

The Mountain City News

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Ancient Dungeon Vessel Interesting Relic of Inhumanity

PRISON REFORMERS SEE CONVICT SHIP

Is Oldest Ship Afloat, Having Been Launched in 1790; Marked Beginning and End of England's Infamous Penal System; Many Instruments of Torture.

Asheville, Oct. 13.—The Asheville Prison Reform Association is in receipt of interesting literature and valuable first-hand information concerning the great educational object lesson, the convict ship "Success," the last of England's infamous felon fleet, now on exhibition at Chicago, in a tour of the principal ports of the world.

This information comes from two of the association's most prominent members, Mr. and Mrs. George Stephens, the former the president of the Asheville Citizens, who have recently returned to Asheville from Chicago, where they inspected the old ship and saw for themselves the airless dungeons, condemned cells, whipping posts, manacles, branding irons, punishment balls, the leaden-tipped cat-o-nine-tails, the coffin bath and the other fiendish inventions of man's inhumanity to his brother man.

The convict ship "Success" is the oldest ship afloat, having been launched at Moulmein, British India, in 1790. This ship, which marked the beginning and end of England's fearful penal system, is the only convict ship left afloat out of the dreadful fleet which sailed the seven seas in 1790. The "black holes" on this ship were the places—black holes in reality—in which insubordinate prisoners were confined in total darkness, chained to the ring-bolts for periods of one to one hundred days. Depressions worn in the floor by the feet of the prisoners whilst bracing themselves against the rocking of the ship can be seen.

The members of the Asheville Prison Reform Association visited the cells of the famous prisoners this ship housed. The following are a few of the many victims of this monstrous penal system who were confined on the "Success" and whose cells Mr. and Mrs. Stephens visited:

Elizabeth Scott and child. Representative of the women who were transported on the "Success" and her sister ships. Mrs. Scott, 28 years old was given a life term, after sentence of death had been reprieved, for forging three one-pound Bank of England notes, about \$15. The original transportation order for Mrs. Scott and thirty-four other female convicts is shown in the officers' quarters. Small children were permitted to accompany their convict mothers.

Frederick MacDonald, nine years for forgery. He was one of Captain Price's spies, or, in jail language, "a stool pigeon." A low scoundrel who by carrying tales, expected to have his sentence reduced, but he was disappointed. Served his full term. Whilst aboard he filled the idiosyncrasy of convict flagellator. Became a free man in 1856, and was shot dead on the streets of Melbourne by another ex-convict, a man he had formerly flogged. A clear act of premeditated revenge.

William Jones otherwise "Black Bill." Native of Cardiff in Wales. For attempted arson he was sentenced to ten years. Escaped from Van Diemen's Land in a small schooner and came to Melbourne. With two others he started for Castlemaine and Sorell Creek diggings. On their way they started pilfering and "sticking up," but were captured. The judge gave the two others five years, but gave Jones twenty-two years in all, the reason being that he was an escaped convict. He was implicated in the murder of Captain Price, but was acquitted. After serving this long sentence with as much solitary confinement as would have killed a dozen others, he was transferred to Pentridge, and later freed. Leaving Melbourne, he established himself in business in Lower George street, Sydney and kept the secret of his past history well. When this ship was on view in Sydney his curiosity overcame his discretion, and he ventured aboard. Being of short stature, he was almost hidden on the fringe of the crowd, listening to the remarks made about his own wax figure. He afterwards made himself known to the lecturer and remarked that in his youth he was much better looking than the figure shows him to be. Jones died at Syd-

ney, June 2, 1921, at the age of 98. He was the last survivor of the "Success."

Jacky Williams, a locksmith by trade. Burglary was his offense and fifteen years was his sentence. Served part of the term in Van Diemen's Land, then escaped and went to Victoria. He was on the "Success," serving a sentence for highway robbery at the time of the murder of Captain Price. Under cover of the excitement he broke his leg iron (exhibited on the upper deck) and escaped, but was rearrested and sentenced to wear the punishment band (as shown) twelve hours out of every twenty-four for three months. Williams served his full time and became a free man.

