

JOHN BROWN'S RAID.

Something About the Man and the Attack on Harper's Ferry, Made Forty Years Ago.

The Baltimore Sun advert to the fact that forty years ago—on October 17th, 1859, to be accurate—Baltimore and the surrounding country was in a state of intense excitement over the news of the John Brown raid, at Harper's Ferry, and over 200 of the Baltimore military were hurrying to Camden Station to take special trains for the scene of trouble, while the streets were crowded with excited people. Harper's Ferry had been captured by the invaders late the night before.

While John Brown and his raid occupy a prominent position in American history, the average man vaguely regards the event as more remote than it is. The tremendous happenings of following years seem to have shouldered Brown further into the past, to be dealt with solely by history, yet there are a number of men who distinctly remember the stirring events of October, 1859, and some who participated directly in incidents connected with the raid.

JOHN BROWN'S EARLY LIFE.

John Brown was born in Torrington, Conn., May 9, 1800. His ancestor, Peter Brown, came over with the historic party in the Mayflower, in 1620. When five years of age John Brown was taken by his parents to Ohio, where he became familiar with the Indians, who were dwelling all around. * * * Early in life he married Diana Lusk, a widow, and they had seven children. His second wife was Mary Anne Day, who died in San Francisco, in 1884. Thirteen children were born to them.

Brown engaged in various undertakings, living in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, from the last named state making trips to England with cargoes of wool. In 1848 he purchased a farm at North Elbra, N. Y., and settled there. During all this time he was actively engaged in various abolition enterprises. In 1854 five of his sons removed to Kansas, and Brown joined them the next year, settling near Ossawatimie. There all the family became mixed up in the fierce factional contests over slavery, and finally had to leave the state. Brown led bands of men in several bloody fights, and was charged with the murder of five prominent pro-slavery men, who were called from their beds at night and killed.

For many years Brown had been working on schemes to cause a wholesale release and flight of slaves in the Southern states. The plan finally settled upon was to make an armed incursion into Virginia, release and arm a number of slaves and send these out to release and arm others. In this way he expected the wave of insurrection to grow and spread as he advanced, until an irresistible movement would sweep on to the Gulf. Brown collected considerable money from sympathizers in the North, and purchased quantities of firearms and other weapons.

PLANNING THE RAID.

That the raid on Harper's Ferry was a plot of long standing is evidenced by the fact that for some time before making the attempt Brown had his emissaries looking over the field. In the guise of book agents, stock dealers and prospective farm buyers they roamed about the country surrounding Harper's Ferry, even then secretly inviting slaves to revolt.

In the early autumn of 1858 a stranger went to the house of Dr. Thomas Waddox, in the Tilghman district of Washington county, and sold a copy of Headley's Life of Washington. He said his name was S. Stearns, and asked to stay all night, which request was cheerfully complied with. At supper he pronounced an inordinately long "grace," and after the meal disappeared for several hours. It was afterward learned that he had been in the kitchen urging the slaves to kill their master and obtain their freedom. The proposition was rejected with horror by the slaves. This man was John E. Cook, Brown's lieutenant, who afterward suffered the fate of his leader.

One day in July, 1859, Jacob Fiery, who lived three miles south of Hagerstown, was approached by an elderly man with a gray, grizzled beard, and a young man. Mr. Fiery, as administrator of the estate of Dr. E. F. Kennedy, had charge of a farm near Maryland Heights, three miles from Harper's Ferry. The old man introduced himself as I. Smith, and said he wished to purchase the Kennedy farm, believing there were minerals there. Mr. Fiery said he could not sell the place at that time, so Smith—who was in reality John Brown—rented it, paying the first quarter's rent in advance in gold. Brown at once took possession of the farm and was

joined by several of his men. His daughter Anne and his daughter-in-law, the wife of Oliver Brown, kept house for them.

Almost immediately mysterious boxes began to arrive from northern cities, some coming by way of Chambersburg, Pa., and others by Shepherdstown. Brown said the boxes contained mining tools, but they really contained firearms and pikes. Soon Brown had in the house 200 Sharp's rifles, 200 Maynard's revolvers, and 1,000 pikes or spears. * * *

THE FAMOUS RAID.

