

THE STORY OF A FAMOUS FEUD

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

PEAK of a feud and one naturally thinks of one of those fierce family vendettas that have made notorious certain sections of the mountain country in West Virginia, Tennessee or Kentucky. Yet the soil of the trans-Missouri West as well as that of the East in times past has been dyed red with some of the bitterest feuds in American history.

In the West most of these feuds were "range wars"—fights between two factions for control of desirable grazing country for their herds or flocks—rather than internecine family conflicts. Outstanding among them were the Lincoln County war in New Mexico in the early eighties, and the Johnson County war, or so-called "Rustler war," in Wyoming in 1892. But to Arizona goes the distinction of having a civil conflict in which was combined both a family vendetta as fierce as any ever carried on among the mountaineers of the East and a "range war" as bloody as any ever staged on the plains or in the mountains of the West. And, of all places, this feud was carried on in a locality known as Pleasant Valley!

If you have ever read Zane Grey's "To the Last Man" or Dane Coolidge's "The Man Killers," you have caught glimpses of the Pleasant Valley war even though neither novel follows the feud in detail nor pretends to give an historically accurate account of it. But the war has its historian—Earle R. Forrest, whose book "Arizona's Dark and Bloody Ground," published recently by the Caxton Printers, Ltd. of Caldwell, Idaho, is the first attempt to tell the whole story of that dark page in the annals of the Southwest. In the preface Mr. Forrest says:



COMMODORE P. OWENS

"The Pleasant Valley vendetta that swept through the Tonto Basin country in Central Arizona during the latter 1880's was one of the most sanguinary and bitter range feuds the old West ever knew. Its ferocity and hatreds were rivaled only by the bloody battles and assassinations of the Lincoln county war in New Mexico ten years before, but it is doubtful, even with all its terrorism, if the number of killed there equaled the casualties in Pleasant Valley. Both were born of blood feuds, and both were fought in defiance of the law of the land until they burned themselves out after most of the participants had either been killed or had grown weary of strife. Even the well-known Hatfield-McCoy feud that held the West Virginia and Kentucky mountains under a reign of terror for almost twenty years did not surpass the lifelong hatreds born of the Pleasant Valley war."

The family element in this feud was furnished by the Tewksburys and the Grahams, the chief opponents in the war. But others were drawn into it, some by choice and some by force of circumstances over which they had no control. For in this conflict there were no neutrals. Among the others who were dragged into it or voluntarily took up arms were several men already noted, or soon to be notorious, in the annals of the Wild West. There was Tom Pickett, who had been a "warrior" with Billy the Kid in the Lincoln County war in New Mexico but who was then a cowboy for the famous Hash Knife outfit. There was Charley Duchet, frontiersman and a gunfighter in the wild days of Dodge City, Kan.

And there was the famous Tom Horn, scout and packer in the Apache campaigns, later a stock detective on the Wyoming ranges and destined to be the central figure in one of the most baffling murder mysteries in the history of the West.

A Wild West Sheriff. Among the law officers who tried unsuccessfully to quell the feud was the famous Commodore Perry Owens, the long-haired sheriff of Apache county, a bizarre figure who might have stepped out of the pages of a dime novel "thriller" and who, during the course of the feud, was the survivor of one of the most amazing gunfights in the history of the Old West.

And these were only a few of the antagonists in a war waged

with a ferocity and ruthlessness almost unparalleled in the history of the West. Before it was ended one family, the Grahams, was completely wiped out and of their allies, the Blevans, there was only one survivor among the father and five sons. Of the three Tewksbury brothers, one was killed during the war, one died a natural death and the third, who stood trial for the murder of the last Graham, lived on to become known as the hero of Zane Grey's novel and the "last man of the Pleasant Valley war."

Three Half-Breed Sons.

The fierceness of the vendetta may be attributed in part to the character of one of the families involved in it. For the Tewksburys were half-white and half-Indian, the sons of John D. Tewksbury, Sr., a native of Boston who went to California in the days of the gold rushes, settled in Humboldt county and there married an Indian woman. She became the mother of three sons, John, James and Edwin, who had grown to young manhood when the elder Tewksbury settled in Pleasant Valley in 1880.