Burgess (alias Hill) was sent to prison at the age of eight. Became a lawyer's clerk in London. Transported for forgery. Escaped. Rearrested for robbery under arms and sentenced to ten years on the "Success." Was a clever stone-cutter at the quarries. Implicated in the Melville Rush. Received dangerous shot wounds in the neck (1866). Crossed to New Zealand. With Levy and Sullivan he killed Mathieu Kempthorne and Dudley and strangled De Pontius, a miner, with a scarf, June 12, 1866. Murdered "old Jamie" for the sake of sixpence. Strangled a surveyor named G. Dobson and left him sitting at the foot of a tree as if he had died from exhaustion. His gang are said to have committed over thirty murders in New Zealand. Hill was hanged August 7, 1866. His blasphemous "trust in God for pardon" confession is exhibited in the officers' quarters on the main deck.

Henry Garrett. Left London on board the "Success." After serving his sentence, became a notorious bank robber. Robbed a bank at Ballarat in 1855 of 16,000 pounds (\$80,000) in broad daylight. He escaped to London, but was followed, arrested and brought back and sentenced to ten years on the "Success." Then went to New Zealand where he haled up and tied to trees twenty-three men in one day, for which he received a sentence of eight years. Again becoming free, he wore clothes of a clerical cut and a white tie, and while in this dress the police saw him break into a store and caught him. Some twenty burglaries, of which he had not been suspected, were now traced to him, and he received in all a twenty-two year sentence. Garrett died at the age of 71, boasting on his deathbed that he had spent fifty-two Christmas days in jail.

William Stevens, native of Cornwall England, arrived in Australia a free man in 1853. One night whilst in a drunken state he approached the camp of a party proceeding to the gold diggings and demanded a case of brandy. His demand was refused and a quarrel ensued, firearms being freely used. One of the travelers was wounded. Stevens was arrested and tried at Melbourne with shooting with intent and received a sentence of ten years on the "Success." He was implicated in the Melville mutiny and was wounded by a shot fired from the ship. When seeing escape hopeless, and a trial for the murder of the guards inevitable, he shouted: "I prefer this!" and jumped into the sea. His heavy irons dragged him down and his body was not recovered.

Richard Rowley, born in Limerick, Ireland, in 1817. Sentenced to ten years' transportation for attempted murder. He escaped from Port Arthur in 1854 and came to Victoria. After working at the diggings he took to bushranging between Melbourne and the Black Forest. Captured at the "Lady of the Lake" Hotel, near Melbourne and sentenced to twenty-two years. After the death of Price he was removed to Pentridge, where he assaulted Kilmartin, a warder, by striking him on the head with a pick, at the same time pushing him into a deep quarry. Kilmartin's legs were broken, and he received deep wounds upon the forehead. He became the most pitiable object to be seen about Melbourne, although previous to the assault he was a very handsome man. Rowley was tried for attempted murder and was executed July 26, 1859.

Harry Power, born at Waterford, Ireland. Transported for poaching and injuring the squire's keeper in the determined scuffle that attended his arrest. Escaped from the chain-gang and was soon after recaptured for bushranging and highway robbery

DAMAGE SUIT MAY BE STARTED AGAINST COLE

Rev. A. L. Ormond Some Time Ago Qualified As Administrator of Son's Estate

Raleigh, Oct. 11.—Acquittal of William B. Cole for the murder of Bill Ormond today and the detention of the textile man on a sort of delinquent inquiring proceedings, will not down the signs that at no remote date Mr. Cole will be called to Wake county court to answer in a huge damage suit for the deadly use of the gun.

Rev. A. L. Ormond some weeks ago qualified in Wake county as administrator of his dead boy's estate. The difficulties in the way of prosecuting Bill Ormond's slayer were apparent from the most superficial examination of the attorneys. To save the dead boy's name it was necessary to attack the daughter of Mr. Cole and anybody could see the danger in that. To save her from impeachment as a witness was to give the case away.

The prosecution never could entirely agree on its procedure and the defense found it out before the state proceeded to the second conference. "The cockiest set of lawyers," described by A. L. Brooks, needed no cockedness at all. It was apparent that the state was hopelessly hampered. The cross-examination of the defendant by Clyde Hoey was the state's only chance. When the defendant pictured himself terrorized by the honk of every Ford, church was pretty nearly out. Besides, he had the prestige of moral position—he was shooting for a daughter and frightened to death at that.

