

THE BLOCKADE RUNNER'S YARN

NARRATIVE OF THE LATE WAR

Recounted of the Har-... of the late war...

Abstract of U. S. S. ... of the late war...

This matter of fact entry, read from the official records of the war, tells me, because, during the years of my youth, I was a blockade-runner, and it was I who hoisted those "rebel" colors on that eventful day forty-two years ago...

Another Southern man succeeded him, and we having received from the Confederate agent a cargo of mysterious packages, which were carefully handled, proceeded from St. Georges, Bermuda, bound for the port of Wilmington, North Carolina. This desired haven of these fugitives of the sea was preferred to the more difficult blockade-runners of the South...

When night drew on the finest Welch coal was piled up on the boiler room platform for use in an emergency, and the dexterous handling of the dampers prevented the tell-tale sparks from betraying our dangerous course, across the line of the ever watchful cruisers which formed their cordon around the Bermuda, upon the edge of the Gulf Stream, and across the most dangerous approaches to the Cape Fear River...

Next in importance to the Wilmington pilot, Jim Billy Craig, who was a man of great ability, was a long thin fellow, a landman, a man described known as "the watchman" who held himself in readiness day and night for service as a special lookout...

Our first night at sea was clear and beautiful, the air cool and clear, contrasted with the severe and at times almost suffocating warmth of the blue-water islands. After the evening meal, Gregory and I, snugly ensconced in the lee of the cabin, which was on deck, sat far into the night gazing with wonder upon the tranquil gleam of the stars, which shone with exceeding splendor...

Although these qualities were not a common possession, this remarkable instance of a slave's devotion to his master, was not exceptional. There were hundreds and perhaps thousands of such examples, especially on the part of those whose duties were of a domestic nature. It was not the evolution of gentle traits of character, for this man's grandfather had

lived and died a savage in the wilds of Africa. It was the result of daily contact with refined and kindly people whom he served, whose characteristic urbanity was unconsciously limited, and the result of the influence of others, which constitutes true politeness, was reflected in their servant's devotion.

I have a pensioner at Orton who is 94 years of age. He was the personal servant in the youth of Dr. Porcher, of Charleston, and as a polite and cultivated Frenchman might be, he is sincere in speech. He uses at times French phrases. He can tell you in polished language, and with becoming deference, of the grand people of the exclusive set of Charleston of long ago, and his solicitude for your health and for that of everyone connected with you whom he has never heard of is shown in expressions of old-time gentility, but he belongs to a class that is passing away.

Meanwhile I observed with some curiosity the off and on and on course, and also with feelings of dismay, that we were approaching a long, low, rakish looking war vessel, barque rigged and under steam, which was evidently lying to and awaiting us, but my apprehension was changed to wonder and amazement as I beheld flying speak the beautiful vessel and her crew. It was a sight I will never forget; alone upon the wide sea, hunted by a hundred adversaries, the corvette Florida, under the gallant Maffitt, had circumnavigated the globe and spread consternation among the merchant marine of the stars and stripes without the loss of a man. She was a beautiful vessel and her crew handled with consummate skill and daring. There was something pathetic in the object of our meeting, which had been secretly prearranged, for a boat was immediately lowered, into which were placed sundry parcels of opium for the hospital service of the Southern army, probably from the hold of one of the prizes, and his sympathetic offering from these homeless fellows on the high sea, to their sick and wounded comrades in the field hospitals, for the mitigation of their sufferings, appeared strongly to our hearts.