As for the other proponents in this bloody conflict, Tom and John Graham, they were born on a farm near Boone, Iowa, went to California in the seventies and in 1882 located in Pleasant Valley. "Tom was the oldest and because of the personal enmity that later developed between the Grahams and the Tewksburys, he became the acknowledged leader around whom the cattlemen rallied when sheep invaded the valley. Tom Graham is pictured in fiction of the vendetta as the leader of the rustlers that swarmed through the mountains, a ruffian and killer of the worst type. Nothing could be further from the truth; for he was a quiet, peaceful man and honest in all his dealings. Even after the invasion of sheep made war certain he refused to take human life; and his restraining hand held his followers in check until the first blood spilled by the Tewksbury forces made further



MRS. THOMAS H. GRAHAM

restraint impossible. But he has been held responsible all these years for the acts of others."

A "Short Trigger Man."

Chief among these others were the allies of the Grahams, the Blevans, who was known in Arizona as Andy Cooper, mainly because a sheriff back in Texas, where the Blevans came from, was looking for him. Cooper, or Blevans, was noted as a "short trigger man," a killer by instinct, and he soon became the leader of the rustlers who preyed upon the cattle herds in that part of Arizona.

The origins of the feud are wrapped in mystery. Various reasons have been given for the hatred which existed between the Tewksburys and the Grahams but none of them can be fully substantiated. One story says that a woman was at the bottom of it, that the attentions of a man in one of the factions for the wife of a man in the other faction started it. Another says that the Grahams and the Tewks-



Some of the Hash Knife Cowboys Who Took Part in the Feud.

burys were partners in rustling operations, then fell out over the division of the spoils. There may be some element of truth in both stories but the fact remains that the hostility between the two factions which slowly developed might not have burst into the flame of open warfare if it had not been for an event which took place just 50 years ago this autumn. Forrest records it thus:

"The Tewksburys are driving sheep over the rim of the Mogolons!"

"From mouth to mouth, from ranch to ranch throughout all Pleasant Valley this message was carried by dashing young cowboys in Paul Revere style. The effect was like an electric shock and more dangerous than a charge of dynamite. For years the cattlemen of this little valley in the wilderness of central Arizona had successfully held their range against the encroachments of sheepmen from the north who were only too eager to scatter



EDWIN TEWKSURY

their flocks over the luxuriant grass of this beautiful land.

"Hastily those cattlemen and their cowboys saddled their horses and rode out to investigate. Perhaps it was only a rumor after all; but with their own eyes they could see them in the distance like a great mass of maggots rolling down over the trail from the rim and swarming out over the valley at the foot of the Mogolons like a plague of locusts, greedily devouring the grass, tearing it out by the roots; and already a cloud of dust drifted up in the lazy morning air from the desert they left behind.

"The die was cast. The Tewksburys wanted war. Well, they would get it; all they wanted and more than they had bargained for."

Cattlemen vs. Sheepmen.

So the cattlemen and rustlers forgot their own differences and joined forces to resist the invasion of their common enemy, the sheepmen. Dags Brothers of Flagstaff, at that time the leading sheep men in northern Arizona, needed new range for their "woolies." They had heard of the trouble between the Grahams and the Tewksburys and decided to turn it to their advantage by breaking the united ranks of the cattlemen in Pleasant Valley and open that rich grazing land for their sheep. So they made a deal with the Tewksburys to send a band of sheep into Pleasant Valley under the protection of the Tewksbury guns and share profits with them.

The cattlemen immediately rallied to defend their grazing lands and Andy Cooper, the "short trigger man," proposed to lead a party of armed men to wipe out the sheep and their herders. But Tom Graham held him in check, hoping to be able to scare off the sheep men without loss of life or destruction of property. However, the reckless cowboys soon got out of hand and in February, 1887, they drew first blood by killing a Navajo Indian shepherd. Soon afterwards the sheep were withdrawn from the valley but the peace which came to Pleasant Valley was a short-lived one.

Then "Old Man" Blevans, father of the Blevans boys, allies of the Grahams, disappeared and was never again heard from.

