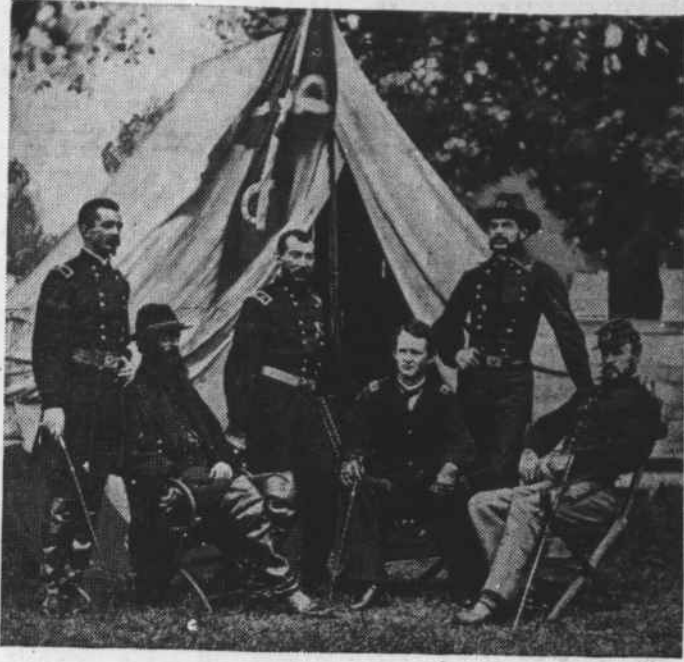


"Little Phil's" Meteoric Career Recalled by Death of His Widow

The Son of Poor Irish Immigrants, Sheridan Became the North's Greatest Cavalry Leader During the Civil War and Later Rose to the Highest Position in the American Army. He Owes Much of His Fame to a Poem That Is Filled with Historical Inaccuracies.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

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Gen. Phil Sheridan and His Staff—Left to right: Gen. Henry E. Davies, Gen. David M. Gregg, General Sheridan, Gen. Wesley Merritt, Gen. James Wilson and Gen. Robert S. Foster.

his employer testified to the fact that he was a faithful worker, he also commented upon the fact that what time the boy wasn't working he was "talkin' soldier or playin' soldier."

A Scrapper Cadet. At the age of seventeen Sheridan had the good fortune to secure an appointment to West Point. His limited education made the work there unusually difficult for him, but he made a fairly good record at the academy. However, he lived up to his "scrappy" reputation by having a fight with a fellow cadet which resulted in his suspension for a year, so, instead of being graduated in the class of 1852, as he should have been, he was not graduated until 1853 and then he stood No. 34 in a class of 52.

Following his graduation and appointment as a second lieutenant in the infantry, Sheridan spent the next eight years in comparative obscurity. He was detailed to the frontier and saw service against the Indians in Oregon and Washington. This not only afforded him good training with the dragoons for his future career as a cavalryman but also gave him an insight into the Indian character which was to be particularly valuable during the Plains wars after the conflict of 1861-65.

The outbreak of the Civil war, however, gave Sheridan his chance to display his real genius as a cavalry leader. Detailed first on the staff of General Halleck at St. Louis, he soon attracted attention by his capacity for detail, his energy and his unflinching devotion to duty, and these qualities resulted in his appointment as colonel of the Second Michigan cavalry. Only a few weeks later he was elevated to the grade of brigadier general of the United States Volunteers. That was in 1862, and by the end of the year he had been placed in command of a division and given his commission of major general. And all of this had

happened when he was but thirty-two years of age. Sheridan's record during the first three years of the war was brilliant enough, with his part in the battles at Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, but he rose to the heights in 1864 when he was made chief of the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac and started upon his famous campaign in the Shenandoah valley of Virginia. There his problem was to check-

mate another brilliant cavalry leader, Gen. Jubal A. Early of the Confederate army, and to devastate this rich country so that it could no longer feed the Confederate army.

It was during this campaign that the incident occurred which inspired Read's famous poem and gave rise to one of those popular legends so dear to the heart of Americans—and usually so filled with inaccuracies as to historical fact! That legend tells how Sheridan at Winchester, hearing heavy firing in the direction of Cedar Creek, where his army was stationed, suspected something was wrong, sprang to the back of his coal black charger, Rienzi, and made a mad dash of 20 miles to find his army being routed by Early's surprise attack.