There are sundry rumors percolating upward toward Raleigh that Mr. Cole isn't through, transitory insanity, unwritten law or what not. It is certain that his wealth has been overdone, though the cost of the trial to him has not. The verdict today does not stop the damage suit; indeed there will be popular reaction enough to start one. The Cole verdict will not be popular. It will not surprise, but there will be a flareback.

Besides, the defamation of Bill Ormond has not been complete. Lawyers of sense checked the onslaught against his military record. How much that helped a defense which needed no aid, nobody knows. The state Supreme court has affirmed judgments against slayers whom the criminal courts would not punish. Two Pasquotank men slew and were justified, but they paid \$10,000 for the killing. There is a case in Wake county now in which a young collegian indicted for manslaughter was acquitted, but his father is defendant in a damage action not yet tried. This, however, is different from the Pasquotank case.

Raleigh would not relish a fortnight of litigation over this homicide, but many things that have not yet come out would come. The Rev. Mr. Ormond would, of course, testify, as he barely missed doing at Rockingham. The famous letters written to Bill Ormond could come out and the real status of an old love affair determined in so far as the written word could settle it. The pyrotechnics would be less numerous, blood and iron might be less glorified. But it would be one horse of a trial.

And well ahead of the return of any lawyers from Rockingham comes this rumor of a damage action. It has a solid basis and had it before the trial in Rockingham began. Mr. Cole's attorneys have been looking for it, albeit they do not believe that it can be sustained. But they do not take the threat lightly for all that.

The qualifying of Mr. Ormond gave the first impulse to the civil action rumor. It is expected that Messrs. Douglas and Douglas, of the Raleigh bar, will institute this action, though neither member of the firm has ever said a word to justify such a deduction. But Raleigh waits on the move.

(500 pounds had been offered for his arrest). Received sentence of fourteen years, served seven years in the solitary confinement cells below. In his old age he visited the "Success" in Melbourne, where it was first exhibited. He was engaged as a guide and proved a great draw. His genial manner gained him many friends. At times the once-dreaded bushranger would excite intense sympathy by the recital of pathetic incidents that occurred aboard. (As a bushranger, Power was exceedingly courteous to women.) In his old age he became melancholy and despondent and finally committed suicide by jumping off the deck of the old ship on which he had been compelled to spend many unhappy years.

AMUNDSEN TO SEEK NEW POLAR LANDS

Will Attempt to Fly Over Arctic Pole in May—To Use Italian Dirigible

New York, Oct. 9.—Roald Amundsen, ruddy and in his best clothes, looking, in fact, much more like a business man who has had a good year than an explorer, arrived here yesterday on the Mauretania for a country-wide lecture tour on his Arctic flight last spring.

He came with most of the preparations already made for another flight next May, this time in a dirigible, the Norge (meaning Norway), recently bought from the Italian Government. With him will go the same little group of explorers, including Lincoln Ellsworth, the sole American, who accompanied him last May in airplanes, to be lost from the world, apparently dead, for four weeks.

Although in person Amundsen is here, his mind is beyond the Pole. He thinks only of the next flight. The last he dismisses as "only a reconnaissance."

"It was a complete success," he said. "We did as much as we had planned. We know now there is no land between Spitzbergen and the Pole, which every one guessed but no one knew before. Our soundings showed the water very deep—too deep for land to be near."

On the next flight he plans to go into the vast unexplored region beyond the Pole. There he believes, lies amidst the ice Perry's Crocker Land. Perry, stumbling toward the Pole, saw it off to the left of his trail; MacMillan looked for it and it was gone.

"It was a mirage Perry saw, I feel sure, of a land much farther away, in there where no men have gone," said Capt. Amundsen. "There came to us on the ice near the Pole three birds, flying northwest. The instinct of those birds was leading them toward land."

Already, Amundsen said, preparations are being made to erect a mooring mast and hangar at Spitzbergen, and a mooring mast at Fulham, England. The dirigible, about one-third the size of the Shenandoah, will be flown from Rome to Fulham and thence to Spitzbergen. It will be navigated by an Italian crew.

