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ONR GREAT HUMORIST PASSES.

Mark Twain Died Last Week After Being in Feeble Health for Some Time. He Was Known Far and Wide as the Author of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. He was Nearly 75 When He Answered the Last Call. The Great Humorist Began Life as a Printer and Later Became an Editor.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died at his home, "Stormfield," near Redding, Conn., late Thursday evening of last week, in his 75th year. He had been in feeble health for some time and his death was not a surprise to those most closely associated with him.

He was buried at Elmira, New York, by the side of his wife who preceded him to the grave some years ago.

Mark Twain, as he was best known, was born in Florida, Mo., November 30, 1835, and at the age of 12 was apprenticed to a printer. Later he was a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi river and in after years, before he began to write books, was engaged in newspaper work in the West. Some of his best known books are "The Innocents Abroad" (1869), "Tom Sawyer," "The Prince and the Pauper" (1880), "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" (1885), "Articles on Christian Science" (1903) and "The \$30,000 Bequest" (1906).

Several years ago the publishing house which Mark Twain had founded failed and the accumulations of years were swept away. He was not legally responsible for the debts of the concern, but notwithstanding he had reached the age to retire from active work he began over again, paid all the debts of the business and accumulated considerable property. While his life was given to making sunshine for others he had many sorrows and trials. The death of his wife, many years ago, was a great sorrow, and of his four children only one survives. On Christmas eve, last year, his daughter, Jean, an epileptic, was found dead in the bath room. She was his constant companion.

Shortly after the civil war broke out Clemens entered the confederate army, joining a company in Missouri, and was in the service a short time. His pen name—Mark Twain—had its origin in his work as a pilot on a Mississippi river steamer. In making soundings it was customary to call out, "Mark one, mark twain" (two).—Exchange.

A VISIT TO EDENTON.

One of the Oldest Towns in the State—The Largest Herring Market and Many Points of Interest in And Near the Town.

If I were to undertake to write up all the points of interest connecting this beautiful old town with the history of the state it would be too big a task, and an imposition on your valuable space and readers. For that information let the younger people look up in history and tell it to those who have outgrown their school days or perhaps who were so unfortunate as to not have any—they are excusable—but no boy or girl who has the determination to get an education in this day can be kept from the fountain of knowledge and render that excuse in the future, I am glad to say, our opportunities are so much greater now than twenty-five to fifty years ago.

With a party of about 20 we visited the old home place of Gov. Eden about 12 miles up the sound, the spot where his home stood is still known; also his original burial place. His remains were afterwards removed to the Episcopal burial ground in Edenton—a beautiful spot and church-yard well kept and many old graves, some unmarked and perhaps unknown. The remains of other statesmen—one a signer of the Declaration of Independence—all found here with suitable marks and interesting inscriptions.

The building where our first tea party was held by 50 good ladies, and resolutions passed that they would drink no tea until England's tax was removed, has been torn down but the spot is marked and will readily be recognized by the large bronze tea pot mounted, near the court house and Confederate monument.

Speaking of the Court House: It is the old colonial style, built 1715,

192 years ago. Material all from England and the solid boards which go to form the panel work over mantel piece all in one and are the widest I ever saw, over 2 feet wide, and evidently hewn from very large trees. The building is in splendid condition. The Court room is on the lower floor. The jury room is over head and as large as the Court room below, well ventilated, lighted and has two large fire places. The building is a large one, has the usual offices and in addition the Masonic lodge. Unanimity No. 7 chartered by the Duke of Beaufort and instituted on the 8th day of November, 1775—135 years ago.