Then, according to the school book histories, "Swinging his hat, he dashed along the line of battle, shouting, 'Never mind, boys, we'll whip them yet.' The boys responded by throwing up their caps and hurrahing with the wildest joy. Before night set in they drove Early out of the Valley." Another version of the legend has him shouting, "Turn, boys, turn! We're going back!" However, a reference to Sheridan's "Personal Memoirs" and other standard authorities will demonstrate that these legends need correction in several respects.

In the first place, Sheridan wasn't "twenty miles away" as the poet has it. It was only 13 or 14 miles from Winchester to Cedar Creek and Sheridan had his first view of his disorganized army at Mill creek, less than a mile from Winchester. From there to the actual "front"—if there was such a thing on that day—it wasn't much more than nine or ten miles.

His ride was not made alone nor was it covered at top speed. He was accompanied by two of his aides-de-camp—Maj. George A. Forsythe (later famous as an Indian fighter in the West) and Capt. Joseph O'Keefe. At places along the route he was forced to leave the road and make detours through the fields and he stopped frequently to give orders to officers about rallying their men.

His Greatest Service.

Although Sheridan is known to more Americans because of this incident than any other in his career, his victory at Cedar Creek was among the less notable of the many which he won during the war. Much more important were his harassing dashes against the Confederate forces in northern Virginia during the last days of the war, when he finally wore out the Confederate cavalry, inferior in numbers, mounts and equipment, and broke the morale of the Confederate infantry. By doing that he contributed greatly to the forces which led to the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox.

After the Civil war Sheridan's career was distinguished by his service on the Mexican border in the days when the Maximilian incident was a threat to our peaceful relations with European countries, and by his work during the Indian wars on the plains when he was in command of the operations which finally brought about the subjugation of the warlike tribes. He was guest observer on the staff of King William during the Franco-Prussian war and became commander in chief of the United States army after the retirement of Sherman. Sheridan died in 1888 at the age of fifty-seven years with the rank of full general, a grade which had been restored by congress that year in his favor.

Just as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow helped immortalize Paul Revere by writing a poem about his famous ride, so did Thomas Buchanan Read, who was a painter as well as a poet, perform a similar service for Gen. Phil Sheridan. No doubt you have seen reproductions of his painting of "Sheridan's Ride." It shows "Little Phil" impeccably dressed in his general's uniform, with his black hat set firmly on his head as he waves his sword in his right hand while his charger Rienzi seems to be suspended in mid-air with all four feet off the ground.

According to the testimony of men who saw him that day, the reality was quite different. Instead of being a fashion-plate picture of an officer, Sheridan and his mount were dust-covered and grimy and most of the time he was carrying his hat in his hand because he always had difficulty in keeping a hat on his "round, bullet head!"

Testimony as to the time required for the ride varies. Sheridan says that he arrived at the battlefield within two or three hours after leaving Winchester, but Torbert, his chief of staff, declares that it was nearer five hours later.

As for the words which Sheridan used to rally his men, Gen. Hazard Stevens, who was on the field when his commander arrived, says "Sheridan rode down the line of battle, and in a voice surcharged with passion and conviction, cried out, 'Men, by God, we'll whip them yet! We'll sleep in our old camp tonight!' There was a universal answering cheer; a mighty change of feeling took place; hope and confidence returned. The troops no longer merely believed that the worst was over, that they



Sheridan Statue in Washington

could hold their ground until night and make good an orderly retreat upon Winchester—they all burned to attack the enemy, to drive him back. And every man knew that Sheridan could do it."

Private F. A. Brown says that when Sheridan demanded of General Wright, "What's our position?" Wright replied: "I have the army in a safe position to retreat." "Retreat, hell!" snapped Sheridan, "We will not retreat! Come on, boys, we will occupy our camp tonight."

Swear Words Deleted.

In his "Memoirs" Sheridan does not mention using any strong language to rally his men. He makes it rather commonplace and conversational. He writes: "I said nothing except to remark as I rode among those on the road: 'If I had been with you this morning this disaster would not have happened. We must face the other way; we will go back and recover our camp.'"

