

# Eighty Years Ago England and United States Were on the Verge of Another War—and It All Was the Result of the Killing of a Pig!

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

**I**N VIEW of the recent visit of the King and Queen of England, with all the British-American good will which it is supposed to have engendered, it is interesting to recall that just 80 years ago the two countries, who had been opponents in two wars, were on the verge of another. And it all started with a pig!

Of course, this animal, which was the property of a Briton, was only a minor actor in the international drama. But its death at the hands of an American proved to be the first incident in a chain of events which, for a time, seemed to be leading inevitably to hostilities. The crisis came about in this manner:

During the 10 years which followed the close of the Mexican war, the rapid settlement of California and the Oregon country by the Americans resulted in considerable friction between them and the English residents of the Pacific Northwest.

So it came about that San Juan island, which lies off the coast of the present state of Washington and over which the Hudson's Bay company asserted a proprietary right, became a reason for dispute when some American farmers and small merchants, some 25 in number, settled there, firm in the belief that it belonged to the United States. Disagreements over the most trifling things arose almost immediately. It is impossible to say who was most to blame for the bad feeling that sprang up between the arrogant Hudson's Bay men and the truculent Americans. But affairs gradually drifted from bad to worse.

Finally one spring morning in 1859 a certain L. E. Cutter, an American, found a pig belonging to the Hudson's Bay company rooting in his cornfield. In the first flush of his anger he shot the beast, then decided he had acted too hastily. So he went to the local H. B. C. agent and offered to pay him the value of the pig. His offer was refused and when the matter was reported to Superintendent Dallas at Victoria on Vancouver island, Dallas immediately hastened to San Juan island and threatened to arrest Cutter and take him back to Victoria for trial under British law.

**No Arrest for Him.**  
Of course, such a threat was a veritable red rag to the American. He seized his rifle and told Dallas that if he tried to make an arrest he would suffer the same fate as the British pig. Dallas was sufficiently impressed so that he hastily returned to Victoria.

Meanwhile the other Americans on the island sent a message to the military commander of the department of the Columbia at Fort Vancouver, Wash., telling of the indignities they had suffered at the hands of the H. B. C. agents, including Dallas' threat to arrest Cutter, and demanding that their government give them protection. The department commander was Brig. Gen. William S. Harney, a successful Indian fighter and typical hard-boiled officer of the "old army." Also he was a man accustomed to acting promptly, if not always wisely.

So without waiting to consult his superiors in the war department, Harney ordered a company of infantry to San Juan island to protect the inhabitants from the depredations of the northern Indians who had been troubling them; "to afford adequate protection to the American citizens in their rights as such. Also, to resist all attempts at interference by means of force or intimidation in the controversies of the above-mentioned parties by the British authorities residing on Vancouver island."

Accordingly on July 27, 1859, Company D of the Ninth United States Infantry, commanded by Capt. George E. Pickett, landed on San Juan island welcomed by the huzzas of the Americans on the disputed terrain. Immediately afterwards, Captain Pickett, showing a fine disregard for diplomatic amenities, issued a proclamation placing the island under the jurisdiction of the United States. Then he selected a good defensive position for his camp with a view to the establishment of a force of five or six companies for a long stay.

Of course, the news of his action was carried to the British at Victoria immediately and it caused a great stir there. Everyone, from Sir James Douglas, governor of the crown colony of British Columbia, down to the lowliest citizen declared that



Capt. Pickett's action was not only a violation of the treaties between the United States and Great Britain in regard to settlement of disputes over title to the northwestern country, but, in all, it was a most unheard-of proceeding.

Sir James Douglas had at his disposal enough troops to sweep the insignificant little American force into the sea and if the Yankees were foolish enough to resist, they would jolly well deserve the treatment that they got, etc., etc. All of which was duly reported to Captain Pickett who calmly went ahead putting his camp in order.

**British Warship Appears.**  
On July 30 his orderly told him that a ship was in sight and at the same time handed him a letter. When Pickett stepped out of his tent he saw a British warship bearing down upon the island. It was the Tribune, a 31-gun frigate from the naval station at Esquimalt near Victoria.

This looked as though the British really meant to make good their threats. But Pickett was undaunted by this show of force. Ordering his men to run their only piece of artillery, a little six-pounder, to a place where it could sweep the island's only wharf he instructed his force of 66 men to stand to arms, ready for instant action.