Two of the most interesting articles in the lodge room is an old Bible printed in 1737 when "t" was printed as we now have "s." The other is a chair, an old Masonic chair made of Mahogany, elaborately hand carved and embellished with all the implements of Masonry. This chair was one of those presented by Lord Baltimore to the Masonic Lodge at Alexandria, Va., and was occupied by Geo. Washington "the father of his country" while Master of that lodge. During the Revolutionary War, when the section around Alexandria was threatened by the British army, the Masonic lodge at that place was compelled to suspend its meetings and protect this property by removal and in doing so the Master's chair was intrusted to one Capt. G. B. Russell (who with his vessel was there at the time) for safe keeping. Afterwards becoming alarmed he ran his vessel into the waters of North Carolina where he remained until after the war. He decided to make this place his home, became a member of this lodge, married and settled here. Afterwards learning that the Alexandria Lodge had never been revived, he on the 6th day of July, 1778, (132 years ago, next 6th July,) presented the chair to Unanimity Lodge, No. 7, A. F. and A. M., as the old records in the lodge now fully attest and said chair has occupied its present position since that date, one hundred and thirty two years.

Three handsome pictures on one large card board showing the interior of the lodge room as printed, a the Court House can be had for \$1.00. The entire proceeds go to the Oxford Orphan Home. Neatly framed it makes a pretty wall picture. I have one as a souvenir and will keep it as such. I wanted to visit the old Cupulo home and see the furniture there known to be over 150 years old—owned by 3 old sisters—one was very sick on my arrival and died the day before I left, of course I missed seeing that.

Any one visiting Edenton should take time to see these places and things of interest—especially should he see Washington's chair and if he is guilty of prevarication, sit in it while, it might do him good—with some the shock might be too great and it would then do the work of the electric chair. So the "big yarn tellers" who go, be careful for we are told "Geo." never "told a lie" and when you occupy the seat he once did, if you are in the habit of doing that which he was not guilty, resolve never to tell another—I sat in the chair about ten minutes—I did not resolve not to, because I had not found out it was necessary—you the reader may. In the next I'll tell you about something now in order what they are doing down there now and not over 100 years ago and when I tell it remember kind reader that I have once upon a time sat in the same chair that Geo. Washington did, and you must believe every word of it.

Jno. A. MITCHNER.

Selma, N. C., April 22, 1910.

Signs of the Times.

In the Sixth Missouri district the Democratic plurality in 1908 was 1995 on February 1 it was 3778. In the Fourteenth Massachusetts district there was a Republican plurality in 1908 of 14,250 and a Democratic plurality last month of 5650. In the Thirty-second New York district there was a Republican plurality of 10,167 a year and a half ago and on Tuesday there was a Democratic plurality of 5831. Aldrich, the person chiefly guilty of the present tariff law, has election. It is not a violent assumption that these are signs of the times. —Philadelphia Record.

The Sultan of Turkey has the measles.

HUGHES TO SUPREME BENCH.

Nomination Sent to the Senate Monday. The Announcement Came as Something of a Surprise, Despite the Fact That it Had Been Generally Understood That the Position Had Been Tendered Him. Hughes Will Not Assume New Position Till Next October.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—President Taft late to-day received from Governor Charles E. Hughes, of New York, a letter accepting a tendered appointment as associate justice of the Supreme Court. Five minutes after the letter was handed to the President, the nomination of Governor Hughes was on its way to the Senate. That body had adjourned for the day, however, and so the Senate will not hear officially of the designation of Governor Hughes to succeed the late Justice David J. Brewer until tomorrow.

While it is expected that Governor Hughes will be confirmed with little or no delay, it is understood here that he will remain as the chief executive of the State of New York until next October, and will not take the oath of office until the fall term of the Supreme Court opens the second Monday in that month.

President Taft has been anxious to secure the best man he could for the Supreme Court vacancy, and he feels that he has done so. He was much elated over the success of his tender to Governor Hughes.

President Taft said: "I am very much delighted to secure Governor Hughes for the bench. He is a man of wide experience and marked ability, and it is a mighty valuable thing to have on the great bench of the Supreme Court a man of affairs. Governor Hughes is 48 years of age, I think, and even if he should retire at seventy he will have had 22 years of solid usefulness on the bench."

