1942, and recorded in the Register of Deeds Office for Cleveland County in Book 282 at Page 282, to secure the indebtedness therein mentioned and default having been made in same and at the request of the Home Building and Loan Association, I will sell for cash at the Courtroom door in Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina, on Monday, February 16th, 1942 at 10:00 A. M. or within legal hours the following described real estate: Situated in No. 4 Township, Cleveland County, N. C., and beginning at a stake, the corner of the Archdale Baptist Church lot and runs South 20 feet to E. L. Grigg's line, a new corner; thence with his line West 200 feet to a stake, Pendleton's line, a new corner; thence with Pendleton's line North 125.7 feet to a stake, Archdale Baptist Church lot; thence East with Archdale Baptist Church line 125 feet to a stake.

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