"It is safer to fly in the Arctic than in Ohio," said Capt. Amundsen. "We feel sure of success. The dirigible has a cruising radius of 3,000 miles, compared with the sixteen hours flying radius of the airplane. Even from airplanes we observed 120,000 square miles of previously unexplored area. In the dirigible we can remain stationary and make accurate observations. I think, too, we can descend without a landing crew if we wish."

"The pole doesn't interest us. The pole has been done. We seek the region beyond the pole, still unexplored. It may prove a new air route for commercial use."

Amundsen estimates the cost of the expedition will not exceed \$400,000. Of this \$100,000 was pledged to him yesterday by Lincoln Ellsworth. The balance is being sought by Amundsen and the men who went with him on the last flight in lecture tours in Europe, Scandinavia and here. Further money, they hope, will be brought in by the book telling of their flight "Through the Air to Latitude 88 North," to appear soon and a motion picture, to be released in eight weeks. The financial results will all be pooled and the six men who ventured before will venture again.

Jimson Weed a Fatal Desert

Burlington, Oct. —Louise Quakenbush, 8, may die, according to the report of a physician, the result of eating the fruit of the jimson weed, intensely poisonous weed growing wild in this section, at a child's party at which she was an attendant yesterday.

The idea of "something to serve" at the party, it is believed, was settled when some one of the children spied the pods in which the jimson seed is enclosed, and suggested that "that will be good to eat."

Mrs. Vance Quakenbush, mother of the child, called in Dr. C. M. Walters, as soon as she discovered that Louise was severely ill. The poisonous seed was discovered when the child vomited and as quickly as possible, the stomach was cleaned.

Although he could give no positive assurance, Dr. Walters said late today that he believed Louise had perhaps a little better than even odds to get well, with the power of resistance of a child.

William B. Cole is Acquitted By Union County Jury

Verdict Is Returned By Jury After It Had Taken Three Ballots

Rockingham, Oct. 11.—William B. Cole, textile magnate, charged with killing William W. Ormond, war veteran son of a Methodist preacher, was found not guilty here this morning by the Union county jury. The jurors on bended knees prayed and voted.

The final chapter of the celebrated case will not be written until Tuesday. Cole was ordered to appear before Judge T. B. Finley at Wilkesboro at 1 p. m. Tuesday to show cause why he should not be incarcerated in the criminal insane department of the state penitentiary. Cole will be held here in jail until Tuesday morning when he will be rushed across country to make his last stand against the law.

The praying jury caught the little town of Rockingham off its guard, there being, not including lawyers, courthouse attaches and a few newspaper men, not over half a dozen people in the cold temple chamber. It was 10 a. m. when the Godfearing Union men lifted the immeasurable burden from the shoulders of the dapper little manufacturer. They had had the fate of Cole in their hands a trifle over 21 hours. News of the verdict swept through the little town with the celerity of a western tornado.

Only three ballots were cast. The first one was taken yesterday afternoon, the vote standing 8 to 4 for acquittal. At 7.30 p. m., the jury asked the court for information and then voted 11 to 1 for acquittal. The lone man in opposition was besought by his comrades to switch, but held his ground. With tears in his eyes, he asked that he be permitted to pray and sleep over the case. After breakfast the third ballot was taken, the result being unanimous.

"Slander Letter" Chief Factor.

It was learned from one of the jurors "that slander letter" written by young Ormond to Cole was the weight that tipped the scales in the defendant's favor. Judge Finley said that the jury could not have acquitted Cole under the law and therefore must have turned to the unwritten law. Moral and legal issues are so closely allied that it is hard for the average man to distinguish between them, he said.

At 9 o'clock the jury notified Sheriff H. D. Baldwin that an agreement had been reached. Judge Finley, who is suffering from a deep cold, was aroused and hurried to the courtroom, lest there be a demonstration. Everything was carried out without any fanfare. When Judge Finley reached the bench J. H. Pou and A. L. Brooks, of the defense counsel, were anxiously pacing the floor. At 9:45 o'clock Cole, accompanied by his youthful son, Robert, entered. The prisoner showed no apparent emotion. His nerves were steady and he looked confident of victory. His son sat beside his father, caressing him gently. Judge Finley waited until Solicitor Don Phillips could reach the room.

A Tense Moment

Then the high sheriff opened the jury room and the praying jury marched silently to their seats in the jury box. It was a tense moment.

