

THE WORLD'S GREAT EVENTS

ALBERT FAYSON TERHUNE

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Charles XII

A ROUGH LOOKING boy of fifteen came to the throne of Sweden in 1697, under the title of Charles XII, and started in at once on a cross between the simple and the strenuous life. He gave no sign that he was going to make a name for himself, for he hated the stupid business of state and spent most of his time in hunting and athletics. Nor was there anything very kingly in his looks. His habitual dress was an old blue coat with copper buttons, buffalo skin gloves and huge boots that came above the knees.

In those days of hard drinking and high living his way of life made him a marked man. He drank no wine, ate only coarse bread, and slept on the bare ground covered by a cloak.

Patkul, the wily Lithuanian diplomat, thought the boy king a fool and hit on a plan whereby other countries might take advantage of Charles' carelessness of state affairs. He formed a triple alliance—Russia, Poland and Denmark—against Sweden. Denmark opened operations by invading Swedish territory. Then, for the first time, the world realized what character of king this unkempt, sport-loving boy was destined to be.

For Charles, with a fierceness and vigor no one had dreamed he possessed, drove out the Danes and turned on the two other members of the alliance. He put away forever the pleasant outdoor home life he loved and turned to the wilder sport of hunting men. Russia, following Denmark's lead, had advanced on Narva and the country around the Gulf of Finland. Poland's army had besieged Riga.

Charles, with barely 20,000 men, marched against the 80,000 Russians encamped under the walls of Narva. Then followed one of the strangest and briefest battles in the annals of warfare. Charles, disdainful of all known military tactics, "rushed" the enemy's camp, charging headlong into a force four times the size of his own. In less than fifteen minutes he had stormed it. Of the 80,000 soldiers, 80,000 were killed and the rest captured or scattered. Without pausing, Charles hurried his little army across the Dvina, attacked the Saxon army intrenched there and utterly routed it. Then he turned his attention to the Poles. By 1708 all Poland was helpless before the twenty-one-year-old Swedish youth, and three years later he dictated peace terms to his three enemies.

He had these once-powerful foes wholly at his mercy, yet he treated them magnanimously.

Having completely broken up the alliance against Sweden and saved his country, Charles might have been expected to go back with a clear conscience to his old, easy-going mode of life. But his fighting blood was up. The lust of conquest had fired his brain and his former pleasures no longer appealed to him. He planned to crush Russia, and in 1707, with an army 37,000 strong, he marched on Moscow. But instead of going thither direct and striking one decisive blow, as was his custom, he listened to the advice of his ally, the Cossack chief Mazepa, that he march first through the Ukraine in the hope of inciting the Cossacks to join him. The Ukraine expedition was a failure. In 1709 Charles attacked the rich city of Pultowa and was about to capture it when Czar Peter I of Russia bore down upon him with 70,000 men.

Charles turned eagerly to meet this new foe. But in a preliminary skirmish he received a dangerous wound in the thigh. So, in the battle itself (July 8, 1709), he had to issue his commands from a litter. His troops, deprived of his inspiring presence, and weakened

by starvation and fatigue, fell back before the superior Russian force.

His hopes baffled and his army beaten, Charles seemed to have lost all he had hitherto gained. But he wasted no time in despair. To check the Russia invasion, he promptly incited Turkey to war with Russia. The latter country's diplomats, however, persuaded the Turks that Charles had designs against Turkey, and an armed body of men was sent to arrest him.

Charles was still at Varnitza, in Turkish territory, and had a guard of less than 300 Swedes. Yet with this puny force he defied all Turkey. He defended his house against a whole army of Turks and fought off the besiegers until they burned the house over his head. He was captured, fighting, but escaped in disguise and made his way to the fortress of Stralsund. There a mighty army of Russians, Danes, Saxons and Prussians assailed him on December 23, 1715, and by sheer weight of numbers defeated him.

No longer able to win by force he now, for the first time, turned to statecraft. He formed a stupendous plan to win what might in time have amounted to a world empire. His idea, in brief, was to form an alliance with Russia, attack and conquer Norway, from Norway to cross to Scotland, invade Great Britain and dethrone King George I. The scheme almost succeeded. The alliance was made with Russia, Norway was invaded and partly conquered. But, on November 30, 1718, while besieging Fredrikshall, Charles' head was crushed by a cannon ball.