The appointment of Governor Hughes was received throughout Washington with the greatest satisfaction. The announcement, however, came as something of a surprise, despite the fact that it had been generally understood for days that the position was to be tendered him.

A BIG LIQUOR SEIZURE.

27,000 Gallons Belonging to N. Glenn Williams on Charge of Irregularities by Government.

Winston-Salem, April 22.—The warehouse containing about 27,000 gallons of whiskey belonging to Mr. N. Glenn Williams in Yadkin county, was seized Wednesday for alleged irregularities. This is one of the biggest seizures ever made in North Carolina. It is said that when the State prohibition law went into effect two years ago Mr. Williams had in stock about fifty thousand gallons of corn whiskey and brandy. Since then he has shipped at least 20,000 gallons of the two articles, he having government license. Deputy Marshal Harkrader, of Charlotte, is in charge of the warehouse and stock and he is having all the goods re-gauged. The property is being kept under guard day and night.

REV. B. B. HOLDER DEAD.

For Half a Century a Devoted and Faithful Methodist Minister.

Dunn, April 22.—Rev. Barney B. Holder, a superannuated Methodist preacher, died last Saturday at his residence on Broad street. He had been preaching about fifty years, was 69 years and five months old. Two weeks prior to his death his wife passed away. He held his last meeting in July, 1909, since then not being able to preach. He leaves three sons, John and Will, of Wendell, N. C., and Avera, of Rocky Mount; four daughters, Miss Meta, Mrs. John C. Cox here; Mrs. Boone, of Benson, and Mrs. Jones, of Elizabeth City.

He was buried in Greenwood cemetery Sunday, the burial services conducted by Rev. F. A. Bishop. Mr. Holder was truly a good man, full of faith and religion. He was patient in all his suffering and died in perfect peace. He is a loss to his town, to his county, his State, his church and his family.

In Nuremberg there are 1700 houses built before 1600 A. D., and 3537 built in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

SEVERE STORM SWEEPS SOUTH.

Most Disastrous Financial Backset South Has Experienced Since Civil War. Atlanta Sees Some Snow. Cotton Seed Oil Mills Offering Their Supplies to Planters to Reinstated Damaged Crops—Shortage of Seed A Serious Menace.

Atlanta, Ga., April 25.—With millions of acres of young cotton destroyed by the cold weather which to-day overspread the entire cotton belt with the unusual April accompaniment in many sections of snow and sleet, the South has suffered its most disastrous financial set-back perhaps since the Civil War. Besides cotton, young vegetation of every description suffered from the freezing temperatures and fruit was more or less damaged in every Southern State except Florida.

Reports received tonight indicate that the cold snap has not abated in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, northern Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and even further west and for much of this territory a heavy frost and freezing temperatures are predicted for Tuesday morning. In Atlanta and throughout the northern half of Georgia, except near the Atlantic, the thermometer has been below forty degrees above zero all day, with falling temperatures recorded tonight.

Atlanta awoke this morning to find snow-covered houses and thermometer down to thirty-one, an experience never before recorded after the first few days of April. Snow fell as far south as Selma, Ala., Columbus, Miss., and Columbus, Ga., and in north Georgia, Tennessee and parts of north Alabama and Mississippi the fall ranged from one to four inches. Cotton seed oil mills in this State and Alabama to-day were appealed to for seed for replanting purposes and State officials implored the mills to crush no more seed until the farmers have been supplied. It is doubtful, however, if sufficient seed can be secured, even at the record prices being offered, to replant one-half of the area of young cotton destroyed by the cold.

At Columbus, Ga., tonight one cotton seed oil mill announced that their entire supply was at the command of the planters and would be sold for \$1 per bushel. To-day a carload of seed was shipped from that point to the Mississippi delta and many telegrams were received from all sections of the South asking for an allotment of seed supplies.

Snowstorm at Asheville.