Sheridan's black charger on his famous ride was known as Rienzi because the horse was presented to him at Rienzi, Miss., in the summer of 1862 by Capt. Archibald P. Campbell. After the battle of Cedar Creek, the horse was given another name—Winchester, in honor of Sheridan's historic ride from that town. Winchester survived his master by a few years and after his death he



Sheridan's Grave in Arlington

was stuffed by a taxidermist and became an exhibit in the museum of the Military Service institute on Governor's island, N. Y. In 1922 Rep. Ambrose Kennedy of Rhode Island discovered the famous relic tucked away in a shed on Governor's island and started a movement which resulted in the transfer of the animal to the National museum in Washington where it is now on exhibition.

STAR DUST Movie • Radio

JUDY GARLAND, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's wonder girl, will be starred in "The Wizard of Oz" and that is just the first of many fairy-tale pictures that you may expect to see in the next year.

Ever since "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" started its record-breaking runs, motion-picture producers have been wondering if a fairy tale with human actors wouldn't be a good bet. All the companies are looking for fairy tales.

Considering what has happened to other operatic songbirds in pictures, sudden stardom and then a complete loss of interest by the studios, Helen Jepson is very happy that she plays a fairly small part in "The Goldwyn Follies." She thinks that her career in pictures will probably last a long time if she doesn't



Helen Jepson

want to be the whole show. She would like a chance to see some of the scenes that were cut out of "The Follies" though. There was one where she really looked like herself, no wig, no special make-up, and her favorite dress. There was another where Bobby Clark dropped her kerplunk on the floor.

"Arsene Lupin Returns" is a delightful and gripping jewel-thief mystery, played with great skill by Melvyn Douglas, Warren William, and Virginia Bruce. William's part, though not as large as the others, is a memorable one, for he plays a G-man who so relishes seeing his picture in the papers that he isn't worth much to his department, which cherishes a notion that secret service should have something secret about it.

After all these weeks of triumph, Fanny Brice just got around to explaining where she got the idea of Baby Snooks. It seems that when Fanny was a little girl she longed to play Topsy in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and no one would give her a chance. Baby Snooks is her idea of a white Topsy.

When Robert Taylor isn't actually before the microphone during the "Good News" program, he is sitting just off-stage talking to Barbara Stanwick. Since she has become a



Robert Taylor Barbara Stanwick

regular visitor to the broadcasts, two chairs are placed in this spot every week.

ODDS AND ENDS—Unlike most actors, Bob Burns doesn't spend his spare time going to pictures to see what his competitors are doing. He saw only three pictures last year, all sad ones, and he hasn't seen any yet this year. . . . Andrea Leeds and Janet Gaynor look so much alike in real life that they love to stand in front of a mirror together and make faces, seeing if the resemblance still holds true through laughter, tears, and grimaces. It does. . . . With Margaret Shanna at the piano, and other cast members playing drums, xylophone, and trombone, the "Arnold Grimm's Daughter" company holds a daily swing concert to relax between rehearsal and broadcast.

The La Semaine Ring A la semaine ring is a ring set with seven stones, the name of each commencing with the same letter as the day of the week. These rings were in vogue in France in the Nineteenth century.

The Thunderer On the border between Argentina and Chile rises El Tronador (the Thunderer) named for the booming sounds that roll over the countryside as its mighty glaciers shift and crash.

New Slenderizing Dresses



IF YOU'RE in the size-34-and-up class, here are three brand new fashions designed especially for you! Everyone of them is extremely smart and everyone is designed to give added charm and dignity to full figures. They are easy to make. The patterns are carefully planned to help beginners, and each is accompanied by a detailed sew chart. So start in tomorrow, and have at least two of them ready for Easter.

Princess House Dress. It's a sure way to start the day right, having a dress as becoming and pretty as this one to put on first thing in the morning. It takes a woman with some plumpness to do justice to that fitted, long line. Made up in printed percale, gingham or chambray, with rows of ricrac braid, this dress will be so successful that you'll use the pattern time and again.

Graceful Afternoon Frock. An especially charming style for luncheons, bridge parties and club meetings. The full sleeves make your arms look small, and are very graceful in themselves. Gathers at the shoulders create necessary bust fullness. Make this dress for now in silk print or chiffon. Later on, in voile or summer sheer it will be your coolest dress.