Charles XII was but thirty-six when he died, and with his death Sweden sank from the high power to which his genius and mad courage had raised her.

Representative Of Storr's Mica Company Here

Mr. J. F. Garneau of New York, representing Storr's Mica Company, of Oswego, N. Y., has completed a vacation of two weeks at the fishing camp on the Cullasaja as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Roper. After the vacation Mr. Garneau spent some days inspecting the various mica properties in the county, and so well pleased is he with the possibilities along this line, he has decided to make another trip here next summer for further investigation.

This was Mr. Garneau's first trip south and he is absolutely carried away with the beauty of this section. He states that the mountains of New England and New York are mere hills when compared with those of the southern Appalachians. The hospitality of the southern people also greatly impressed Mr. Garneau. He leaves here a thorough convert to the South as a vacation ground and states that he will tell his friends in the north of Franklin and environs.

SERVICES AT ST. AGNES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. E. J. Pipes, rector. Services as follows:
Holy Communion (except first Sunday of month), 8:00 a. m.
Church school, (R. D. Sisk, superintendent), 10 a. m.
Morning prayer and sermon, 11 a. m.
Vespers, 5 p. m.
First Sunday of month Holy Communion, 11 a. m.
Holy days, 10 a. m.
The St. Agnes Guild meets at the rectory the first Thursday of each month.

The tennis court and playground is for the use of the whole community. We want you to make this church your home.

For County Commissioner

I have been asked by some of my friends to run for County Commissioner, so I take this way of putting my name before the Democratic Convention of Macon county.

Yours to serve,
D. J. MOSE

WAYNESVILLE TO HAVE MASONIC TEMPLE

An event dear to the hearts of the York Rite Masons west of Asheville, is the erection of a magnificent temple on the beautiful lot located on Church street, west of the post office, now owned by the fraternity. This structure is to be one of the finest of its type in North Carolina and is to cost in the neighborhood of seventy thousand dollars. The building will consist of three stories with all modern equipment. The ground floor and the front half of the second floor will be given over to modern offices equipped with steam heat and all necessary conveniences. The rear half of the second floor will be equipped as an auditorium and banquet hall with a fully equipped kitchen in the rear. The third floor will be equipped as a lodge room and is said by the architect, W. H. Peeps, of Charlotte, to be the most conveniently arranged lodge room in the entire south. A mezzanine floor in addition to the third floor will be

equipped as a choir loft with locker rooms, etc. The directors of this proposition are: Dr. J. R. McCracken, Dr. J. F. Abel, Hugh J. Sloan, J. H. Howell, George Hall, V. C. Nobeck, L. E. Green, O. T. Alexander and L. M. Killian. These men are the leaders in business affairs in this section and are giving their untiring efforts to this proposition; and announce their intention of starting work on the building early in August. This will fill a long felt need of the Craft as for the past five years the several York Rite bodies have been enjoying a rapid growth, spreading their influence from the Buncombe county line to Murphy. The members of the Craft who do not reside in Waynesville are rejoicing with those who are putting this wonderful dream into a reality.—Waynesville Mountaineer

Mr. L. E. Green, secretary of the York Rite System west of Asheville was in Franklin Monday in the interest of the temple mentioned in the above article. The Waynesville Commandery has thirteen members resid-

ing in Franklin. Each of the thirteen contributed liberally to the construction of the proposed Temple. Mr. Green was much pleased with the success of his visit here, and stated that he has never seen a finer body of men than the members of the Waynesville Commandery at Franklin. The names of the members of the Commandery at Franklin are as follows: Messrs. W. R. Stalleup, H. G. Robertson, Alvah Pearce, Frank I. Murray, Sam L. Franks, J. W. Roper, C. L. Lentz, Charles Perry, J. S. Conley, F. H. Higdon, Frank Fleming, E. W. Long, J. J. Mann.

Pursuant to the urgent requests of several of my friends, I hereby announce that I am a candidate for Representative in the next General Assembly, subject to the wishes of the township conventions next Saturday, and the County Convention, a week later.

J23 C. C. POINDEXTER

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