

"THEN AND NOW"

Reminiscences and Historic Romance, 1856 to 1865

BY JUDGE D. F. MORROW

Rutherfordton, N. C.

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CHAPTER 16

Patrols, Run-a-Way Negroes and Other Things, 1860-63

Annie Lightfoot and William Buster had, as we have seen, been sweethearts for a long time and like many others in the walks of sweethearthood, had their ups and downs. And it seemed since the war broke out their troubles had increased about themselves as much as it had about other matters, like the Battle of Seven Pines, the negro rising, which was coming off the 13th of December and the running away of old Tobe.

For Annie and William had split up again just after the muster in July a year and more ago, it was said. Any way they had not been seen together since a few days after the muster, but every body knew that they had made up at the muster. For that was the day William had catapulted Sid Gitsom away and run Sid's crowd off with him. Folks said that Annie wanted William now to join the army and get to be a Captain, and William would not, for he said he was not able to stand the service.

And this was on the way home from the muster ground that William told Annie that he would join but could not stand the hardships of war. This of course made Annie mad again

and she told him he could ride the road with her home but he would have to pass on, for she would not let him stop, unless he would agree to go to the war as a Captain. He wouldn't, and they split up again. But after they parted William decided, as he rode home, that he would go to Rutherfordton next day and volunteer and be a Captain, if he could pass the examination as to his health. He did go and the doctors told him that he could not go for he had "drapsy" (dropsy) and could not stand the war, but he might see the Home Guard and do duty around home. Of course you know he would not tell Annie that he had failed to pass the examination and to get to be Captain as she wanted him to. So he bore his troubles alone, but did what the doctor told him to do and got in the home guard and was made lieutenant.

William Buster was, as we have stated before, a very large man more than six feet tall and large frame and looked to be the very picture of health but was not. You have seen those kind of folks that just looked all right but when it came to the show down there was something wrong and William knew it, but for Annie's sake was willing to take the risk and go to the war, if the doctors would let him. Of course Annie for

a long time knew nothing of his coming to town and the result of the examination. But just before her corn shucking in the fall of 1863, some of the women of the settlement had told her that William had made application to join the army and had been turned down, because his health would not allow it. This of course made Annie sorry for what she had done about trying to get William to be a Captain. And she knew if she asked him to come to the corn shucking, that under the custom of the country, he would come for she felt he would want to come and now she knew she wanted him to come bad for she wanted to talk to him. It is no wonder then that she fainted when he came and fell in the door the night of the corn shucking and the shooting.

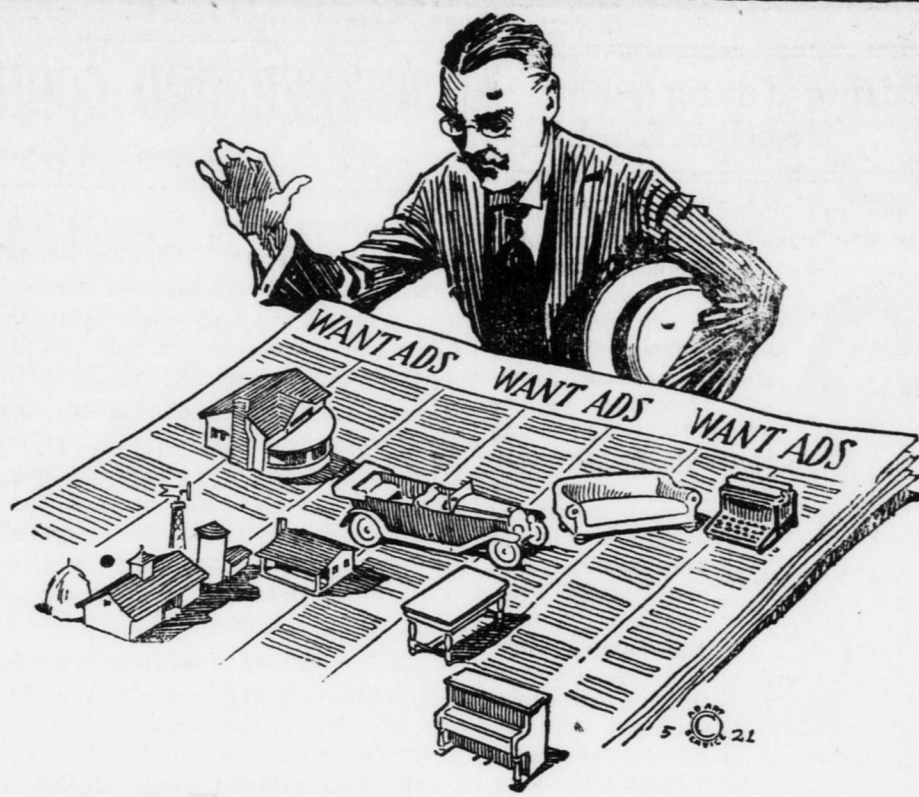
And it took her a long time to get over it, for she learned the reason he had not come to the shucking sooner in the day. He had been out as lieutenant of the Home Guard and gotten them together and it was William who had suggested to the guard that they had better go that night to Annie's home and throw the guard around the house; but a way back so no one would know they were there. And they were in this position about a hundred and fifty yards from the house when old Tobe had made the break for liberty and run right out by William and William had tried to catch him when Tobe had run over him and caused the dirt and blood to be on William when he came and fell in the door.