But suddenly the sails of the Tribune were furled and she dropped anchor, broadside on, a short distance off shore. There she lay grim and foreboding while Pickett, seeing that no immediate trouble was likely, tore open the envelope the orderly had handed him. In it was a letter from the agent of the Hudson's Bay company informing him that San Juan island belonged to the



company and ordering him to leave immediately. If he did not, the letter said, the company would appeal to the civil authorities at Victoria to force him to go.

The captain wrote a letter in reply in which he denied the right of the Hudson's Bay company to dictate his course of action, pointed out that he was there upon orders from his government and affirmed his intention of staying until he was recalled by the same authority. Then he wrote a report of what had happened to Harney and ended it with a request for a supply of window sashes and doors which he said were needed to make his men comfortable during the autumn and winter.

On August 3 two more British warships dropped anchor alongside the Tribune. They were the Satellite, 21 guns, and the Plumper, 10 guns. Pickett's only response to this bigger threat was to bring up two mountain howitzers, place them beside his six-pounder and train them on the ships.

Thereupon Captain Hornby, the senior British naval officer, invited the American captain to come aboard the Tribune for a conference on this matter of who owned San Juan island. Pickett

declined the invitation but asked the three naval captains to a conference in his camp. His invitation was accepted and the British officers demanded that the United States troops be withdrawn.

When Pickett declined to do that they next proposed that troops of both nations occupy the island jointly. Pickett refused to accept any such arrangement and added that until he could communicate with his government and receive its instructions on the matter, he would oppose with force any attempt of the British to land troops on the island.

Seeing that they could neither bluff nor persuade the American captain, the Britons returned to their ships. The parting was amicable enough, with many expressions of respect and esteem on both sides. Meanwhile the H. B. C. had been busy and prevailed upon the civil authorities of British Columbia to summon him to appear before a Victoria magistrate. Pickett's reply to that move is not recorded in the official correspondence of this whole affair—it was probably a bit too warm to be entrusted to paper.

A week passed with the British on Vancouver island in a turmoil over the situation. Pickett calmly sat tight as though unaware of all the fuss that his British neighbors were making. It was all rather ludicrous but it is doubtful if Pickett's men saw the humor of the situation. There was no telling when the British might launch an attack.

**A Critical Situation.**  
Of course, if they did, the first shot fired would be a declaration of war and would brand them as the aggressors. But that would be small comfort to the 66 infantrymen if a blast from the British cannon snuffed out their lives. They probably thought of that when two more British ships joined the three already at anchor off the island. Now there was a force of five ships, carrying 187 guns and 2,140 men, 600 of them marines and engineer troops, trying to intimidate them and force them to evacuate the island.

But the British evidently didn't realize the caliber of this man Pickett. He just wouldn't be bluffed! Neither would General Harney who, from distant Fort Vancouver, sent dispatches by the Shubrick, a small vessel commanded by Captain Alden of the United States navy, approving of Pickett's action and taking the responsibility if an armed clash should result. He also engaged in a fierce but dignified correspondence with Governor Douglas in which he steadfastly maintained his right to keep his troops on the island.

On August 10 the tension lessened somewhat for Pickett when reinforcements, consisting of four companies of infantry, commanded by Lieut. Col. Silas Casey of the Ninth infantry and a battery of eight 32-pounders arrived at San Juan. Because of a dense fog they could not get up to the wharf near which lay the British men-of-war. So they landed on the beach a short distance away and the first intimation that the British had of the arrival of help for the Americans was when they saw their tents pitched beside those of Pickett's 66 men. With the arrival of the lieutenant-colonel, the young lieutenant's responsibility ended, for Casey immediately assumed command of the whole force on the island. Four days later three more companies of infantry arrived. With the opposing forces more nearly equal, the danger of a conflict was lessened.

Eventually the diplomats arranged for a joint occupation of the island by both nations, each keeping one company of soldiers there. But when the final settlement was made San Juan island became a part of Oregon territory. Today it is a part of the state of Washington.

The San Juan island pig, whose death nearly precipitated a war between the United States and Great Britain, wasn't the first to be the central figure in an "international incident." Just 100 years ago there was a similar case down in Texas.