Dress With Lengthening Panels. The plain neckline, the slim waist, snugged in by gathers, the long panel, front and back, are all beautifully slimming in effect. All in all, this dress is so smart that it's certain to be one of your favorites.

Patterns. 1485 is designed for sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48. Size 36 requires 4 1/2 yards of 39-inch material, with 3 1/2 yards of braid for trimming. 1233 is designed for sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 50 and 52. Size 36 requires 5 1/2 yards of 39-inch material. 1482 is designed for sizes 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44. Size 34 requires 4 yards of 39-inch material, with short sleeves. With long sleeves, 4 1/2 yards.

Spring-Summer Pattern Book. Send 15 cents for the Barbara Bell Spring and Summer Pattern Book which is now ready. It contains 109 attractive, practical and becoming designs. The Barbara Bell patterns are well planned, accurately cut and easy to follow. Each pattern includes a sew-chart which enables even a beginner to cut and make her own clothes. Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

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TIPS to Gardeners

Plant With Care EXERCISE care in planting and also in preparing to plant. Though soil may be rich, it will not produce as it should unless it is prepared thoroughly. A primary consideration in planting is to have the soil favorably moist; damp, but not wet. If circumstances demand that you plant when the ground is dry, moisten trenches or drills before dropping the seed. To retain moisture after planting, cover seeds immediately with fine earth and press down firmly. Harold Coulter, vegetable expert of the Ferry Seed Institute, advises that temperature be considered at the time of planting. Too high a temperature is often as detrimental to seed germination as one too low. A temperature between 65 and 75 degrees is most favorable. Soil must be loose so seedling sprouts can push through, and roots develop. Where the soil forms a heavy crust, it may sometimes be broken sufficiently to let seedlings through by gently pricking the soil with a rake.

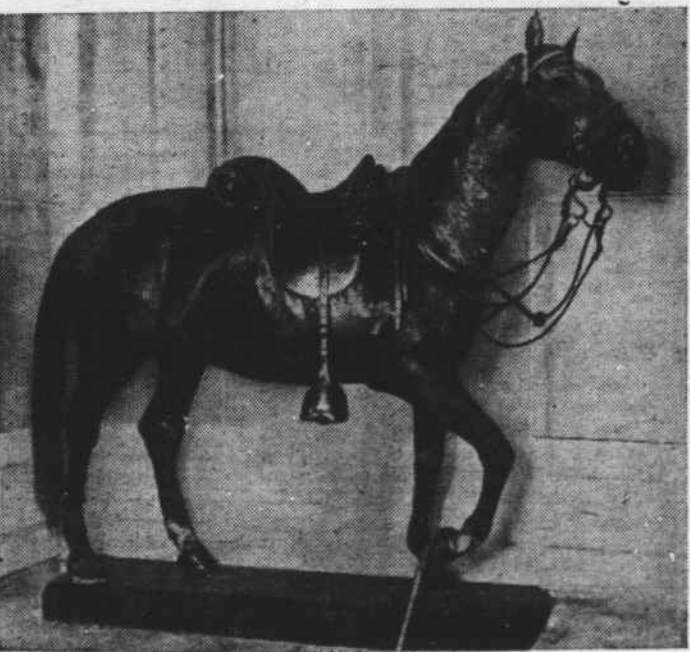
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"FIVE Minus TWO Leaves FOUR"

WRONG? Well, yes—and no. The arithmetic of your school days taught that "If Mary had five dollars and spent two . . ." three dollars remained. But that is mathematics—not shopping! In managing a home . . . guarding a limited family income . . . we've simply got to do better than Mary did. We must sharpen our buying wits . . . ascertain where the dollars of extra value lurk . . . take five dollars to town and get much more for the money spent. Fortunately, there are ever-willing guides right at hand—the advertisements in this newspaper. Advertised merchandise is often exceptional value merchandise. It makes dollars S-T-R-E-T-C-H.



Rienzi, the Black Charger on Which Sheridan Made His Famous Ride.

cal that his fame among his fellow-Americans has been chiefly perpetuated by a poem and one that is filled with historical inaccuracies! . . . Born March 6, 1831, the son of John and Margaret Sheridan, poor Irish immigrants to America, Sheridan spent his boyhood and youth near Somerset in Perry county, Ohio, where he worked for a country storekeeper for the sum of 50 cents a week. Although