For William had found out somehow that Sid Gitsom and some of his crowd were to be near the house somewhere and meet Tobe and all the negroes who would come out and run away with him to his cave and then be sent to the Yankees.

There was now no question but that not only was Sid Gitsom at, or near the corn shucking at Annie's on the night of 29th of November, 1863, but that Pope Ganes was with him there. Now Pope Ganes was the fellow who said he came from South Carolina to see about getting help to guard his folks down there on the night of the 13th of December against the rising of the negroes. But it turned out that he was not in the settlement for that purpose, but was acting as a spy. For he had not gone to see any of the other captains but had gone to see Sid Gitsom. That is what was told on him.

He had made arrangements and was boarding with Sam Cannahan and had for a month or more been seen at different times and places but appeared to be dodging. Once he was seen by old Charles at the lower end of Annie's farm just before the corn shucking, talking to old Tobe where Tobe was pulling corn. Charles said that when he got in sight of them Tobe jumped back over the fence and went to pulling corn again, but that he saw Pope Ganes go off down the river toward Cannahan's farm. When he asked Tobe who that was he was talking to, Tobe said, "nobody." But Charles had told Annie about this incident, for Annie and Charles both knew Pope Ganes for he had passed there the day after he had been to see Captain Morrow about getting help to go to South Carolina, and he had stopped and talked with Annie and Charles about the same thing and told them he was going to Sam Cannahan's that day to see about boarding a while with him. From these and other facts it was clear that Pope was not what he said he was and that the Captain was right when he said that he was a spy. William Buster had been to see the Captain after the boy went after him, but as usual it took William a long time to be convinced that Pope Ganes was a spy, but finally he came again and told the Captain that he was satisfied that Ganes was a spy, for he had told him he was going to Squire Flackens when he left his house but that he had gone to Sam Cannahan's and was boarding there. William said he had told Ganes not to go to Sam's for Sam would not do, for old Sam and his boy both were leaning toward the Sid Gitsom crowd; and that every body believed that Sid sometimes came to Cannahan's at night. This is what William had told Ganes.

(To Be Continued)



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
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Certificate of Dissolution

To All to Whom These Presents May Come—Greeting:

Whereas, It appears to my satisfaction, by duly authenticated record of the proceedings for the voluntary dissolution thereof by the unanimous consent of all the stockholders, deposited in my office, that the Trout-Wilkie Lumber Company, a corporation of this State, whose principal office is situated in the town of Forest City, County of Rutherford, State of North Carolina (J. H. Thomas being the agent therein and in charge thereof, upon whom process may be served), has complied with the requirements of Chapter 22, Consolidated Statutes, entitled "Corporations," preliminary to the issuing of this Certificate of Dissolution:

Now, Therefore, I, W. N. Everett, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the said corporation did, on the 10th day of July, 1925, file in my office a duly executed and attested consent in writing to the dissolution of said corporation, executed by all the stockholders thereof, which said consent and the record of the proceedings aforesaid are now on file in my said office as provided by law.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereto set my hand and affixed my official seal at Raleigh, this 10th day of July, A. D., 1925.

(Signed) W. N. EVERETT,
40-4t Secretary of State.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed administrator of the estate of Susan Frasher, deceased, late of Rutherford county, N. C., and all persons indebted to said estate are hereby requested to make immediate settlement and all persons holding claims against said estate will file same within twelve months from this date or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This June 27, 1925.
G. G. FRASHEUR, Adm.
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