Sunday evening, October 16, 1859, Brown announced that the time had arrived for the attack on Harper's Ferry. This place had been selected because it was not far to send freed slaves across the narrow strip of Maryland into Pennsylvania, and because Brown knew the United States arsenal there was not well guarded.

Cook was left to guard the Kennedy farm and the weapons there. The night of the start was cold and dark, ending in rain. The little party marched across the bridge and into Harper's Ferry at 10.30 o'clock. They broke into the arsenal gate, overpowered the watchmen on duty and seized the place. Before midnight the village was quietly patrolled by Brown's men, and six had been sent to bring in certain neighboring planters and their slaves.

While they were gone some others of the party were busy arresting prominent citizens of the town. A small but strong brick engine house near the railroad was selected as headquarters, and into this the prisoners were placed. Eight or ten slaves were seized, given spears and made to stand guard about the place. By midnight Monday thirty or forty of the leading citizens had been captured and imprisoned, as well as a number of workmen who were seized while on their way to work early in the morning. * *

News of the attack on Harper's Ferry caused intense excitement throughout the country. The first reports were that there had been a general uprising of slaves, headed by 250 abolitionists, and the exact number of the raiders was not definitely known until they were captured early Tuesday morning. The first information of the affair was brought by Conductor Phelps, of a Baltimore and Ohio train, who was allowed to come east after having been held up from 1 to 5 o'clock Monday morning. Phelps, who was a Baltimorean, had several conferences with Brown, who was then called Anderson.

Curiously enough, the first victim of an enterprise intended to free negroes was a colored employe of the railroad, named Hayward Sheppard, who was shot Sunday night because he did not surrender quickly enough.

Upon receipt of the news President Buchanan sent a company of United States marines from Washington to Harper's Ferry, and Maryland and Virginia state troops were also ordered there. The marines were in command of Lieutenant Green, and Col. Robert E. Lee, who had been living in Baltimore several years, while superintending the construction of Fort Carroll, was sent to take command of all military operations at Harper's Ferry. With him, as aide, went Lieut. J. E. B. Stuart, afterward the famous Confederate cavalry leader. * * *

It was found that the raiders had been surrounded in their improvised fort since 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The town people had in a measure recovered from their fright, had armed themselves, and, reinforced by a number of railroad men from Martinsburg, under Captain Alburttis, had given battle to the raiders and driven them into the engine house. * * *

The United States marines arrived at 2.30 a. m. Tuesday morning, the Baltimore troops who accompanied them being left on the Maryland side of the river to prevent the escape of any of the raiders. At 7 a. m. Colonel Lee called upon Brown to surrender. He refused, and an attack upon his fort was at once made. The marines, under Lieutenant Green, battered down the door with ladders, and after a fierce fight, captured the surviving raiders. Only six were alive, all the others, including Brown's two sons, having been killed. Several were killed while trying to escape across the river. John Brown and several of the survivors were badly wounded. * * * The surviving raiders were Brown, Copeland, Green, Coppee, Haslett and Stevens. * * *

JOHN BROWN'S TRIAL.

The trial of John Brown began October 28, at Charlestown. Judge Richard Parker, who presided, died a few years ago, in Winchester, Va. The jurors were Richard Timberlake, Joseph Myers, Thomas Watson, Jr., Isaac Dust, John C. McClure, William Rightstine, Jacob J. Miller, Thomas Osborne, Geo.

W. Boyer, John C. Wiltshire, Geo. W. Tapp and William A. Martin. Mr. Boyer is the only survivor of the 12. He lives near Shenandoah Junction, W. Va.

Lawson Botts and Thomas C. Green, of the Charlestown bar, were assigned to defend Brown. Later, George H. Hoyt, of Boston; H. Griswold, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Samuel Chilton, of Washington, D. C., arrived and took charge of the defense. After a trial lasting six days the prisoner was convicted of treason, insurrection and murder. The other prisoners were subsequently convicted.

Cook, who was a brother in law of Gov. A. P. Willard, of Indiana, had been captured in Pennsylvania, a few days after the raid. Governor Willard brought some of the best counsel in Indiana to defend him. The appeal of Daniel W. Voorhees to the jury has even since been spoken of as a masterpiece of eloquence.