Our third and last day at sea began auspiciously, but we were drawn towards the coast much farther north than our usual landfall. At about half past three in the afternoon we were started by the lookout in the crow's nest, with the cry "Sail ho!" "Whereaway?" called the officer of the watch. "On the port quarter, sir, heading towards us." We were in a bad position, to the northward of Cape Lookout, but the stranger had not yet perceived us. In our eagerness for more steam, however, the tell-tale smoke rising from the funnels and the white steam from the time it was evident that we were being overhauled by a faster vessel under crowded canvas and full steam. The rising wind favored him, because we had but two sails, fore and aft, which served to steady us in a sea-way, but this added little to our speed. As the stranger drew rapidly nearer, pushing us towards a lee shore, she opened fire with her rifled cannon, and for the first time in my life I heard the scream of a hostile shell, as it passed between our funnel and plunged into the sea a half mile beyond. The sensation was most unpleasant, had we been able to turn the fire the other way, the double shot must have been exhilarating, but to be hunted like a rabbit and pelted with Parrott shells and 11-inch projectiles was enough to reduce my backbone to such laxation that my trembling knees refused to bear it. The cruiser's aim was true, for the 11-inch shells came tumbling over and over with such fearful accuracy that many of them passed only a few feet from my head, others sent the salt spray flying into our faces; and yet there were, up to six o'clock, no casualties of any importance. The admirable conduct of our naval passengers soon inspired me with courage—such is the influence of veterans' brave raw troops—and, strangely enough, as the firing of single batteries was changed to broadsides, my despairing feelings gave way to hope and confidence. Our purser was now firing about and saw the same course. Why she did not destroy us utterly at such short range must have appeared to them incomprehensible, because we easily distinguished without glasses the movements of their guns and the working of their crew at quarters; and our purser must have been surprised at the audacity of our passengers, who tranquilly measured with their watches the intervals between the

ring of his projectiles and their passage overhead. They also used their sextants continuously during the chase, and it was doubtless owing to their superior knowledge of the latitude that our commander held on his course in the face of imminent destruction, for, he remembered, we were loaded to the hatch combings with sun powder for Lee's army. As the sun sank lower on the horizon, so did our hopes of escape, for every moment seemed to be drawing us nearer to the end. Even our passengers became disheartened and said at last that it was a useless risk to all the lives on board. They accordingly proceeded to their cabins and threw their official papers, and three overboard some valuable side arms and rifles, and by the captain's orders, took the Confederate mail bag and government dispatches to the furnace and saw them go up in smoke. Orders were now given to lower the boats to the rail, for what purpose I do not know, when a strange thing happened.