In August his son, Hampton Blevans, accompanied by four Hash Knife cowboys and three from the Graham ranch started in search for him. They stopped at the Middleton ranch where they found Jim and Ed Tewksbury and some of their adherents. Hot words between the two parties were followed immediately by blazing six-shooters and when the fighting was over Hampton Blevans and another cowboy were dead and two others of their party wounded. This was the first white man's blood spilled in the Pleasant Valley war but it was only the beginning.

Next Jim Houck, a Tewksbury man, killed young Billy Graham and in revenge for that Tom Graham led a party of cattlemen to attack the Tewksbury ranch. In the siege and battle which followed John Tewksbury, Jr., and one of his followers was killed before the attack of the cowboys was beaten off. From that time on it was a war to the death.

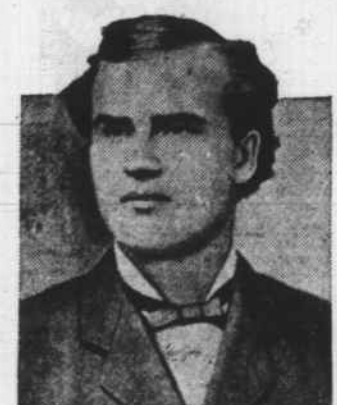
Forrest's book is filled with the details of the various gunfights, ambushes, lynchings, and assassinations which marked the progress of the war during the next two years. It is a record of almost unbelievable ferocity and cruelty, yet its dark pages are relieved at times by the chronicle of deeds of high courage and loyal devotion on the part of both men and women. For the wives of some of the clansmen played a prominent part in the war.

By the end of 1888 the war was virtually over. Jim Tewksbury had died of tuberculosis. John Graham and Charley Blevans had been killed in a fight with a posse headed by Sheriff Mulvenon of Yavapai county. Sheriff Commodore Owens of Apache county had had his famous gun duel in Holbrook in which Andy Cooper (Blevans), Sam Houston Blevans and their brother-in-law, Mose Roberts, had been killed and John Blevans was in jail.

Triumph of the Tewksburys.

In the meantime Tom Graham had married and his young bride had at last prevailed upon him to take up farming near Tempe. Ed Tewksbury and a few followers were left to enjoy their hollow triumph as winners of the war. But they had learned their lesson and they made no further attempts to bring sheep over the rim of the Mogolons. Apparently the feud was over. Then as suddenly it burst into flame again.

On August 2, 1892 Tom Graham, while hauling grain from his ranch, was shot from ambush near the Double Butte schoolhouse. Ed Tewksbury and John Rhodes were accused of the murder and placed under arrest. During the preliminary hearing of the accusation against Rhodes in justice court the old feud spirit flared up again when Mrs. Tom Graham tried to shoot Rhodes down in the courtroom but failed in the attempt. Rhodes was discharged from custody.



THOMAS H. GRAHAM

Then the long battle to convict Tewksbury began. Found guilty of the murder, Tewksbury obtained a new trial on a technicality and in the second trial in 1895 the jury disagreed. "After the passing of another year, the prosecution, evidently believing that a conviction would now be impossible, filed a motion to dismiss the charge. When this was granted on March 16, 1896, the curtain fell on the last act of the bitterest blood-feud in the history of the old West—a story that has become a legend of old Arizona's cattlemans."



THE DEMOCRATIC DONKEY.

ALTHOUGH Thomas Nast is usually credited with being the man who made the donkey one of the emblems of the Democratic party, the fact is that some other cartoonist, whose name is unknown, used the same symbol fully three decades before the famous Harper's Weekly artist did.

When Andrew Jackson retired from the presidency in 1837 he dumped in the lap of his successor, Martin Van Buren, a flood of "wild-cat currency" and wild speculation caused by his destruction of the United States bank and the distribution of the treasury surplus in private banks. So a cartoonist of that period drew a picture entitled "The Modern Balaam and His Ass" which showed Jackson mounted on a donkey, across whose withers hung a bag labeled "Specie Currency—Circulating Medium." A ghost, labeled "Bankrupts of 1836," was causing the donkey to balk and its rider was laboring it with a cane labeled "Veto." Behind the rider and his mount walked Van Buren saying "I shall tread in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessor."