Brown was hanged at 11.15 a. m. Friday, December 2. Over 1,200 military, under command of Gen. W. B. Taliaferro, guarded the town and jail, and no one was allowed to approach the prisoner. It has long been believed that on his way to the gallows Brown stooped and kissed a negro child. A well-known Baltimore newspaper man, who reported the hanging for his paper, says no such thing occurred. Brown marched from his cell to the wagon between solid lines of soldiers; the wagon on the way to the gallows was surrounded by military, and no one except the military was allowed to be within several hundred yards of the gallows. At no time could a person approach Brown. The body of Brown was taken by his wife to North Elbra, N. Y., for burial.

Cook and Coppee and the two negroes, Green and Copeland, were hanged December 16, and Stevens and Haslett were hanged March 16, 1860.

An investigation of the raid was subsequently made by a committee of the United States senate, headed by Jefferson Davis, afterward president of the Confederate States.

Of John Brown's family, one son, Jason Brown, is now living, in California. He is leading a hermit's life and is in poor circumstances.

Lost Package of Bonds.

Seventy-six thousand dollars lying in an open field for two days, and nobody stopping to pick it up! This is what happened a short time ago in Kansas. The state school fund commissioners had arranged to purchase that amount of Reno county bonds. The bonds were sent to be approved, but on the appointed day they were not returned. The Kansas City Times tells the rest of the story:

Superintendent Nelson received a telegram from the Reno county commissioners asking why the bonds had not been sent. Nelson replied that they had been. The Reno county people wired back that they had never been received, and that they had no trace of them. Nelson called on the express office for an explanation. The express people searched their books and said that a package answering that description had left the Topeka office for Hutchinson on Saturday.

The matter began to look serious, and the express company investigated its records to ascertain what messenger was on that train. A telegram was sent to him asking if he knew anything of a certain package bound for Hutchinson from Topeka.

He replied that he did not know for sure, but that a little package blew out of the express car door as he was bound west on Saturday, and might have been the one wanted. He further told the company to ascertain the value of the package, and he would pay for it out of his salary. The company wired back, "Seventy-six thousand dollars," and the express messenger's hair stood on end.

The first thing he did was to get a "lay-off" and take the first train for the station nearest the place where he remembered the package disappearing. He went out to the exact spot, and after hunting for some time found the missing package in the weeds by the side of the track, exactly where it had blown.

He had had the car door open on account of the heat, and a Kansas zephyr came along and whisked the package out of the open door. The messenger did not think it worth stopping the train for, but he will never make such a mistake again.—Youth's Companion.

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Two Men Named Cain.

A clergyman who has a large country congregation in southern Berke reports that Cain Kemmerer, aged 85, is now a mental wreck. Kemmerer not only was named Cain, but he gave his only son that name also. So far as is known they are the only two people in East Pennsylvania who are named after the slayer of his brother Abel. The preacher was asked whether he knew of any other odd names of people in the same region. He replied:

"There are two other odd names that always strike me. One is Ananias and the other Sapphira, but the bearers are not man and wife. We have several Noahs, one Methuselah and one Potiphar, Potiphar Piligree, I think. There are two Zebedeas, one Delilah, and a number of other odd Biblical names. Not long ago a couple brought a boy to me to be christened and they had selected the name of Judas. I kindly objected to this, and told them the history of the betrayer of our Lord. Evidently they did not know this. They were charcoal burners from the backwoods. I told them not to give their boy such a name to carry with him for all the remainder of his days. They finally agreed to call him Joseph, after his father, and I was glad to go on with the ceremony.

"The people christened Cain were simply the victims of fancy. Their parents took a liking to the name, and without any regard to the historical connection fastened the name to their offspring. The same is true of the other names. Cain Kemmerer named his son Cain deliberately. He said it was short, sharp and to the point, and sounded well with Kemmerer, so he used it on his boy. The old man is German, and being a rough mountaineer he stopped me on the highway a few Sundays before the annual communion and got my promise not to skip or pass him by if he came to the communion table. I required the old man publicly to make his professions and confessions of his religious belief, and in addition the old man knelt and repeated 16 verses of German hymns, with the statement of the fact that his name Cain did not indicate any disrespect for the Bible. "People," continued the preacher, "are so used to those names that they don't give them a thought. It is only the stranger that is struck with the oddity."—New York Sun.

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