There was a loud explosion in the forward air room not made by the bursting of a shell, but by the escape of a cloud of steam. Immediately the stokers and firemen swarmed up the iron ladders to the deck, terror-stricken and bewildered. They had been kept at their work for hours at the point of a pistol in the hands of a desperate and determined man, now, panic-stricken, they rushed aft, not knowing what they would do. Our chief engineer quietly reported the collapse of one of our boilers, cause unknown, steam reduced nearly one-half in consequence, but our slackened speed proved to be the means of our escape. The sun had gone behind a cloud bank, a mist hung over the land to leeward, our ship, painted the dull grey color of the sand dunes along the shore line, was obscured from the view of the enemy which was quite visible to us, forging ahead and firing wildly. Our engines were stopped and sail lowered, every eye was upon the cruiser—would she discover our desperate expedient? Had she done so, I believe that our crew would have been ordered to the boats and the "Phantom" abandoned with a lighted fuse for her destruction. But the cruiser sailed farther away, firing his broadsides at a distance of several miles, and slowly we limped to windward, crossing the wake of our discomfited antagonist, and laying our course straight and true for Wilmington. It was now eight o'clock in the evening, a hundred miles between us and our dangerous destination, and daylight came early in the summer months. By the time we reached the Cape Fear by sun rise, and then in our disabled condition how could we hope to run the gauntlet of the blockading fleet? It was resolved to do it or die. Fortune had favored us in an extremity, perhaps she would still be kind to us, and we might get through sleep, even after the excitement and exhaustion of the previous day, was impossible. We saw the first faint streaks of day off Masonboro Sound, where our watchful Gregory picked up the signal lights ashore and passed the word along the "beach" for our protection. The morning was cloudy, a cloudy morning; on and on we drove the little ship; she seemed to feel the crisis while she labored like a gentleman to meet her fate as speedily as possible. At last, in the friendly haze of dawn, we were among them; blockaders to the right and left, blockaders to the left of us, blockaders all about us loomed up like monsters of the deep. Craig, coolly but anxiously peered ahead. Long Tom, well forward on the turret back, whispered the words, which a line of picked men reported to the bridge. Again and again we stopped for the passage of a picket barge or gunboat in our way, and while we were not, and for the bearings, which in our devious course we had lost in confusion. Once more we slowly proceeded when suddenly out of the darkness and close aboard flashed the fiery train of a rocket, and a deep, commanding voice, just over the side shouted "Heave to, or I'll sink you!" Quickly our bridge responded "Aye, aye, sir, we stop the engines." "Back your engines, sir, and stand by for my boats" called the lusty man of war. But our paddles were not reversed. Lockhart said he never heeded such an order with the bar at hand; on the contrary our engines were evidently running away with the ship, and while the confident blockader, diverging from his guns, was engaged in lowering his boats, the "Phantom," true to her name, was gliding away towards the bar. A trail of rockets and Drummond lights and bombshells from the rest of the fleet followed in our wake, and the friendly flash of signal from the fort encouraged us while Gregory, with his unmasked lights, revealed to our steady progress until we anchored under the Confederate guns. It was now broad daylight and the blockading fleet had suddenly withdrawn to a safe distance. We proceeded towards Fort Anderson and came to anchor at quarantine. The clouds had passed away, revealing in the brightness of the morning light the stately white columns of Orton House in the distance. Accompanied by our faithful Scipio and escorted beyond the fort by his courteous Colonel Hedrick, we proceeded in silence through St. Philip's churchyard and the dead colonial town of Brunswick, past Russelboro, where Governor Tryon met the first armed colonists (the cradle of American independence) through the long avenue of oaks, where, looking ahead, we beheld a sight which shrouded our hearts; my uncle and his daughter surrounded by the yelling hounds returning from a chase, for Reynard's brush was at her saddle bow. With mutual exclamations of astonishment and delight we learned that the young captain had written by a flag of truce, of his convalescence in a Northern hospital, and his touching touching words that Scipio heard, as his hands clasped by master and mistress, and with bowed head, he received their tearful benedictions. My uncle has long since gone to his eternal rest and Scipio's white soul soon followed him. They are buried in a grave, which is surrounded by a high bird builds its nest and sings; where, above the murmur of the trees tops, which bend to the soft south wind, is heard the distant booming of the sea, and in their death they were not divided.

FROM THE ANTILLES. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy Benefits a City Councilman at Kingston, Jamaica. Mr. W. O'Reilly Fogarty, who is a member of the City Council at Kingston, Jamaica, writes as follows: "One bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy cured my cough, which was giving me trouble and I think I should have been more quickly relieved if I had used it sooner. It was beneficial to me in every respect, and I believe there is no doubt and it is my intention to obtain another bottle."

It's a Stayer Comes Quickly, but it Comes to Stay—How a Charlotte Citizen Got Rid of It. Comes early, stays late. No stranger can be more unwellcome. Makes life a misery all day long. Keeps you awake nights. Irritates you; spoils your temper. Do you feel like this? Ever have it come and stay with you? Know what it is? Eosinam. If you ever had any itches of the skin you know how hard it is to shake it off. You would like to know how to get it? Let a Charlotte man tell you. Read his statement that follows. J. R. A. Alexander, who lives on Pine Street, extends to me: "I have used Doan's Ointment for itching hemorrhoids with excellent results. I got a box at R. H. Jordan & Co.'s drug store and gave it a thorough trial. I found it cured me more relief than anything of the kind I ever used. I have not been bothered with my old trouble since. I use it. You have a splendid remedy and I am glad to recommend it to others. For sale by all dealers. Price 40 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other."

FREE A FULL PINT OF OLD VIRGINIA APPLE JACK. This is FREE only with your FIRST order. Made from the choicest grain. You'll agree that this is the best. Not to be had through dealers. Sold direct from the distillery. Write for more information. Send 10¢ in stamps for a full pint. The name is on the label. The name is on the label. The name is on the label.