At that time Texas was a republic to which the United States, England and France sent official representatives. The French charge d'affaires was Count DuBoise de Saligny who, upon his arrival in Austin in 1839, lodged at the leading hostelry kept by James Bullock. After a time the French diplomat called for his bill. When it was presented he declared indignantly that it was too high and refused to pay it.

So arbitrators were appointed and they reduced the bill to a sum which Bullock refused to accept because he said it was much too low. Meanwhile De Saligny had moved from the hotel to a wooden structure which became the official French embassy building. Being a fastidious gentleman, the count furnished it beautifully and had his servants cultivate an attractive garden around it.

Not only did Mr. Bullock run the principal hotel but he also owned a number of hogs which he permitted to roam at large. One morning Count de Saligny glanced out his window and was horrified to see some of the Bullock hogs rooting in his garden. He hastily sent his servants to scare them away. But no sooner had they returned to the house than the hogs returned to the garden. Again they were chased out and the count, thoroughly exasperated by this time, gave his servants orders to shoot every pig that ventured into his garden thereafter.

A short time later Bullock missed some of his hogs and, blaming the French diplomat for the loss, complained to the gov-



GEN. W. S. HARNEY

ernment of Texas. James S. Mayfield, secretary of state, addressed a formal inquiry to the count. In reply the Frenchman wrote bitterly of his sufferings "from the many hogs with which this town is infested" and particularly those of Mr. Bullock. He declared that his servants had used no less than 140 pounds of nails in repairing the palings of his fence "which these animals have thrown down for the purpose of eating the corn of my horses and destroying my garden." But he didn't deny responsibility for the disappearance of Bullock's hogs.

Thereupon the keeper of the hostelry flew into a rage and when he encountered Eugene Phuyette, one of the count's servants, on the street he gave the man a thrashing. The result was a formal demand by De Saligny upon the secretary of state for protection due a foreign minister and his retinue. Although Bullock was indicted for the assault it was evident that the Texas officials were sympathetic to him and had little intention of punishing him.

Irritated by their stalling tactics, De Saligny complained to the French government. But he soon had an even more serious matter to report. The choleric Mr. Bullock proceeded next to thrash the French emissary himself. When the officials of Texas refused to take official cognizance of this attack, the indignant count rushed off another complaint to Paris, pointing out how the honor of dignity of France itself had been injured by this ruffian of a hotelkeeper.

More than that he announced to his friends in Austin that the French government was sending a fleet of warships to the Texas coast to see that proper apologies were made for the humiliating assault upon the honor of France. Next he demanded his passports and went to New Orleans to await developments.

It so happened that about this time the government of the United States sent a squadron of its warships to the Gulf of Mexico. Whether this was done as a warning to France, which may or may not have intended to make good De Saligny's threat, is unknown. But the fact remains that no French warships appeared off the coast of Texas although it is a matter of record that, because of the indignities which her ambassador had suffered, France declined to make a loan of \$5,000,000 which Texas was trying to float in that country at that time.

## Dueling Once Common in U. S. Some Famous Meetings Had Tragic Endings, Others Merely Comical.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—America's swashbuckling past echoed faintly in the news recently, when a Missouri college officially repealed, among other outmoded restrictions, the 1860 ban on student duels.

"Dueling has been outlawed in the United States since post-Civil war days when the various states prohibited it," points out the National Geographic society. "But the habit of settling differences of honor, love and politics by physical combat was slow to die out. As late as 1883, a duel was recorded in Virginia when two editors of opposing newspapers 'had it out' with bullets. Missing on the first shot, they fired again, when one was badly wounded."

**Hamilton Versus Burr.**  
"Many famous (as well as quite a few obscure) duels have had more tragic endings, although some were merely anticlimactic. Fatal to Alexander Hamilton, in 1804, was the one in which he met his political rival, Aaron Burr, when the latter was vice president. The handsome and popular naval hero, Stephen Decatur, died 18 years later, after a duel with James Barron, who also was severely wounded. This meeting, finally arranged after months of formal correspondence, 'settled' a misunderstanding that might have been cleared up by a simple explanation."

"There was the duel, in 1826, between Henry Clay and John Randolph of Roanoke, following a clash over the government's foreign policy. At the appointed place, on the Virginia side of the Potomac, both men missed on the first shot; on the second, Clay's bullet went through the skirt of Randolph's coat. Randolph fired into the air."