Asheville, April 25.—Asheville and this immediate section is experiencing most unseasonable weather and to-day fear is expressed that the fruit crop has suffered severely and also gardens and truck farms. Much of last week the weather was disagreeable with recurrent frost. Saturday morning conditions showed some improvement and there was hope that the worst was over. During the late afternoon, however, a cold wind came up; the thermometer went down and Sunday morning there was frost with a flurry of snow. Yesterday was cold and disagreeable for the most part of the day and last night there was again frost with a cold, drizzling rain about daybreak. The worst of the weather conditions came before noon when the rain ceased and for a few moments there was a heavy fall of snow—snow of the large flaked, watery variety.

Weather conditions tonight are perhaps the most discouraging in recent years. A genuine snowstorm came late this evening and what fruit and vegetables remained unharmed are probably killed.

Apple Crop Ruined.

Waynesville, April 25.—An unusual sight greeted early risers this morning—the mountains covered with snow and the flakes coming down in real December style. This is the third snow within ten days, but the former ones did no damage to fruit and early vegetables. This one, however, is more wintry, and the outlook now is that a freeze will follow the storm and thousands of dollars will be lost thereby. The peach crop is abundant now and may be too far advanced to suffer, but the apples are in full bloom and are in extreme danger of being nipped.

Heavy Snowfall in Transylvania.

Brevard, April 25.—This morning it

is snowing to beat the band here. The ground is already covered with the snowy flakes and from present indications there seems to be no likelihood of its stopping any time soon. The leaves on the trees are half grown and gardens have been planted, all of which has made it feel and look very much like springtime, but the weather man has given us for the last few days makes it look very much like winter.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER BAND.

Mission Spirit Strong at the University—to Go to Foreign Field.

Chapel Hill, April 27.—The Student volunteer mission band received into membership last week Lee F. Turlington, of the senior class. This band is now seven strong. The other volunteers are Eugene E. Barnette, A. R. Morgan, W. L. Cooper, J. W. Freeman, C. E. Norman and H. R. Totten. Barnette goes this summer to Brazil. Morgan will go to Afghanistan, which is considered one of the hardest of the non-Christian fields. The last missionary to this province was murdered. Norman, Totten and Turlington will be medical missionaries. J. W. Freeman is leader of the band. The volunteer band here at the University is doing a great work. Besides keeping alive the spirit of missions among the students the members of the band do effective deputational work in the surrounding country. In co-operation with the twenty students in the rural Sunday school extension work the seven members of the volunteer band conduct mission rallies at the various rural Sunday schools.

The mission spirit is stronger here at the University than it has been in a college generation. The volunteer band is larger and more effective than it has ever been. The student body has shown a keen interest. Three hundred and more students are enrolled in mission classes. Six hundred dollars has already been subscribed by students to the support of Barnette on the field of foreign missionary endeavor.

SOME STORIES TIME TELLS.

Government Could Have Bought Morse Telegraph for \$100,000.

It is sixty-five years since the Postmaster General, acting for the United States government, inaugurated service over the first commercially operated telegraph line in this country, between Washington and Baltimore.

On that date (April 1, 1845) Prof. Morse and his associates offered to sell his telegraph invention, now used in every civilized country, to the government for \$100,000.

Congress, following one of the most acrimonious debates in its history, appropriated \$30,000 for the construction of the Washington-Baltimore line in order that the merits of the invention might be tested and its value as a government prerogative determined should it ever be regarded as a desirable Federal purchase.

Dismissing the proposition as of too conjectural a value, the Postmaster General, to whose judgment President Polk deferred, said of the Morse system:

"Although the invention is an agent vastly superior to any other devised by the genius of man, yet the operation between Washington and Baltimore has not satisfied me that under any rate of postage that can be adopted its revenue can be made to cover its expenditures."

To-day in this country alone the Morse system is capitalized for \$220,000,000.