From that time on, during the disputes over the money question, the donkey frequently appeared in the cartoons and became the accepted symbol of the Democratic party. But it was the genius of Thomas Nast which made this symbol familiar to millions of Americans.

During the feud between President Andrew Johnson and Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war, Nast was a strong ally of the latter. When Stanton died soon after President Grant had made him a justice of the Supreme Court, the southern Democratic papers, continuing the feud, attacked Stanton even in their obituary notices of him.

On January 15, 1870 Nast drew his first donkey cartoon. It pictured Stanton as a dead lion being kicked by a donkey labeled "Copperhead press." Underneath it were the lines: "A Live Jackass kicking a dead Lion and such a Lion! and such a Jackass." In later cartoons he also depicted the Democratic papers, especially James Gordon Bennett's New York Herald, as a donkey and after a while began applying the symbol to the Democratic party as well as its press.

HEADGEAR

"IF YOU lose your standards, rally to my white plume!" cried Henry of Navarre before the Battle of Ivry and so the helmet of Navarre with its snowy decoration became the sign and symbol of a cause which won and made him king of France.

In American politics, too, voters have rallied behind candidates whose headgear or some other bit of apparel have been characteristic of the man. In the days of Andrew Jackson, loyal Democrats brandished hickory canes in imitation of the one which "Old Hickory" carried. In 1840 the Whigs clapped coonskin caps on their heads and went out to sing and cheer "Old Tippecanoe," the Indiana frontiersman, into the White House.

On the streets of New York the white beaver hat worn by Horace Greeley, editor of the Tribune, was a familiar sight. But perhaps even in those days the "peepul" were suspicious of a "high hat" candidate, so Greeley's supporters, wearing "white plugs," failed to elect him. Ulysses S. Grant once worked in a tannery, therefore parades in his honor were marked by men wearing shaggy and obviously untanned fur coats and bearing signs which declared "Bring on the enemy and we'll tan his hide."

In the Cleveland campaign of 1888 his running mate was Senator Thurman, the last member of the upper house to use snuff. After doing so he would sweep a red bandanna handkerchief out of his pocket with a grand gesture. So Democrats that year had whole suits made of bandannas and women wore bandanna dresses.

Another vice-presidential candidate who furnished a striking headgear symbol for his party was Theodore Roosevelt. Thousands wore Rough Rider hats in the campaign of 1900 and it was still a potent emblem in 1904 when T. R. was candidate for President.

But another quarter of a century was to elapse before a bit of headgear would be a feature of the campaign. In 1928 Alfred E. Smith made the brown derby famous from one end of the land to the other but it became a symbol of defeat instead of victory.

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Terminal of Gota Canal

Gothenburg is one of the terminals of the Gota canal, which winds over 240 miles through the heart of Sweden, sometimes following lakes, sometimes rivers, sometimes a canal so narrow that trees at the sides of the banks brush the small steamers on the water. All in all 56 miles of canal supplement the natural waterway. These various links were completed more than 300 years after the project was first conceived and undertaken.

The Mind Meter

By LOWELL HENDERSON
© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

The Completion Test

In this test there are four words given in each problem. Three of the four in each case bear a definite relationship to one another; for example, they may be the names of animals or the names of state capitals, or perhaps synonyms. Cross out the one word that does not belong in each problem.

1. Gay, merry, dejected, frivolous.
2. Edison, Whistler, Fulton, Morse.
3. Build, erect, raze, construct.
4. Phoenix, Salem, Raleigh, Macon.
5. Arrow, bullet, cartridge, shell.
6. Inaugurate, start, introduce, continue.
7. Donate, pilfer, steal, embezzle.
8. Puma, leopard, tiger, rail.
9. Candor, duplicity, openness, sincerity.
10. Bat, mallet, racquet, gun.

Answers

1. Dejected.
2. Whistler.
3. Raze.
4. Macon.
5. Arrow.
6. Continue.
7. Donate.
8. Rail.
9. Duplicity.
10. Gun.

Never Satisfied

Prisoners continue to plot for escape in spite of the fact that they have been living rent free and meeting no bills for food or medicine. Wild animals often appreciate the care they find in captivity and if they wander away return gladly to their cages. As evolution continues it reveals the human being as showing the highest form of discontent.—Washington Star.

Who Know Better

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