Westover "BEST OF THE WORLD" 10 YEAR RYE WHISKEY. This is FREE only with your FIRST order. Made from the choicest grain. You'll agree that this is the best. Not to be had through dealers. Sold direct from the distillery. Write for more information. Send 10¢ in stamps for a full pint. The name is on the label. The name is on the label. The name is on the label.

THE OLDEST, LARGEST, STONGEST SOUTHERN LIFE INSURANCE CO. Assets December 31, 1906 \$ 2,881,477.81. Liabilities December 31, 1906 2,008,129.90. Surplus to policy-holders December 31, 1906 873,347.91. Insurance in force December 31, 1906 \$18,810,000.00. Number of Policies in force December 31, 1906 8,127. Number Death Claims paid in 1906 8,127. Death claims, Dividends, etc. paid to Policy-Holders in 1906 \$ 111,498.75. This is a regular Life Insurance Company, chartered by the Legislature of Virginia and has won the hearty approval and active support of the people by its promptness and fair dealing during the thirty-five years of its operation. HOME OFFICE RICHMOND, Va. G. WALKER, Pres. H. T. PAGE, Supt. Charlotte District. Office 207 S. Tryon St.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY. Name day: Ephraim. Sun rises at 7:31; sets at 4:52. 1763.—Unsuccessful and very disastrous attack by two English ships on Buenos Ayres. The commanders and nearly 100 of the crew were drowned. 1777.—The American army under General Washington went into winter quarters at Morristown, N. J. 1761.—Arnold detached Lieutenant Colonel Simcoe from Richmond to Westham, Va., who destroyed the cannon foundry and a quantity of public stores which had been removed from Richmond. 1844.—The British government offered to treat for peace and commissioners of peace on the part of the United States were appointed. 1847.—General Thomas died at Millidgeville, Ga. 1855.—Soldiers and Indians of the tribe of 1782 assembled in Washington, D. C., to get Congress to give to each a grant of land of 160 acres. 1865.—The report on incomes in the first district of Illinois showed that Potter Palmer, John V. Farwell and Peter Schuetzler were the only persons in Chicago whose annual incomes exceeded \$100,000. 1868.—Congress met. The President was, by a vote of 73 to 28 in the House, censured for removing General Sheridan. 1869.—The resolution of thanks to General Grant for his letters to the President relative to the removal of Secretary Stanton, and General Sheridan's report of affairs in Texas, passed by 82 votes to 23. 1869.—Bill passed constituting eight hours a day's work for government employes. 1872.—Col. James Fisk, Jr., shot by Edward S. Stokes at the Grand Central Hotel, New York. He died two days later, aged 37. 1875.—The manner in which \$275,000 of the Pacific mail subsidy had been distributed, it was alleged by Richard E. Irwin, was disclosed by the congressional investigating committee. 1885.—Grover Cleveland, President-elect, resigned as Governor of New York. 1895.—Representative Maynard, of Virginia, in a bill introduced in the House of Representatives at Washington, proposed to increase the salary of the Vice President to \$75,000 a year; to give the President, after his retirement (from office), an annual salary of \$25,000 for life.

HIGH POINT NEWS. Charter Applied for Automobile Company.—Rev. David Parker Stricken With Paralysis. Special to The Observer. High Point, Jan. 5.—A charter has been applied for the new company here to manufacture automobiles. The capital will have an apid-in capital of \$75,000, which will be increased later on as the business spreads. The company has already begun the manufacture of automobiles. Rev. David Parker, brother of Mr. J. Robt. Parker, of this city, is stricken with paralysis at his home in Gates county. Mr. Parker has learned that the condition of his brother is somewhat improved. His only regret is to lose Mr. J. D. Smith and his most estimable family, who have been residing here for some time. Mr. Smith is called to Wilmington, as he has been named as sole executor of the large estate of his wife's father, Mr. Garrett, who recently died there. Joseph Smith is a gentleman in the true sense of the word, and everyone is his friend. A wholesale arraignment of negroes took place between the mayor last night, and about all the cases were for disorderly conduct and unlawful combination. Two of the gang, a man and a woman, were bound over to court, while the others were let off with a fine. A white man by the name of Stewart...