Prof. Alexander Graham Bell offered to sell his telephone patents to the Western Union Telegraph Company for \$60,000, but the officers of the company said it was only a toy and had no commercial value.

This same toy, according to the annual report of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, just issued, earned \$150,000,000 last year and has now more than 5,000,000 telephones in use throughout this country. —Washington Herald.

Every Senator speaks to blind Senator Gore, no matter where they meet him. So expert is Senator Gore in the matter of sound that he can distinguish every man in the Senate by his voice, whether it be in the elevators, the corridors or one of the committee rooms.

EXPLOSION IN OHIO MINE.

Lives of 18 Miners are Snuffed Out And 7 Bruised and Burned. The Interior of the Mine Was Wrecked And All Ventilation Shut Off—The Cause of Explosion Has Not Been Determined.

Stuebenville, O., April 22.—The lives of eighteen miners were snuffed out in a tremendous explosion in the Youghiogheny and Ohio Coal Company's mine at Amsterdam last night. Seven men bruised and burned were rescued from the mine and their escape from death is regarded as miraculous. The interior of the mine was wrecked and all ventilation shut off. The cause of the explosion has not been determined by the State mine inspectors and mining experts who are conducting the search of the wrecked workings for the bodies of 12 victims who have not yet been located.

The mine had been inspected but two days before the explosion. From the condition of the interior it is said the explosion, in point of force, was the greatest ever recorded in Ohio.

D. L. Ward Succeeds Judge Guison.

Gov. Kitchin has appointed Col. D. L. Ward, of New Berne, judge of the Superior Court of the third district to succeed Hon. O. H. Guion, resigned. The district is composed of Pitt, Craven, Green, Carteret, Jones and Pamlico counties, and Ward was strongly endorsed in the district.

Col. Ward was a member of the Governor's staff and has served in the Legislature. He was the author of the Ward liquor law. The Watts law, it will be recalled, restricted the manufacture and sale of liquor to incorporated towns. The Ward law, passed by the next Legislature, restricted the manufacture and sale to towns of certain size, the restriction being made to cut out the cross roads places incorporated purely to accommodate liquor dealers.

Judge Guion's resignation takes effect on the 30th.—Ex.

Mothers, Give Attention.

We fail to understand how any mother can welcome into the home for her boys to read, a newspaper that carries several large advertisements advising those boys where they can buy liquor and soliciting their orders for the stuff that can not be legally sold in the State.—Index.

JOHN T. LEONARD IS SLAIN.

Man Who Robbed Smithfield Postoffice in 1908 Convicted in Raleigh And Sentenced to Atlanta Prison—Was Released, Went to New York And "Blew" on His Pals, One of Whom Slew Him.

William Banks, Alias "Bangor Billy," yeggman and postoffice robber, was convicted in New York Thursday of murder in the first degree for having killed John T. Leonard, his former partner in crime, who was convicted in this city in 1908 for robbing the postoffice at Smithfield and sentenced to the Atlanta penitentiary. There were several other criminals who were associated with him sentenced at the same time.

Leonard was released from the Atlanta Penitentiary last December on his promise to aid in the capture of the rest of the band with whom he had formerly worked. He went to Brooklyn and met there with some of his pals, who made his house their headquarters. Leonard kept the Federal authorities posted as to their doings. This was learned by the gang, and Barnes, who will be sentenced on Monday, slew Leonard in his own home.—News and Observer.

Benjamin Franklin Aycock, a member of the Corporation Commission, died suddenly at his home in Fremont Tuesday night. He had been in poor health for some months. He was born in Wayne County in 1853 and was a brother of ex-Governor Aycock. Mr. Aycock represented his district in the State Senate four times, in 1889, 1891, 1901 and 1907. He was elected a member of the Corporation Commission in 1908 and assumed the position in January, 1909. He was one of the State's leading citizens and will be sadly missed, not only in his community, but throughout the State.