Clerk of Court W. S. Thomas was ordered to call the roll. The tension was almost unbearable, but Cole renewed the grip upon himself and his son encouraged him.

Mr. Thomas directed the defendant to stand. Then in a firm voice said: "Gentlemen of the jury, have you reached a verdict?"

"We have."

"Who is your spokesman?"

"C. E. Rushing."

"What is your verdict?"

when questioned before being accepted for jury duty, that he had formed an opinion that Cole was guilty, declared after being released that after he heard the evidence he changed his opinion and voted for acquittal on the first ballot.

Mr. Howard said: "I tell you, we went on our knees every time before taking a vote. It was a praying crowd of men."

Efforts to discover the name of the last man to return were futile. "After we took our second vote," said Mr. Howard, "Mr. Edwards and I argued with the lone man. He wept and said that he would give anything if he were not on the jury. He said: 'Boys, let me sleep over it.' Then this morning we took our third ballot and he turned over."

CENSUS BUREAU GIVES OUT DATA

Population of Winston-Salem Placed at 69,031—High Point Has 23,646.

Washington, Oct. 11.—Census bureau calculations of city populations as of July 1, this year, covering a large part of the United States, were made public today by the department of commerce.

New York being omitted, Chicago with a total of 2,995,239, was the largest city listed. For Philadelphia the bureau estimated 1,979,964; for Detroit 1,242,044; for Cleveland, 936,486; for St. Louis 821,543; for Baltimore 796,296; Boston 781,529; Pittsburgh 631,563; Buffalo 538,061, and Milwaukee 509,192.

These were the only cities listed which were assigned more than a half million of population. The bureau's calculations were based on the rate of increase in growth shown by the cities considered during the decade 1910-1920, except in a few cases where recent state or local census figures were available. Calculations were not made for Los Angeles, Atlanta, Norfolk and a few other points where there was reason to believe the results would be far from correct.

Other Large Cities

Cities shown to have populations between 300,000 and half million included Washington, D. C., 497,908; Newark 452,513; Minneapolis 425,435; New Orleans 414,493; Cincinnati 409,333; Kansas City, 367,431; Indianapolis 358,819; Rochester 316,786 and Jersey City 315,280.

Above 200,000 the bureau also placed Portland, Oregon, 282,383; Toledo 287,390; Louisville 259,259; Denver 280,911; Columbus 279, 836; Providence, R. I., 267,918; Oakland 253,700; St. Paul, 246,001; Omaha 211,768, and Birmingham 205,670.

The figures by states include:

North Carolina: Asheville 31,474; Charlotte 63,318; Durham 42,258 (special census September 24, 1925); Gastonia 16,899; Goldsboro 14,234; Greensboro 47,182; High Point, 23,646; New Bern 12,218; Raleigh 30,371; Rocky Mount 15,115; Salisbury 17,696; Wilmington 37,061; Wilson 12,818; Winston-Salem 69,031.

Tennessee: Chattanooga 65,576; Jackson 19,925; Johnson City 14,862; Knoxville 95,464; Memphis 174,533; Nashville 136,226.

South Carolina: Anderson 11,087; Charleston 73,125; Columbia 41,225; Florence 13,182; Greenville 27,311; Spartanburg 25,537.

Virginia: Alexandria 18,473; Charlottesville 11,211; Danville 22,964; Lynchburg 30,396; Newport News 47,083; Norfolk (no estimate); Petersburg 35,712; Portsmouth 59,029; Richmond 186,403; Roanoke 58,208; Staunton 10,633.

Georgia: Albany, 13,451; Athens 18,787; Augusta 55,245; Brunswick 10,809; Columbus 44,244; Lagrange 23,523; Macon 58,237; Rome 18,906; Savannah 98,184; Valdosta 12,554; Waycross 20,098.

First Snow of Season Falls Around Asheville

Asheville, Oct. 10.—First snow of the season fell in and about Asheville and near freezing temperatures prevailed here last night and this morning.

A cold rain, mixed with snow visited the city early today, while the tops of all the higher mountains in the vicinity are covered with snow.

A minimum temperature of 34 degrees was recorded by the weather bureau at 7 a. m. A bright sun brought out crowds last night and today.