ari was arrested here yesterday at the instance of a Greenboro officer for running away with another man's wife, who had staid with the defendant here and also in Greenboro. It is alleged, the woman in the case, however, had not been found late last night. The talk of building a modern opera house here is again being revived with a possible increase in interest. It has been felt and is a necessity if good shows are to come here and if the best class of people patronize them. The large electric bell to answer as the general fire alarm is expected here in a day or so and will be put up immediately as the people can keep up with the fire alarm. Before the whistle made so much noise that the populace easily knew when the fire was on hand, now the fire companies rush by when one is least expecting and everything seems quite as death compared to the former way of heralding the news. However, when the bell is installed all will be different.

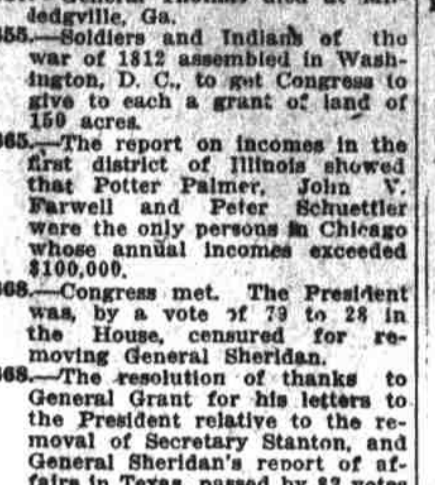
Stockholders Meeting. COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK, CHARLOTTE, N. C. The annual meeting of shareholders will be held Tuesday, January 8, 1907, at 12 m. in the banking house. A. G. BREINER, Cashier.

HOTEL WOLCOTT. 8th Ave. and 31st St., NEW YORK CITY. ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF. Situated in the most convenient location and in the most desirable neighborhood. A HOTEL OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD. Rooms at moderate prices reserved by wire or letter. J. H. BREINER.