**Jackson Had Many.**  
"Among other national figures who took their quarrels to the 'field of honor,' Andrew Jackson was credited by one chronicler in 1828 with a list of 103 battles, including 'duels, fights, and altercations.' "Due to the anticlimax of poor marksmanship as well as to the wit sometimes expressed on these serious occasions by the participants in the drama, duels have frequently had a comical aspect. Mark Twain wrote humorously on the subject; while another wit who once declined the honor of the 'affair of honor,' and was threatened by his irate challenger with exposure in the newspapers, remarked that he would rather 'fill two newspapers than one coffin.'"

## Survey Shows Marriages Drop During Depression

CINCINNATI.—Effects of the depression on the marriage rate and ages are revealed in a report issued at the University of Cincinnati, based on a survey by Mrs. Frances Meurer Deputy, of Indianapolis, graduate student in the field of sociology. Mrs. Deputy found that weddings were not simply postponed when business conditions were poor but frequently were prevented permanently.

Mrs. Deputy examined marriage license application records for 1929 to 1938 in Marion county, Indiana, which includes the city of Indianapolis, and has a population of 422,668. A drop in the number of marriages was noted from 1929 to 1933 and an increase in the last six years. "This increase," Mrs. Deputy said, "might ordinarily be interpreted as a result of postponed weddings during the first four years of the depression."

## Hold Land Relics Found In Spire of Paris Chapel

PARIS.—In the gilded ball at the summit of the spire of the Sainte Chapelle, which is now being repaired, has been discovered a casket containing remains of the relics brought back from the Holy Land by St. Louis.

The Sainte Chapelle was built seven centuries ago to preserve these relics, and numerous ceremonies are being held in the chapel commemorating the occasion. The last time the chapel spire was repaired was in 1877; the casket contained a document inserted with the relics at that time. Temporarily, while the repair work is being completed, the relics have been placed in the treasury of Notre Dame, but will be replaced in the golden ball when the work is finished.

## Marriage Chances Rated Better in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.—An eligible bachelor or spinster is more likely to get married in South Africa than in any other part of the world. Statistics show that of every thousand eligible persons in the Union of South Africa, 22 are likely to be married this year. In the United States the figure would be 21; in Britain, 17; France, 13; Germany, 9; Japan, 15; Denmark, 18; and Australia, 17. Other figures show that a South African's average expectation of life is nearly 58 years, compared with an Australian's 53½, an American's 51, a Briton's 50 and an Egyptian's 31.



By L. L. STEVENSON  
New York: Desiring to see the Aquacade at the World's fair, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hood of Charlotte, N. C., joined a ticket-booth line in which there were probably 500 persons. When the line hadn't moved an inch in 10 minutes, Mr. Hood asked a fair policeman what was causing the delay. The reply was that there was no delay.

"But what are they doing in line?" persisted the North Carolinian.  
"Oh, just standing," replied the officer. "That's a habit New Yorkers have. If any one is waiting they line up to see what will happen. When you go back to town, stop and look up at the sky and you'll have a mob around you in no time. This crowd's probably waiting for the next show, which will come three hours later."

With that Mr. Hood stepped up to the window, bought tickets and he and his wife went in, leaving the 500 outside.

**Free Show:** Steam-shovel addicts—the shovels are really gasoline powered nowadays—got eyes full in two ways while a monster was engaged in chewing up the street in the vicinity of where the old post office building once stood. Kibitzers were on hand in plenty as the big scoop plowed up huge bites of asphalt and the sight of course was one eye-fel. The other came in the way of dust stirred up by the work. Nevertheless, a large portion of the audience was so deeply interested that it didn't mind the dust. And dust in the eye isn't pleasant either. I speak from first-hand knowledge acquired in the vicinity of where the old post office building once stood.

**Three Cheers:** When he came up to a blind man who was hesitating at Broadway and Fifty-first street and offered to help him across, he had every indication of being one of those "good Samaritans" common in this supposed-to-be-merciful city. But as he was leading the blind man, he attempted to pick his pocket. He might have got away with it, too, had it not been for the Havana-Madrid doorman who witnessed the whole proceeding from his post. The doorman captured the thief and before turning him over to the police gave him what is known as a "going over" and did it so thoroughly the thief was actually glad when a cop came up. And so, a salute to a deserving doorman.