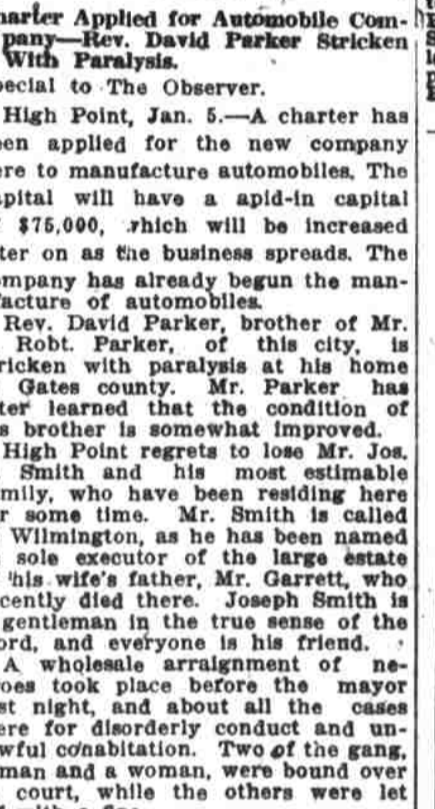
LOOMS. We have patterns for more than 40 styles of looms, ranging from 110 inches wide, built to be operated with jacquard heads, dobbies or plain, down to 24-inch wide drop box. Most of these patterns come to us in our purchase of the Fairmont Machine Works, formerly of Philadelphia, now moved to Charlotte as part of our business. Other loom patterns are of our home design and make. YARN REELS. The extent of the use of our reels in the Southern cotton mills attests their merit. Every reel guaranteed to give satisfaction and stand on its own merit. SPOOLERS. We have incorporated into the design of our spoolers improvements which make them superior to those of any other make. Convenience for the spooler hand is an important factor in our make-up of a spooler. STARCH KETTLES. Ours is the only starch kettle which has the equivalent of a reverse motion in all 24-inch wide capacity like milk, not a lumpy mixture like hominy and water. BAND MACHINES. Our band machine is all right. Inquire of the users. DYE-HOUSE MACHINERY. With the purchase of the Fairmont Machine Company's business we came into possession of a full line of dye-house machinery. We are prepared to contract for and build any dye-house machinery wanted. ELEVATORS. Our elevator patterns also came from Fairmont. We solicit orders. SHAFING, PULLEYS AND HANGERS. Before we made the Fairmont purchase we had a large line of pulleys and hanger patterns. The purchase brought to us a full line from Philadelphia. The two lines together make by far the most complete and exclusive line of patterns in the South, and ours would be a leading line anywhere. Having a foundry and large shop facilities, we can make better deliveries than can be had elsewhere. WASTE MACHINERY. We manufacture waste cleaning machinery under the McDonald-Miller patents. Our system not only cleans and separates the different kinds of waste, but it absolutely clears all waste of iron, stone and other foreign matter. Our system saves all other machinery in subsequent processes and gives better final results. COTTON OIL MACHINERY. We build complete outfits of machinery for cotton seed oil mills. When desired, we take contracts to build oil mills complete. ELECTRIC. We rewind armatures, build switchboards, contract to put in plants complete and carry full line of electrical supplies and appliances. IN GENERAL. We contract to do complete installations of automatic sprinklers and other fire protection, steam heating, power plants, light and heavy repairs in oil mills and cotton mills, rollers and otherwise overhaul Corliss engines, cover drawing rolls, renick and refine bottom steel rolls. THE D. A. TOMPKINS CO., Machine Builders, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Life Insurance Company of Virginia. ESTABLISHED 1871. The Oldest, Largest, Strongest Southern Life Insurance Co. Assets December 31, 1906 \$ 2,881,477.81. Liabilities December 31, 1906 2,008,129.90. Surplus to policy-holders December 31, 1906 873,347.91. Insurance in force December 31, 1906 \$18,810,000.00. Number of Policies in force December 31, 1906 8,127. Number Death Claims paid in 1906 8,127. Death claims, Dividends, etc. paid to Policy-Holders in 1906 \$ 111,498.75. This is a regular Life Insurance Company, chartered by the Legislature of Virginia and has won the hearty approval and active support of the people by its promptness and fair dealing during the thirty-five years of its operation. HOME OFFICE RICHMOND, Va. G. WALKER, Pres. H. T. PAGE, Supt. Charlotte District. Office 207 S. Tryon St.

RHEUMATISM Cured THROUGH THE BLOOD. By Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.). There is hope for the most hopeless case of Rheumatism if the sufferer will only take Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.). It invigorates the blood, making it pure and rich, and destroying the active poison in the blood which causes the awful symptoms of Rheumatism. LEADING SYMPTOMS—Bone pains, swollen joints or swollen muscles; difficulty in moving around so you have to use crutches; foot this or that pale; skin hot and red; shifting pains; bad breath; swollen, inflamed, sore, etc. Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.) will remove every symptom, giving quick relief from the first dose, and B. B. B. sends a rich tingling of warm, pure blood direct to the paralyzed nerves, bones and joints, giving warmth and strength just where it is needed, and in this way the sufferer is able to help or cure. WEAK, INACTIVE KIDNEYS—One of the causes of Rheumatism is due to inactive kidneys and bladder. B. B. B. strengthens weak kidneys and bladder, draining off all diseased matter and all uric acid, so the urine flows freely and naturally. Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.) is pleasant and safe to take. Thoroughly tested for 30 years. Composed of Pure Botanic Ingredients. Strengthens Weak Stomach, cures Dyspepsia. Price 25¢ per large bottle at drug stores, or by express prepaid. Sample free by writing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga.



Harris Lithia Water is nature's sovereign remedy for the diseases of nature, especially those affections of the KIDNEYS and BLADDER. It is highly endorsed by leading physicians and sold at all druggists, or direct. Write us immediately for testimonials, prices, etc. Hotel open June 15, Sep. 15. Harris Lithia Springs Co., Harris Springs, S. C.



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