**Behind N. Y. Scenes:** Scrubwomen who wash down thousands of steps after office workers go to their homes. . . . A chef in the kitchen of a large hotel who juggles plates when not busy. . . . An information booth attendant in Grand Central asks a companion for the right word to fill out a cross-word puzzle. . . . Taxicab drivers sit around listening to ball games on dull afternoons. . . . Two street cleaners take time off to pick horses from a racing sheet. . . . A traffic cop in the back of a tailor shop leaves his wet raincoat to dry. . . . Clerks ordered around during working hours order waitresses around during lunch hour. . . . Thanks to Bob Stanley, musical director, for this assist.

**Protection:** Frank Benedict, the veteran engineer, told me of the saloon in Superior, Wis., where a number of engineers were gathered and talking railroading. A stranger came in and, taking his place at a bar, asked the man in the white apron if he had an umbrella.  
"What do you want an umbrella for?" asked the bartender. "It isn't raining."  
"I want to keep the cinders out of my beer," was the reply.

**End Piece:** Someone with a flair for mathematics has figured out that Jane Froman can do almost 87 hours of continuous warbling without resorting to sheet music or repeating a number. Miss Froman, it seems, knows the words to 2,000 songs which have been done over the air in the last few years. The average tune of one verse and one chorus runs two minutes. Thus, 4,000 minutes or 66 hours and 40 minutes, which is enough to indicate that the gal has a good memory.  
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

POULTRY  
BRED FOR PRODUCTION: Ducks  
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SOLD BY QUALITY: Turkeys  
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## Showing the Latest Button-Front Styles

**NO WONDER** button-front dresses are so popular for midsummer! They go on without mussing your hair or getting mussed themselves. They look so smart, crisp and tailored, and they are easiest of all to press! No. 1787 is an unusually pretty version, so easy to make that even beginners can do it. Inside pleats make your waistline small. Gathers give a nice round bustline. Make this of gingham, linen, pique or sharkskin, and trim it with lace or braid.

**Buttons to the Waistline.**  
A new and delightfully different version of the button-front is No.



1790. It has buttons to the waistline only. The skirt is cut with a wide lap-over, and a pretty, circular swing. For this, choose gingham, percale, linen or pique, with snowy frills to make it the more cool-looking and becoming.

The Patterns.  
No. 1787 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20, 40 and 42. Size 16 requires 4½ yards of 35-inch material with short sleeves; 1¾ yards of lace or braid.

No. 1790 is designed for sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48. Size 36 requires 4½ yards of 39-inch material without nap; 2¾ yards of trimming.

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.  
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

## How Women in Their 40's Can Attract Men

Here's good advice for a woman during her change (usually from 38 to 52), who fears she'll lose her appeal to men, who worries about hot flashes, loss of pep, dry eyes, upset nerves and moody spells.  
Get more fresh air, 8 hrs. sleep and if you need a good general system tonic take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made especially for women. It helps Nature build up physical resistance, thus helps give more vitality to enjoy life and assist causing jittery nerves and disturbing symptoms that often accompany change of life. WELL WORTH TRYING!

## Motto of Quarrels

Weakness on both sides, as we all know, is the motto of all quarrels.—Voltaire.

## KILL ALL FLIES

Flycatcher, Daisyl Fly Killer, Daisyl Fly Killer, Daisyl Fly Killer, Daisyl Fly Killer. Without nets or traps, spraying, etc., kills all flies. 25¢ at all drug stores, hardware stores, etc.

**For the Cause**  
It is the cause and not the death, that makes the martyr.—Napoleon.

## Black Leaf 40

KILLS LICE  
DASH IN PLEATHS OR SPREAD ON ROOSTS

## Steeplejack's Dog

**Follows Tradition**  
PORTLAND, ORE.—Lady, an Austrian shepherd dog, trotted back and forth on the parapet of the fourteenth story of a downtown Portland building and refused to leave her dizzy perch. Office workers leaned from windows and a crowd gathered in the street far below. Peace and quiet were restored only when Steeplejack Roy Smith, her master, climbed down from a 60-foot flagpole he was painting and chained his dog to the roof.

## Bargains YES!

You find them announced in the columns of this paper by merchants of our community who do not feel they must keep the quality of their merchandise or their prices under cover. It is safe to buy of the merchant who ADVERTISES.